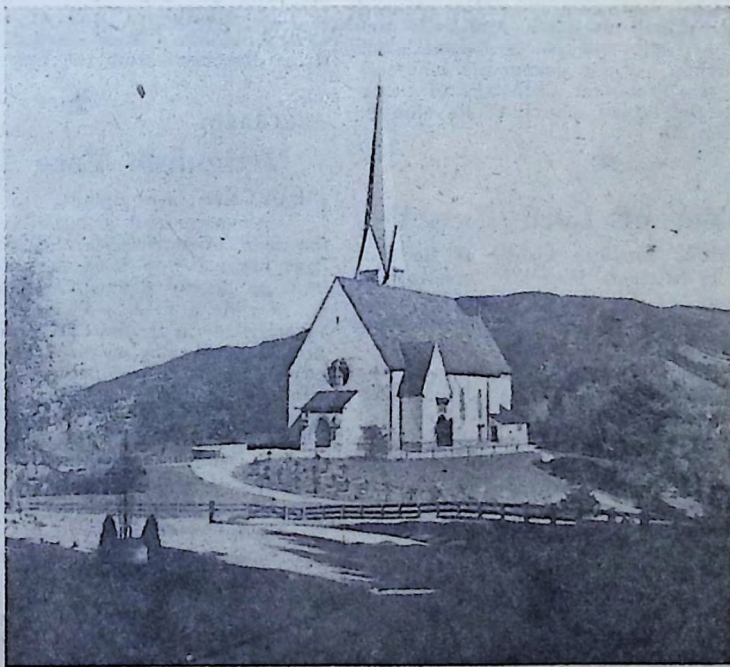


The Australian Christian

National Weekly Representing Churches of Christ



LIFE WITH DEATH

*LEARN perfect light
The star shone in the sky.
The very highest star of all.
Below a waiting pool
Receptive, cool,
Gathered the silver gem
And wore it on her heart.*

*And men passed by
Their eyes upon the Earth,
Intent, preoccupied.
But some there were
Who saw the beauty there
And knew its worth.
Standing beside the pool
They raised their eyes to Heaven
To seek the star itself.
And some there were
Who broke the water's face
Thinking to break the light;
But the surface settled calm
The star unharmed.*

*But then came one
Who drained quite dry,
Reflection clung
Until the final drop;
When that was gone
There in the sky
The star still shone.*

-N.C.

Christian Workers Help Destitute

GERMANY

Ruin of War

TO enter Germany via the Ruhr is to feel as though time had turned back on itself, for the indescribable ruin everywhere belongs historically to 1945 rather than to 1950. As the train sped across this plain of destruction, the keen observer could not fail to grasp the greatest needs of Germany's people, nor fail to appreciate the kind of help which would be most effective. All the subsequent events of our journey merely underlined that first impression. In the Western Zone of Germany there are millions of refugees (various authorities give figures varying from seven to ten millions); in some districts as many as 80 per cent. of the houses have been destroyed, and to complete this picture of human tribulation, there is a grim problem of unemployment. The fundamental needs of these people can be expressed in three simple phrases: more homes, more work, and more food and clothing at prices ordinary workers can afford to pay.

No words can do justice to the plight of men and women seeking refuge in such a setting and still pouring over the "green frontier" from Russia at the rate of more than a thousand per day. The most heart-breaking experience of the tour was to watch a crowd of underfed, undersized and ragged children (refugees from the Bromberg district), at Espelkamp, wolfing a meal like young savages, some of them even picking up their plates and rushing into the woods in case the meagre meal should be taken from them. Everywhere men, women and children, living in huts in large school rooms with partitions of rags and brown paper to give an illusion of privacy, crowded in broken-down houses or camp in all weathers in damp and undrained fields. There it was, a mass of humanity, homeless, jobless and possessing precious little hope for the future. Here exist all the conditions for the growth of a Communism even more pagan than that from which so many had sought refuge.

The German State Churches, Lutheran and Reformed, are tackling this problem by means of a social agency known as the Hilfswerk. The work of this organisation is wide and varied. At Espel a former ammunition dump has been made available by the British authorities, and on this colony of 2400 acres some 1500 people are cared for. Scattered about the extensive grounds are orphanages for refugee children, hostels for adolescent escapees from the Russian zone, and workshops specialising in the rehabilitation of returned prisoners of war.—"Christian World."



JAPAN

Strength of Church

DR. KAGAWA, who was introduced to the recent English Presbyterian Assembly as a freeman of the world-wide church, told of the steady advance of the Christian church in Japan and among the aborigines in the island of Formosa. Alluding to recent press statements that there are now fewer Christians in Japan than before the war, he explained that there were still many millions of homeless people out of touch with their churches. In rural areas, still packed with refugees from the bombed cities, hundreds of thousands of rural workers are now in contact with Farmers Gospel Schools, and over 2000 leaders are working in those areas in the heart of Japan. In the industrial areas many of the workers have been disillusioned about Communism, and are turning to the scriptures for guidance. It is now quite common to find Bible classes in the big factories. In Tokyo last year the number of baptisms reached a record level.

SOUTH INDIA

United Church

THE new United Church of South India has sent its moderator to Britain for the purpose of promoting understanding and deepening fellowship with the churches from which it has sprung, and A. M. Hollis is a gifted and kindly personality the British churches will like to know.

He will, in fact, be making contacts with what they in India call the "parent" churches, for the new body, over which he presides, comprises Presbyterians, Congregationalists and Methodists, besides Anglicans, to which section he himself belonged. His colleague, as assistant in the moderatorial office, is a Methodist, Frank Whittaker, and the good work of one of the leading bishops, Lesslie Newbigin, a Presbyterian, is now well known in this country.

Last week the moderator conveyed the greetings of the Church of South India to his own people of the Church of England in connection with the annual meeting of the Church Missionary Society at the Guildhall, London. Not a few of those present had undoubtedly looked forward to seeing this distinguished missionary leader. He was, however, unable on account of illness to be present, and his message was read for him by C. S. Milford, secretary for East Asia. Mrs. Hollis was present, and the audience gave her a cordial welcome.

The moderator had glowing words to give us about the church in South India. It was one church, he said, and not a federation of separate churches. Their community embraces two-fifths of the Protestant Christians of South India, and is the largest church of its kind in Asia.—T. Graham.



AUSTRALIA

Criticism of Lord Russell

DR. JOHNSON, Anglican bishop of Ballarat, said that Bertrand Russell's summary of his philosophy of life made it evident that there were matters on which Christians must differ profoundly from him.

Australia should be grateful to him for the generous way in which he was giving them the benefit of his vast knowledge.

He was a figure of world fame, and when he spoke on world affairs he deserved respectful attention.

"However, his philosophy of life is coldly materialistic, and admits of no resources at man's disposal save man's own limited power," the bishop said.

"His materialistic philosophy would seem to allow no place for the spiritual experience that is basic to Christian life."

Dr. Johnson said Bertrand Russell, commenting on the Christian claim that the way to improve the world was to change the hearts of men, had said: "But the trouble is that we don't know how to change men's hearts."

Dr. Johnson commented: "Here is one instance of an unequivocal divergence between the Christian and materialist."

Australia had just had a visit from another person of distinction who could answer Bertrand Russell's statement—the Japanese bishop Dr. Yashiro.

No one who had been in his company could doubt for one moment that Bishop Yashiro was a converted, or changed, man.

Furthermore, the whole tenor of his message was that he wanted the heart of the Japanese people changed, and the only thing that could

effect the change was the power of the living Christ.

"That this power is a conspicuous reality in Christian life is demonstrated by the experience of St. Paul, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Christian natives in New Guinea, and countless numbers of humble men and women in every age and in all lands," Dr. Johnson said.

When the materialist denied the reality of the mystical, transforming power of the living Christ in the hearts of men, there was a countless host of lives to prove he was denying one of the most patent and potent facts of history.



U.S.A.

General I. Bradley

GENERAL OMAR NELSON BRADLEY, first permanent chairman of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff, often worships at National City Christian church or at other Disciple churches in Washington. For many years he has been a member of Central Christian Church of Moberly, Mo. Born at Clark, Mo., 57 years ago, he feared flunking West Point entrance exams, when a Sunday school teacher suggested he try. The world now knows that he is a West Point graduate of 1915, along with General Eisenhower, whom he outranked.

The general and his wife, Mary, have one daughter, Elizabeth C., married to Capt. Harold S. Benkeme, and a three-year-old grandson, Hank. Considered one of history's greatest tactical soldiers, "Brad" does not like rows, but wants agreement from the heart.—"World Call."



AUSTRALIA

Methodists Face Problems

CHURCHES are fighting in a war against secularism and materialism and greed, and the field of warfare is the whole world. Perhaps never before have the issues of that war been so clearly defined, certainly never before on so wide a field. The war is between God as revealed in Jesus Christ on the one side, and practical atheism as seen in the lives of men and women and nations on the other. The ministers of the Christian church are, and must be, the leaders in this spiritual warfare. There is urgent need for more of them, adequately trained and devoted to their great task.

In the Methodist church in Victoria and Tasmania, the urgency of the need is underlined by the following facts:

1. There was an increase, during the fourteen years, 1933-47, of 48,387 people in Victoria and Tasmania, who called themselves "Methodist" on the census returns. During the same period the number of Methodist church members increased by only 501 persons, and the number of scholars in Methodist Sunday schools in Victoria and Tasmania decreased by 17,024. The percentage increase of Methodists in the census figures was 21.6 per cent., the increase of church members was 1.3 per cent., and the decline in Sunday school scholars was 36.5 per cent.

2. During the period 1933 to 1949, the general decline in the effective witness of our church in the two States is further indicated by a decrease in the number of churches, other preaching places, and Sunday schools. The figures speak for themselves: Churches, 1933, 1005; 1949, 977. Other preaching places, 1933, 508; 1949, 295. Sunday schools, 1933, 965; 1949, 862.

3. In 1933 there were 265 ministers in full connection in active work in the Victoria and Tasmania Conference; in 1936 the number had increased to 279; at present (1950) there are only 230 ministers in active work. In 1936 there were 263 circuit ministers, now there are only 213 circuit ministers, a decline in fourteen years of 50 circuit ministers.—E. H. O. Nye.

Christ or a Philosopher

ONE of the most distinguished scholars to visit Australia has been warning us of the potential danger in the present world situation. Lord Bertrand Russell is not a confessing Christian in any strict sense. He has been a champion of a materialistic view of life. His sympathies were with the Communists until he saw their theory developed in Russia. In the realm of philosophy he has made many challenging statements that have arrested the attention of intelligent men. What Lord Russell says may be taken as the considered view of many thinkers who may not be judged churchmen.

The school of thought Russell represents was once very optimistic about man's ability to save himself. There was an evolutionary growth, they said, that must eventually bring man to a state of well-being. But when Lord Russell spoke in a broadcast message to the Australian people, he revealed he was fearful of the future. There is, he said, no proof now that can assure us that the future will be safe for men. The future can be determined, not by any natural evolutionary process, but by spiritual and righteous decisions of men. Our visiting philosopher admits that the problems of the future concern moral questions.

Jesus said that everything a man does may be traced back to the state of his heart. If there is love there, then we can expect deeds of charity, but if hatred, then cruelty.

Because men now have greater power under their control, their moral decisions will have greater consequences for good or ill. All this we have said before. We also made an effort to point out another fact Lord Russell has emphasised, "Never in human history has there been so great a possibility of good as in the present day, and never has there been a greater likelihood of appalling evil."

II.

RARELY have outstanding philosophers spoken so clearly on the problem of evil. We hope this warning and others may prevent men taking that step which is likely to thrust the world into what may well be described as a hell on earth.

How can this danger be avoided? Lord Russell did mention that a change of heart is necessary. That is the true answer to the problem. Lord Russell does not see how this change of heart can be achieved. Humanly speaking, it is not possible. Here we are touching the extremity of man's plight. When men cannot see hope, then it is God's opportunity.

Never, in recent times, has the church been presented with such an hour so pregnant with possibility of preaching the gospel effectively.

One reason why the church is failing to meet this fruitful situation is the division and uncertainty within her borders. One of the sad sights of Christian work is to see the proof of bitterness and suspicion. Instead of being apostles of unity, Christians can fall into the habit of fault-finding. When the world is facing one of the greatest crises of history, Christians can argue and divide on opinions Jesus never asked us to make issues of life. We create sin where there is no sin; we make issues where there is none; we ignore the tragic plight of the world to satisfy our own pride. If the world cannot be saved unless there is a change of heart, we, Christians, cannot help to bring about that revival unless we, also, repent of our folly. Let us remember the warning in Ezekiel 9 that God often commences his work of judgment in unexpected places. At times he has begun in his sanctuary with those who have said that they were his representatives.

The attitude the Lord desires is expressed in "a broken heart" and in a "contrite spirit." Unless we repent, we, too,

EDITORIAL

shall perish. We plead for love and the spirit of understanding in Christ. The times cannot afford the luxury of division. We plead for a united effort to silence divisive voices, and for all to be of one mind in Christ. If we do so, we shall play our part to overcome the world tragedy of which Lord Russell and others warn.



CHRIST IS LORD

THE world lacks a leader who can unite all the peoples into one brotherhood. Men rush to take control of human affairs and spare no person in their drive to fulfil self ambition. Gods of this world are worshipped. Men seek gold, power, position and fame. To reach their aims they do not care how many lives they sacrifice; how many characters they ruin, or how much harm they do to the innocent. Because of human sin, the world is divided, and even now threatened with ruin.

The question is raised again as of old, when Jesus said to his disciples after the people left him, "Will you also go away?" What other answer can we give than this: "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life."

Christ has the answer to our commercial troubles. He urges us not to be anxious to store up more than we can use for daily needs. While men are greedily laying up wealth they can never enjoy, Jesus says to them: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Christ has an answer for our international situation. He has taught the necessity of abolishing the idea of races and classes. He has urged upon us the principle of world brotherhood. One people must not be the slaves of another. To exploit the ignorance of weaker nations is not Christian. The strong, too, must bear the burdens of the weak.

Christ speaks to us concerning our attitude toward others. We must respect each other. There is no real distinction between men and women. In Christ all are one. Each has rights, and such must be acknowledged. Classes, castes and ranks are nothing in Christ's eyes. We are all one before God, who is no respecter of persons.

When we are positive on the essential teachings of Christ, the Communist cannot gain any advantage in the community. But the church has not always emphasised completely the lordship of Christ. Let Christ lead the world! He will gain the victory.



CHURCH PAPER

IN the last copy of "The Christian Evangelist" to reach us, we were interested in a statement on the problems of the religious press in America. The editor writes:

"The influence of the religious press could be greatly magnified if greater efforts were made to see that its values are presented to the local membership. Professor M. Lyle Spencer, dean of the School of Journalism of Syracuse University, put his finger upon this weakness in the Protestant church when he said, 'I have been a member of the church since childhood, and I must say that never in my life have I been solicited to subscribe to my church paper.'"

"The promotion of the circulation of the church paper must be the joint responsibility of the paper and the leadership in the local church. There are few secular magazines or daily newspapers that could survive if they were not subsidised by money received through the advertising programmes of big business."

Rare glimpses of beauty in a life call out the beauty within us. This is the theme set out by E. P. C. Hollard, of Wellington, N.Z.

Never the Same Again

IS it not true that after you have seen some things and met some people that you can never be the same again? You see some horror, like a filthy slum, or a ruined life, and at once your reaction to them alters your whole attitude to such things. Somehow there wells up a hatred of evil, that burns from then on. It is more so with lovely things. To behold some of the majestic things of God in nature is to receive something you cannot give a name to, and yet, forever are you changed. And the more beauty we mingle in our make-up the higher the standards of beauty we set up in our hearts. The same with evil; the more we permit it to season our hearts and minds the lower our reactions become.

I.

PEOPLE do that to us, too. There are some we meet in our pilgrimage who change us, often unknown to themselves, and sometimes unknown to ourself. Here and there are people who make an unexplainable impact upon us, and because of it we can never be the same again. We meet a noble character, and what they have and are comes out to touch us. I've felt that as I've met some.

Rare glimpses of extreme beauty in a life call out of us the beauty which is our own. And, thank God, he does permit us all to see here and there on our journey those true gems in life. Not that there are not many lovely lives, but only few change us beyond ourselves.

The thought the poet brings us of the ships passing in the night serves well. If you've ever been on the ocean, as I have, on a black night and seen the lights of another vessel passing, you never forget the sight, and it lives while memory remains. Some I know have been just that to me—lights in a dark way. Like the passing ship, they have signalled to me that I'm not alone on my ocean, and that a harbor is somewhere.

II.

NICODEMUS comes to mind. We have a little indication that he ever openly declared himself as a disciple of Christ's, yet the glimpses we have of him, from that first contact, suggest that he was never the same Nicodemus after that dark night. No matter who they were, Christ had that effect upon them. It is still the same where he is concerned. Too many have never declared themselves openly, but they have never shaken off the effects of that quiet impact he made. I know that some have spurned him, but that is part of the change he makes, too. However, that is the tragedy of humankind, part of the sum total of human tragedy in our day. I'd like to know what Pilate thought in later years as he remembered the calm Figure that stood before him, back in his past in Jerusalem. I think that Pilate was never the same again.

I know two persons who met, and then life tore apart in a hurtful way. Both declared simply to one another, "I'll always thank God that I knew you." I know the man well, and he has thanked the Father for that brief encounter. Now why? Because that life made him see what deep spiritual insight could be, and made him desire it himself. More, it made him appreciate all that could be clean and decent in human lives. He now sees people anew, all because he saw something in another life. I wonder how fine we could all be if we permitted every influence like that to do its work in us?

III.

I HAVE been thinking on the human level, and, after all, it is among humans we live and from humans we draw much of our in-

spiration and encouragement. However, let us move up the ladder to the top rung, until we try to appreciate how we are changed when we find in Jesus Christ the perfection of that which we have found in some of his children. That dynamic personality reaches out to touch us. Having touched us, we cannot be the same again. How could we be? To see his purity and patience, his kindness and concern for people, his earnestness and enthusiasm for right must surely loosen those same things within us. Regard him as you will, either as Saviour or Teacher of Life, and you cannot ever be the same again. Somewhere he leaves a mark. Shall we call it the Spirit of the Lord?



Favorite Hymns

A. J. Fisher.

IN preparation for a choral service, we distributed a request for lists of six favorite hymns and now, after reviewing the replies, we hand on the results. 72 lists were received, mostly from the congregation of the Nails-worth church of Christ, but some came from others, even as far away as Queensland. A total of 183 hymns were selected, but, of course, some of them received very few votes. Here is the final list of the seven favorites, in order of preference. The last four had equal votes.

Abide with Me.
Lead, Kindly Light.
Onward, Christian Soldiers.
Rock of Ages.
There is a Green Hill.
Nearer My God to Thee.
Tell Me the Old, Old Story.

Included in the replies was a group of children's votes, received from scholars in the local primary and technical schools. Their votes are included in the above result, but taken alone the junior choice was as follows:

Onward, Christian Soldiers.
Jesus Loves Me.
There is a Green Hill.
There's a Friend for Little Children.
Children of Jerusalem.
When Mothers of Salem.

It is strange that the following hymns received the minimum of only one vote each:

All Hail the Power.
In the Cross of Christ I Glory.
Jesus Shall Reign.
Sun of My Soul.

Then note how few votes were received by these:

Jesus, Lover of My Soul (3).
I Need Thee Every Hour (5).
O for a Thousand Tongues (3).

(Concluded on Page 329.)

Witness of a Superior Life

Ethelbert Davis, of N.S.W., points to failure of the church to minister to this generation. Lower standards of spiritual life and division have weakened the church's witness.

LESLIE WEATHERHEAD writes, pointing out some of the ways in which the church must move to competently meet this hour and the one that follows, and the hour after that: "It must move away from a mere 'insurance religion'; preach simpler sermons; have convinced Christians teaching the young; protest against the unbalance of our economic world, with its false endorsement of wealth; . . . guide the free and leisure periods of people toward cultural benefit and national integrity; and emphasise the family nature of the world." Just so! Just so!

No one knows so fully the failings, the pettiness, the faithlessness which infect the church's life, and what are its needs as we who are its members. But as well as knowing its needs, the church has to face the fact that in this world the voice of the church is a minority voice. Yet, by its very nature, the church must speak, and speak, too, with authority, and that above the authority of the world's scribes.

One of the supreme functions of the church is always to witness against error, and in favor of truth. But in bearing witness to truth to-day, it must be borne in mind that the church now speaks only for a minority, a fact which calls for humility and quiet insistence. On the other hand, the church must speak with the full assurance of faith, knowing that it has the words of life.

A survey of the church's witness to-day requires a consideration of several obvious facts—the church's present environment; the strength of societies, political and economic institutions; the antagonism of large sections of the community; the numerical declension of the church; the lowered standards of society; and the surfeit of preachments of panaceas for all the world's ills. These conditions cannot be overcome by standing on the outside and preaching, however true the preaching may be; these cannot be overcome by the compromise of truth; by lowering the standards; by complying with the desires of the modern State; or by withdrawing from society. They can be overcome only by the witness of a superior life.

The value and influence of the Christian church to society now will, as never before, be determined by the quality of the life which it is able to reveal. It was that superiority of life over that of their contemporaries which gave the early Christians such power. They compelled attention, as one has said, "Because they out-thought, out-lived and out-died their contemporaries."

To-day we are in the throes of a reaction which, in a measure, accounts for the limp apathy so many reveal when confronted by public wrongs and horrors that at any other time would have shocked them into indignation and decisive action. The epidemic of crime, the weakening of sex self-control, and the loss of respect for human values, call for a remedy which law, however rigidly enforced, does not seem to provide. Familiarity with a church unable and unwilling, because of divisions, to speak with a united voice; familiarity with a Christianity shot through and through with materialism and emasculated by worldliness, has bred contempt. This requires from the church a new technique—yet not new, but as old as Christianity itself—a life that is superior in every way to that of our contemporaries. It was that life Paul contended for when he said, "Only, do lead a life that is worthy of the gospel of Christ."

A profession of religion without holiness of life is a sham and a mockery. "Christianity is a life to be lived, but men will wrangle for Christianity, write for it, fight for it, die for it, anything but live for it." And yet if the Christian church is to in any way influence the course of events, and have any say in the fashioning of society, the challenging, arresting quality of life must be forthcoming.

The standards and integrity of individual Christians, the warmth of fellowship within the Christian church, the ideal and the consistent practice of unselfish service for others must compel attention. In the final analysis, it is only through the distinction and quality of its own inner life that the church can redeem society from destruction and save the people of this age.

proximately the same strength in Queensland as churches of Christ, have decided to establish a college too. It will cost £40,000, and will be called Cromwell College, "because Cromwell was a good Congregationalist, and a sturdy man who stood on his own feet." The imposing St. John's Cathedral, across the road from Anst. church, has stood unfinished for nearly half a century. Moves are being made to complete it, at a cost of £200,000, of which £45,000 is in hand. The cathedral, one of the most beautiful in Australia, is modelled on the Truro Cathedral in England.

GOD'S CHILDREN

FROM "World Call" we take the following comment on the situation in China. We were impressed by the woman's remarks about Communists being children of God. "In China the masses of the people are neither Communists nor Christians. If their Communist leaders show no more concern for the suffering of the masses than did their predecessors in government, then they will not ultimately yield to them the allegiance of their hearts. And if their Russian allies use them as pawns in an international chess game, they will discover, as others have discovered in centuries past, the tremendous capacity for resistance of the Chinese people. Christianity, too, will be judged in China by its fruits. And that goes for any nation that thinks of itself as predominantly Christian."

"It was something like this that one Christian woman had in mind when she sent to the mission headquarters of her church a contribution with the request that it be used for special service to Chinese farmers being carried on by O. J. Goulter, disciple missionary in the Chub-sien area of Anhwei province. With this woman's gift came the comment that the present situation in China is 'surely a great challenge and opportunity for our faithful missionaries to demonstrate to the Communists that we, too, want all to be fed.' She observed also, 'I have felt at times that we are allowing ourselves to hate the Communists so much that we forget that they are God's children, too.'"

FAVORITE HYMNS

(Concluded.)

The elimination of "When I Survey" and "The Church's One Foundation" from the finals is also interesting, although these polled near to the favorites. Strangely, also, none of the so-called "popular hymns" came within the final group. Evidently time adds a general endorsement to really great hymns.

From various sources, both Australian and overseas, I have collected published lists of favorite hymns. These include one list dated 1885, and one from Melbourne published in June, 1950. There is also one list given by a chaplain from a troopship in the Mediterranean Sea. In addition, when broadcasting a regular programme in Queensland, I called for a vote on favorite hymns from listeners. Combining all of these 14 lists, we have this as a combination vote, representing what may be called the "Favorites of Favorites." Here is this interesting result:

Abide with Me (12).
Rock of Ages (10).
Jesu, Lover (9).
Lead, Kindly Light (8).
Onward, Christian Soldiers (5).
Nearer, My God (4).
When I Survey (3).

Twenty-five other hymns were mentioned in these lists.

Strong drink incites appetite, changes love into lust, and carries the victim into licence and impurity. It is always the faithful ally of the baser nature. It is ever the friend of the beast in man.—Mrs. Bramwell Booth.

Visitors to Queensland

R. W. Graham, B.A., of Brisbane, reports on conferences and building programmes

"SUNSHINE worshippers" are found in the churches as well as in other quarters. Winter began with a visit from A. W. Stephenson to the Easter Conference. V. C. Stafford fled Melbourne fogs for a week in June to lead in the first Youth Workers' Conference. King's Birthday week-end brought together some 70 leaders from metropolitan and country churches to discuss all aspects of youth work. Mr. Stafford also had meetings at Ann-st. for all city Sunday school teachers, and at Too-woomba to demonstrate the new Austral lessons. And now K. A. Jones is in the midst of a busy three weeks, visiting practically every church in Brisbane, west to Chinchilla and north to Bundaberg, in the interests of the Federal College of the Bible.

The National Council of Religious Education recently had a week-end camp for young people from the major Protestant churches. There were six young people from each communion, headed by a behind-the-scenes minister, in our case, R. Wilson, of Gympie. Delegates shared knowledge of their State work, and discussed their respective politics and major doctrines.

Brisbane metropolitan conference has had its first annual meeting. Speaker was State evangelist, L. E. Jones, and his message, "A Tale of Two Cities." Use is being made of the movie projector whose purchase was financed, at Easter, by three generous brethren. Appreciation was expressed of the work of the retiring president, J. W. Clothier. New officers are: President, C. H. J. Wright; vice-president, R. W. Graham; secretary, K. E. Hack; treasurer, J. Smith; radio organiser, H. W. Wiltshire.

Albion is to be congratulated, and her preacher to be envied on purchasing a new Austin car for pastoral work.

Church Building Projects are under way in Brisbane. The construction of the beautiful new University of Queensland entails erection of new theological colleges, Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist. They will cost £100,000 each, half of the money to be found by the government. Congregational churches, of ap-

When We Hinder

George B. Duncan, in "The Life of Faith," calls on us to be practical and faithful in church life.

ONE of the most devastating statements made by Jesus Christ to the religious leaders of his day, is recorded in Luke 11: 52, "Ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered." To apply the words to ourselves to-day would seem to suggest that those who ought to be the greatest help to others in spiritual things, are often the greatest hindrance. I would like to suggest four kinds of Christians that appear to fall into this class.

There is the *spiritual sponge*, the kind of Christian who loves to hear the simple gospel, and delights in attendance at meetings and conventions. The sponges sit and listen and soak up all that they hear, and that is the end of it. As for an outgiving of what they have received in a disciplined and effective life of prayer, or of sacrificial service—these things just don't enter their thoughts. They are quite happy to listen, to taste and to approve. The sponge, however, does not come into the list of metaphors used in scripture to describe the life of the believer. I read of a "well, springing up," and also of "rivers of living water" flowing out of the inner being of the real Christian. Let us pray that our churches may be delivered from the tragedy of the spiritual sponge!

There is also the *spiritual tramp*, the kind of Christian who has no fixed place of abode. A carefree sort of existence is his, wandering around wherever his fancy may take him; but rather a useless sort of existence. How many tramps there are to be found in our cities, wandering round from church to church, listening to preacher after preacher just as their fancy takes them. A carefree sort of life is theirs; they know nothing of the responsibilities of a home, and little of life's achievement. The only record they leave behind is that of the journeys they have taken, the preachers they have heard. Remember that tramps seldom achieve anything. Are you a tramp? Have you no spiritual home? Are you a detached Christian? If you are, then you are about as much use as a detached arm or a detached eye!

What of the *spiritual flirt*? He, too, is closely related to the tramp. A flirt would seem to be someone who wants to get all the amusement, the excitement and the entertainment out of love, without any thought or desire of accepting the responsibility of the marriage to

which love is the summons. There is, of course, a thrill and an excitement attached to certain aspects of the life that comes within the orbit of the normal Christian—the thrill of big meetings and of listening to a great preacher, the wonder of a great convention, the enjoyment of house-parties. Many things bring a rich and full measure of happiness and joy to the Christian. But to make these things alone the goal, is a travesty of the Christian life, just as a flirt is a travesty of a lover.

Marriage speaks of self-denial, of sacrifice, of service, of a hundred and one things that fall under the title of "duty" rather than pleasure; and the Christian life, lived in union with Christ, is marked by many of these things. Marriage speaks of dusting, of cooking, of washing up, of mending clothes, of crying children, of straitened finances, of liberty forgone, of a score of things that are accepted by love and turned to good account—things that have little of what the world calls "glamor" (horrible word!). What of the Christian life, of laboring in prayer, of teaching tiresome children in the Sunday school, the hard work that has to be done in every living church which has no publicity and no praise? The flirt never touches these, and often does not know they exist. May we be saved from all such!

The last type of Christian that I would like to suggest we could well do without in the church of Christ is the *spiritual snob*—the Christian, or rather the parody of the Christian, who feels so much better than other Christians that he can look down his Pharisaic nose, and withdraw himself just a little bit, less or more, from having anything to do with them. To be more particular than the Holy Spirit, as the spiritual snob usually is, is surely the most extraordinary form of conceit known on earth. Of course, as on the human level, the snob is usually the last person who has any right to be snobbish. If you meet a social snob, you usually are meeting someone whose social background, traced far enough back, gives them no right whatever to adopt the superior attitude they are adopting. The real aristocrat is seldom so petty. Let us take our standards, then, from the Holy Spirit, and where he is at home, who are we to stand aloof? The Master himself was "full of grace and truth," and we do well to seek to be like him, in this, as in all other things.

F.M. Secretary in Islands

WRITING from Ndui-Ndui, after a good 'plane journey from Sydney to Santo, where he was met by Harold Finger, A. Anderson describes the crossing to Aoba in the new mission launch, "Grace."

"By the time we got formalities over it was getting late, and as the sea was very choppy, Mr. Finger decided to only go as far as a small island about seven miles from Santo. We got under the lee of the island before dark and had tea: cold rice, two tins cooked meat, bread and plenty of tea. The launch has really no accommodation for sleeping. We lay on the roof of the deck, which was similar to lying on a table. The wind rose and several rain squalls came on, consequently the sea became ruffled and the boat rocked the whole time, so we had very little sleep.

"About 5.30 a.m., we set out for Aoba on a choppy sea. The launch, which is very steady, is a good one for open sea. Battling against a strong tide and wind, we took seven hours to reach Ndui-Ndui. In calm weather this could be done in five and a half hours.

"Arriving at the mission house about 12.30, we

found that nearly everyone had gone to a wedding about a mile away. We were able to reach there quickly in Mr. Purdy's jeep, which he had kindly left for the use of the missionaries. We joined them in time for the wedding breakfast. What a crowd! A special breakfast had been prepared for the missionaries—roast fowl, roast potatoes, fruit and baked custard, sponge cake. I took some pictures, and I hope they will be a success.

"The weather is hot—hotter than I actually expected. Our missionaries and their families are all well. I have met Miss Henderson and I am impressed with her capabilities. As yet I have not seen Mr. and Mrs. Smith, but expect to do so soon.

"Although so very isolated, Mr. Finger has a very good wireless set which receives Australian stations clearly. Current island news is given out over the air for individual islands

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and even particular people. This keeps the folk in touch with current events, movement of ships and planes."

In closing Mr. Anderson says that he does not know when he will get the next mail out nor when any will come in from Australia, as they have to depend mostly on smaller boats plying between Aoba and Santo.



"OTHER SHEEP"—ON AOBA

By Mary Finger.

LITTLE Johnson, the three months old son of a young heathen man, was brought to hospital for treatment. In spite of constant care he became progressively worse, and at length we suggested that the parents take him to Santo Island where there was a French doctor. At first the father protested, desiring strongly to take him home to try witchcraft on him; many friends from their district also urged this. We had been much in prayer concerning this babe, as we felt the father would more readily listen to the gospel story and yield to it if his son was spared. At last the parents agreed to take their son to hospital, and departed on a French ship.

For weeks the little one's life hung by a thread, but eventually the crisis was passed and there was hope of his recovery—how glad we were! One evening, after dinner, a ship came to Aoba, bringing the parents and babe home. But what a home-coming! For two weeks they had been discharged from hospital, and had lived in an open hut in the jungle, where mosquitoes were very numerous, without proper food and no protection from mosquitoes. The result was a sick baby, who had malaria for days, who could not retain food, and on whose thigh was a huge incision which had not been dressed for fourteen days. One could read death in his face then, and three days later he passed away.

We feared that this may have still further hardened the father's heart, but last week when visiting his home I received a very cordial welcome from both parents.

Few heathen are left on Aoba, but these "other sheep" rest heavily on our hearts. Will you join with us in praying these folk—particularly the young ones—into the kingdom?

THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

Thomas Hagger.

IT appears that one of the most beautiful examples of faith, which our Lord was to meet during his earthly career, was reserved for his dying moments. It was the case of the thief on the cross by the side of Jesus when he died. But men will persist in misapplying it. You will hear one man say, "Oh, the thief on the cross was saved at the eleventh hour and so may I," and you will hear another say, "Oh, the thief was saved without being baptised, and so may I." In the one case it is an effort to justify delay in coming to Christ, and in the other, it is an effort to try to justify disobedience to the command of Christ to be baptised. Your mistake is that you are taking a special case and applying it generally.

God nowhere promises to save a man as he is about to die; he only promises to save a man now. Under the great commission the Lord Jesus has attached the promise of salvation to the highly significant and deeply spiritual act of baptism: "He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved" (Mark 16: 15, 16).

BE SURE

The learned and famous Dr. Samuel Johnson advised one of his young friends to drink nothing but water. "You are then sure not to get drunk," said he, "whereas if you drink wine you are never sure."

COMMONWEALTH ROUND-UP

HERE AND THERE

ROBINVALE-Euston district residents please note that a meeting for breaking of bread will be held at home of Mr. J. McGregor, Euston, N.S.W., commencing Sunday, July 30, at 11 a.m.

D. A. Kenley has given many years of faithful service to church and Bible school at Bendigo, Vic., but is now retiring from the various offices he has held. Mr. and Mrs. Kenley are leaving shortly for Queensland to join their son.

W. J. Thomson, preacher of church at Wagga, N.S.W., served as a chaplain to passengers in migrant ship "Mooltan." After flying to Perth, he joined the ship at Fremantle and ministered to spiritual needs of people. Mr. Thomson was in Melbourne for week-end of July 15-17, and then left for Sydney.

Special feature of youth fellowship, July 2, at Marrickville, N.S.W., was a religious film, shown by Mr. Edwards, presenting Christ's challenge to youth. Appropriate solos, by Clive Way, were also enjoyed. Prayer meeting on July 5 included dedication by Mr. Thomas of a table, presented by family of late Jack Linford, who died as result of war service. Collection at gospel service, July 9, for food relief fund, amounted to over £17.

The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. advises that the trade difficulties encountered in issuing a new edition of the Churches of Christ Hymn Book have been overcome and supplies are now available. Its production has been subject to the rising costs of material and wages. The price of the cloth bound hymnals is 7/6 per copy, plus postage or freight. No leather bound books are available at present. Supplementary tune books remain at the same price: cloth bound 4/9, roan 14/6, and morocco 16/6, postage extra.

At Boonah, Qld., June 25, after a heart-searching message by Mr. Leask, a man and wife made their decision for Christ. Church rejoiced to hear six further decisions from Sunday school, after gospel address on July 2. There have been nine decisions at Boonah and four at Silverdale, since commencement of Mr. Leask's ministry in March. Overseas mission offering has reached £35. Mr. "Scotty" Gibb's address, July 9, strengthened faith of all present. Six were immersed during evening service. A record number of Sunday school scholars sat for annual scripture examinations.

At Wollongong, N.S.W., on July 9, a large congregation assembled to take part in an in memoriam service in honor of Messrs. Witherich and Meering, both of whom have been called home during month. Families of both are associated with Lord's work. E. C. Hinrichsen spoke. Work is in good heart, and interest is being stirred up by active ministry of Mr. Hinrichsen. A choir has been inaugurated and greater interest is shown in the midweek prayer meeting. Further effort is being made to finish building at Warrawong, where Endeavor societies and Sunday school are expanding.

At Cowandilla, S.A., two members have passed to higher service—Seymour Edwards and Sister Driver. Church extends sympathy to relatives. Public school has been granted use of kindergarten hall. A girl from Sunday school, Gloria Pollard, upon her confession of Christ, has been baptised and received into fellowship. Visiting speakers have been M. Maxted, of Torrensfield; G. Stirling, of youth department; and N. Gavros, of New Zealand. Average attendances for June: 70 in morning, 71 in evening, 81 communicants. Overseas mission offering reached £50; temple day offering, for debt on mause, £56.

Mrs. D. E. Pittman is leaving Sydney by ship, at end of July, for America, to visit her daughter, Mrs. A. McDiarmid. Mr. McDiarmid is ministering with a church at Loveland, Colorado, U.S.A., and is studying at the university at Denver.



Aoban Church's Gift

GREAT welcome meeting by Aoban women; 250 present. Inspiring and colorful sight to see smiling crowd. Welcome meeting preceded by a bounteous picnic lunch. Enthusiasm shown by the women at their welcome, and greetings expressed to sisterhood of Australian churches.

A day or so ago, church leaders met and presented me, on behalf of the Aoban churches, with the sum of £113/5/- as a donation to meet the fares from Adelaide to islands and return. A splendid gesture, and one deeply appreciated by board. The brethren here are forward looking—pray for them.—A. Anderson.



95th Anniversary Services,

HINDMARSH, S.A.

HINDMARSH is one of the oldest churches in brotherhood of South Australia. The 95th anniversary services were held from July 9 to 11. Chas. Trembath, senior elder, presided at morning service. J. E. Shipway brought message to church. Choir sang anthem, soloist being Mrs. A. Russell. 170 were present. Mayor and Mayoress of Hindmarsh, with councillors and their wives, attended evening service. Mayor read scripture lesson. Choir rendered two anthems, soloists being J. Holden, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Russell and Miss Pam Hillock. Murray Filton was heard at his best in sacred solo, "Open the Gates of the Temple." The topic for the sermon was "The Temples of God," preacher being J. E. Shipway. There was one confession. Build-



Federal Conference week-night meetings will be held in this beautiful Memorial Congregational Church, Hobart, Tasmania.

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ing was full. Interior of chapel has been renovated at cost of £310. A beautiful new carpet covering platform was purchased at a cost of £160. Carpet has been paid for through functions held by ladies over the last three months. A beautiful tablet, gift of Mr. J. Holden, and work of J. Richardson, has been placed in porch, greatly enhancing entrance. At meeting on Tuesday evening, J. E. Shipway preached, and reviewed history of setting up of church, and work of preachers over years. B. W. Manning led in prayer, and J. Holden contributed solo. The meeting adjourned to lecture hall where reminiscent talks were given by Chas. Trembath, T. P. Richardson, and J. Allan. W. Strudwick brought greetings from Henley Beach. Supper was served by ladies. During 95 years of history church at Hindmarsh has mothered churches of Henley Beach, York, Mile End and Croydon. The functions over the anniversary period were happy. Many past members and friends returned for occasion, and fellowship was delightful.



Women's Inter-Church Fellowship Day

ON Wednesday, July 26, 1950, throughout the State, there will be between 50 and 60 groups of church women meeting to think on the theme, "Our Daily Bread—Humanity Hungers." These meetings are sponsored by Women's Interchurch Council of Victoria, and it is urged that all church women find out where these meetings are being held and to join in fellowship. Offerings will be taken for churches' international relief fund.—J.M.C.



School of Sacred Music

UNDER direction of "Mildmay," Melbourne, a school of music is being established to help those anxious to improve their talents for Christian service. Free tuition in sacred singing and pianoforte will be provided. Those desiring to study piano must have a working knowledge of music and instrument.

School is under direction of Ray Meadows, L.Mus., and he will be assisted by Mrs. Geo. R. Brown. There will be three terms, each consisting of three months, held at Mildmay headquarters, third floor, 262 Flinders-lane, Melbourne, each first Saturday of September, October and November of this year. Those interested may communicate with leaders at above address.



Missionaries for Africa

MR. AND MRS. GARFIELD TODD RETURN TO FIELD.

GARFIELD TODD, of New Zealand, is the superintendent of the Churches of Christ Mission at Dadya, Southern Rhodesia, Africa. Mr. Todd is also a member of the Rhodesian parliament. During their vacation, Mr. and Mrs. Todd visited churches of Christ in New Zealand. Mr. Todd inspired the New Zealand conference with the report of his work, and preached the conference sermon. Mr. and Mrs. Todd, with their three children, are returning to Africa on the "Dominion Monarch," calling this week at Melbourne, and other Australian ports en route.

A. C. Caldicott was writer of article entitled, "Restoration at Work," appearing in last issue.

News of the Churches

New South Wales

Kingsford.—Meetings during recent weeks have been well attended, and one young woman, Margaret Goldrick, made her confession of faith. Since successful picture screenings in May, special singers have been featured at evening services, including Clive Way, of Manly. Several visitors have attended meetings, among those being a New Australian from Holland. Church is collecting for flood relief to aid brethren who suffered during recent floods on north coast. Over £15 has been given. Sympathy of church goes out to sister, Mrs. Agnew, and her family in time of death of her father.

Tasmania

Launceston (Margaret-st.).—Weekly averages for June: 11 a.m., 90; 7 p.m., 68; communion, 96. On June 14, Ladies' Guild held special hospital afternoon, Sub-Matron Skirving, of General Hospital, was speaker. Ladies brought a quantity of jams, etc., for hospital. J. H. Jones gave interesting lantern lecture at Men's Fellowship meeting on June 18. Bible school has record enrolment of 170, and attendances over past few weeks have been well over hundred. Bible class has commenced a study of "Spiritism and Theosophical" teachings. Miss Wiltshire passed to be with her Lord on June 3. Miss Valerie Crutchett has transferred to Malvern-Caulfield, Vic. Mrs. G. J. Foot and Mrs. J. Edwards have returned to homes from hospital. Speakers during June were Messrs. E. P. Byard, A. Griffiths, H. Crowden, C. Haynes, E. H. Greeney, W. Buck and J. S. Allen. A number of scholars are studying for annual scripture examinations. Two Junior C.E. members, Lynette Wilmot and Margaret Edwards, gained honors in recent C.E. examinations.

Western Australia

Subiaco.—A. G. Elliott began his fourth year of ministry in June. Recent additions to membership were Misses G. Gilchrist, Wilkinson and M. Tunsey by letter, and Mrs. Dagleish by obedience. There have been two other confessions. Brethren at Shenton Park are grateful for continued assistance from Subiaco, and recent decisions, under H. L. Vawser's preaching, have greatly encouraged them. Special features of past month included Christian Endeavor tea and gospel service and Student Day of Prayer service. Ladies' Aid are to be especially commended for magnificent effort in providing a new carpet for chapel. Mr. Elliott has concluded a series of morning messages on the model prayer. Winter school plans for Thursday evenings in July, August and September are taking shape. Church and Bible school enjoyed fellowship with R. Muller, of Box Hill. Sister T. Taylor is critically ill; others laid aside are Mrs. Digwood, Mrs. Chapman, and Messrs. Johnson, Jones and E. Taylor.

South Australia

Fullarton.—On July 8 second monthly rally of Bible school was held. There was a good attendance of parents and scholars. Morning meetings are well attended. B. W. Manning's New Testament lessons are appreciated. Gospel meeting was good on July 9. Two young men assisted. Dean Sessle conducted song service and Neil Young helped in service. A quintette of male voices rendered an excellent item. B. W. Manning presented a challenge in his

message to church. 15 scholars from Bible school sat for scripture examinations.

Prospect.—Endeavorers held consecration meeting on July 3. At Tuesday night Fellowship Meeting, S. E. Riches, representing Mission to Lepers, showed a film dealing with that work. Mrs. Patching was speaker at Young Married Women's Club, meeting on Wednesday. Mr. Patching spoke at both services on July 9.

Kilburn.—Foundation of new kindergarten room was completed on July 8, and church is indebted to S. Hosking, of Croydon, and Kilburn men for voluntary work. Bible school, 10 a.m. July 9, had attendance of 137, including two new scholars, one being a "New Australian." A. J. Ingham addressed helpfully 11.15 a.m. service, there being 33 adults and 35 members of Y.W.L. present. J.C.E. met at 2.45 p.m. under leadership of Miss Beth Riches; 23 present. C.Y.F. continues to maintain good attendances and interest of young folk. Girls' basketball team has had some success.

Nailsworth.—Junior Endeavorers enjoyed a "Happy Hour" afternoon on July 8, when children were entertained with games, films and competitions. In order to stimulate Bible study among junior members of church and other young people, a series of written Bible quizzes has been planned, covering basic principles of Christian faith. Y.P.S.C.E. is holding meetings in homes of church members. On July 9 several Bible school scholars sat for examination. School is busy preparing for anniversary in August.

Unley.—The "Happy Hours" after-school series, conducted by youth director, proved most successful, numbers increasing from 90 to 170. Following this, Sunday school teachers visited homes of 56 boys and girls not attending any Sunday school. Junior Boys' Club reports increased attendances, with six new members in recent weeks. Members appreciated visit of Harry Lui, a Chinese Christian working with Pocket Testament League. He gave a challenging message in his appeal for all to live the Spirit-filled life. Mr. Norris conducted a most helpful service when dealing with how to worship at one gospel service. This was based on suggestions made at a young people's group discussion, and the atmosphere of true worship was evident. To date £211 has been received for overseas missions offering. With duplex envelope offerings, the total will exceed £250. The annual meeting of Mission Band attracted a record gathering, and a happy afternoon of fellowship was enjoyed, Miss E. Messent being speaker. Mrs. Norris is new president, with Mrs. Alan Charlick, president-elect.

Victoria

Warragul.—On July 3 church enjoyed fellowship with A. W. Stephenson and W. Gale. Mr. Stephenson presided at Lord's Table and Mr. Gale gave address. In evening service was conducted by V. Quayle. Young people presented a pageant, portraying missionary work in India; 72 were present. Average attendance at morning service for past month has been 65. Mr. Quayle's work, particularly amongst young people, is much appreciated. Offering for overseas missions amounted to £12/10/-.

Geelong.—Services on July 9 were taken by R. J. Anderson. Fellowship with Mr. Macnaughtan and Mr. and Mrs. J. Combridge was enjoyed. On Monday evening Dr. Parker gave a helpful talk to girls of Good Companions' Club. About 30 Sunday school scholars sat for Bible school examination.

Malvern-Caulfield.—Mr. and Mrs. Kingsbury are endearing themselves to all members. Meetings are well attended and growing, and Mr. Kingsbury's helpful and instructive preaching is appreciated. Many visitors have been welcomed, including old friends of minister. Women's department is glad Mrs. Kingsbury has accepted leadership of their work. Church is optimistic, and plans for progress.

Ballarat (Peel-st.).—Services continue to be helpful and visiting speakers' help is appreciated. Five young people were baptised by A. Graham on June 17. M. Coombs, one of the young men, now at college, gave a fine address on July 1, and at evening service Mr. Pike, of China Inland Mission, told of work being maintained in China. A. Graham is editor of weekly church paper, "Friendly Helper." Fine addresses were given on July 9 by J. Smail, who came from Geelong with his family. Several efforts are planned for manse fund.

Surrey Hills.—Church was saddened by home-call of aged Mr. Anderson. There is much illness amongst members. Annual offering for overseas missions exceeded £50. In preparation for diamond jubilee celebrations, Mr. Earle has conducted a teaching mission, giving cardinal truths of plea of churches of Christ. 12 scholars sat for recent scripture examinations. Ladies' Guild and Mission Band have combined in recent meetings. Y.P.S.C.E. has re-commenced, supplying a need for growing youth group. Tennis teams have had successes in Baptist and churches of Christ competition. Young Men's Training Class is providing teaching in club leadership in youth activities. Explorers and Good Companions are conducting efficiency drives. Fellowship with many visitors has been enjoyed.

South Yarra.—Keen interest is taken in all meetings. Attendance is being well maintained. On July 2 a youth tea was held, and a number of young people took part in evening service. At morning service, July 2, Mr. Marshall, of St. Kilda, presided. The offering for overseas missions amounted to £40, more than three times amount raised last year. On evening of 14th, Mrs. C. Thomas was speaker, giving an interesting talk on work in India. Ladies held a fancy dress social on 17th, in aid of carpet fund, and raised £5/14/-. Men of church held basket tea on 9th; afterwards film, "Behind the Grey Walls," was shown by Mr. Stanton, official photographer of Pentridge. On July 9, at evening service, members of football club were in attendance when Mr. Brooke, of Maylands, S.A., a student of M.B.I., was speaker. Others taking part were Mr. McCrae, student of M.B.I., Ross Thompson and Peter Pitts. 19 scholars of Bible school sat for scripture examination.

Swan Hill.—Visitation campaign was held recently. While there were no visible results many homes were contacted, and all who took part felt it was worthwhile. Fellowship with Mr. Cunningham was enjoyed. Church extends sympathy to Mrs. Membrey in loss of her sister. Ladies' Guild has been kept busy during month. Church appreciates their gift of carpets, costing £40. Mrs. Sutton has been appointed secretary of B. and F.B.S. branch at Swan Hill. R. M. Streader addressed church on morning of July 9. Swan Hill Y.P.S.C.E. held first Endeavor rally in chapel. The secretary, R. M. Streader, reported steady progress. Mr. Argull, of Lake Boga Methodist church, was speaker. On July 8 two car loads of young people journeyed to Kerang Baptist Y.P.S.C.E. At annual meeting of church at Swan Hill, those elected were: President, R. M. Streader; vice-president, E. Mott; secretary, Miss F. Parkin; treasurer, Miss D. Warren. Bible school is showing good progress, attendance being over 70.

Newmarket.—On July 2 a sound film, "The Prodigal Son," was shown at gospel service. Mr. Potts, of North Essendon, presided and Mr. McKenzie addressed both services on 9th. Sunday school has commenced increase campaign. Mr. Jubb is in hospital, recovering after an operation. Both teams of tennis club are undefeated. A favorite hymn service was held on July 16.

Bentleigh.—Many church members are ill, and attendances have been affected. Midweek prayer and Bible study continues and interest is maintained. Thirty scholars sat at Sunday school examinations. Church plans to hold mission in October. Mr. and Mrs. Wiltshire continue faithful and inspiring ministry. Sunday school is active, and provides many contacts with homes in district.

Springvale.—During July church has enjoyed prophetic messages at morning and evening services. Mr. Prescott gave a fine message on evening of July 9. Mr. Bond continues to inspire with addresses. Mr. Youens, of Dandenong, gave a splendid address on evening of 16th. Average offering over last four Lord's days for local work was £17/17/-. A record offering for overseas work reached over £53, aim being £50.

Mitcham.—Since last report church has been grieved by death of Mrs. Patching. Attendance at morning services is good, showing definite improvement. Bible school is increasing. Boys' Explorer Club is commencing shortly. Messrs. Hodgkins and Patterson, have given appreciated sermons recently. Social evening for church members and friends has been planned, to assist ladies obtain crockery for kitchen. Messages of Mr. Gough, who labors with church, are appreciated.

East Preston.—Services are well maintained. Average breaking bread during June was 32, which is five more than previous month. Sunday school attendances have never been higher. The average is now 110. During June, Jeanette Coxhill and Mr. and Mrs. C. Gillatt were baptised and received into fellowship. The rear wall of church building has been taken back six feet, giving kindergarten department much needed extra room. Ladies of church conducted first June fair, adding £34/10/- towards building fund.

Bayswater.—On June 25 an every member present Sunday was held, and a thanksgiving offering was taken. The sum of £113 was received. This will be used to pay for block of land recently purchased. Same evening a combined service was held in public hall. D. Hibburt was speaker. Mesdames F. Finger and R. Fromhold rendered a duet. Ten scholars sat for annual examination. Both morning and evening meetings continue to improve. Mr. Hibburt's addresses are helpful. Young men's training class has commenced activities. Church officers took charge of Christian Endeavor meeting on July 11. There was a good number present, and an interesting discussion followed.

Balwyn.—Church has been saddened by home call of Mrs. W. Race, loyal servant of Christ and his church. Sympathy was extended to family. Margaret Emmett is in hospital, after being knocked down by car. Mrs. Morrison is able to attend services again after operation. Mrs. Barkla has suffered a broken ankle. On June 11, Noel Soulsby was welcomed into fellowship. At close of gospel appeal by D. Thomas, one man made good confession and was baptised the same hour. On June 18 church was happy to have address from Mr. Nankivell, of Camberwell, also to receive into membership Keith Sharp. Second Advent witness meetings on King's Birthday holiday were well attended. Children's Happy Hour sessions were held on nine afternoons, when chapel was packed each afternoon. Mrs. Hoffman, Mr. Wigney and Mr. Thomas leading. The result has been a splendid impact created on community. Opportunity will be given all to have a share in initial work at North Balwyn on July 29. Three blocks of land have been purchased off Doncaster-rd.,

opposite Greythorne-rd.; these are to be cleared.

Ascot Vale.—On June 25 Mr. Burti terminated his ministry with church after six years' service. Church made a presentation of an 8-day clock as a farewell gift to Mr. and Mrs. Burti. Ladies of Women's Auxiliary Women's Mission Band also made a presentation to Mrs. Burti. Mr. Pritchard, of college, who accepted a call until the end of year, is already making a good impression, and his visits to sick and others is deeply appreciated. Mrs. Thorpe is making good progress after an operation. Ken Wirrick is home again from hospital, and is able to get about with aid of crutches; his mother is also making good progress toward recovery. An old member of church, Mrs. Hewson, has been received in by letter from Lygon-st.

Bendigo.—Services over month of June were fairly well attended, and some sterling messages have been delivered by C. J. Robinson. Two young men of Bible class made good confession and were baptised on June 18, and received into fellowship on June 25. Branch Bible school, at Spring Gully, has just completed its first year of activity, and social evening and prize distribution was held to mark occasion. Church is saddened by passing of Sister Nurse Curnow at age of 89. All auxiliaries are in good heart. Ladies' Auxiliary is preparing for "Fair" in August to aid manse fund. Seventy members of Christian Youth Fellowship attended rally held at Bendigo, July 8. During absence of Mr. Robinson, who with R. Banks, of Castlemaine, visited Boort-Pyramid Hill circuit on July 1, services at Short-st. were conducted by J. K. Martin.

Kaniva.—On July 2, only three meetings were held, this being B. J. Combridge's concluding day after a two and a half years' ministry in the Kaniva circuit. At 11 a.m. about 75 attended at Kaniva; the 3 p.m. meeting was held at Serviceton and at 7 p.m. about 70 attended gospel service at Kaniva. Mr. Combridge gave helpful messages throughout day. After gospel service opportunity was taken to bid Mr. and Mrs. Combridge and Winifred farewell, and to express words of appreciation for ministry they have conducted here, and to wish them well in the new undertaking. A presentation of a cheque was made at both Serviceton and Kaniva as a token of esteem. J. I. Mudford and his wife arrived at Kaniva and are now ready to commence an interim ministry, commencing July 9. £394 has been received towards the F.M. offering to date.

Prahran.—Kinder department is continuing to grow, and many new scholars have been added during past few weeks. This increase has been brought about by the conscientious efforts of kinder workers. J. McKenzie put his car at disposal of kinders. He picks up and returns to homes many tiny tots, eliminating danger of crossing major roads. Highest attendance has been 48. T. O'Neill is organising kinders as supervisor. Chairs have been repainted and kinder room is now attractive. Bible school is growing. Another competition has been started to encourage attendance and to build up numbers. On July 2 attendance for whole school was 103, being second time this year a hundred has been reached. Bible class has fine band of young people. F. E. Buckingham, being ill, on July 12, with a cold, A. Thomas addressed church. Monthly fellowship and sing-song around piano was enjoyed. Young Explorers' have recommenced under leadership of Bob Tacker. Junior football team is doing well; members attend gospel meetings. Girls basket ball team is proving successful. Church has decided to put in a heating system. On opening day of appeal to finance same, more than half cost was given or promised. Mission Band held a sale of work on July 6, and cleared £6 to finance covering for kinder floor.

Essendon.—Mr. Mellhagger was speaker at all services on June 18 and 25. On July 2 three young people, recently baptised, were welcomed into fellowship at morning service on June 18. Members of Y.W.L. were presented with attendance prizes. At C.M.S. quarterly tea meeting, Mr. Higgins was speaker. Election of officers took place. Those elected were W. Alves, president; J. Hemsley, N. Cheal, vice-president, W. Murphy, secretary, K. Wallis, treasurer. Ladies' Fellowship occupied choir seats at evening service, and rendered two items. Mrs. W. Alves, president, led meeting. Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. N. Cheal read lessons. Soloist was Mrs. D. Ferguson. On June 24 members of North Essendon cricket club entertained with an excellent concert. W. Hibburt presided at morning service on June 25; Mr. and Mrs. King, from England, were welcomed. Church was indebted to Moreland brethren for their showing of the film "Faith Triumphant" at evening service; Mrs. V. Marr was soloist. Church officers held successful social evening at home of Mr. and Mrs. Hemsley on July 8. Mr. Funston (North Essendon) presided on morning of July 9. Mr. and Mrs. Mellhagger and family are holidaying in Queensland. In their absence Mr. Atkin (Social Service) was speaker in morning of July 9; Mr. Cole in evening. Choir rendered item in song. D. Hainsworth is absent from meetings through illness, also Mrs. Casson. Allan Muir, son of Sunday school secretary, is seriously ill in Royal Melbourne Hospital, following road accident. Church extends sympathy to Mrs. Larsen in loss of her husband.

CHURCH'S RESPONSIBILITY IN EUROPE

THE pre-war Europe is gone. A simple return to the situation so hopefully called "normal" is impossible. Europe is changing. It has to. The past decades of its history show that there was too much in its spiritual, moral and social structure which was weak or even sick. The changes are far-reaching and painful. They involve many extremely difficult and unexpected problems (the tragic features of the tremendous refugee question are some of the external signs of a deep, deep crisis). They are not basically political and economic. They are spiritual and moral. The problem of Europe is a religious one. It is unrealistic to speak about the return to normality, and it may lead to sterile thinking too. Europe is in labor for a new life. What its final shape is likely to be is still unknown. But one thing is certain, and that is that the Christian churches here face one of the most important and most responsible periods in their history. Very much depends on how alive they are, how courageous and how faithful in their service. Their objective can, of course, by no means be the construction of just a new Europe. They have to struggle for more. They have to strive that the earth be the footstool of the glory of God. (Thus also a new Europe may be born.) This struggle is more difficult than ever, and it will be a long one. The importance of the role of Christian youth in this is obvious. And that new ways, new solutions have to be found is obvious too. The headquarters of the appeal in Victoria to help Europe is at the office of the Churches' International Relief Committee Appeal, Room 10, 5th Floor, Nicholas Buildings, 37 Swanston-st., Melbourne.

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NORSEMAN MISSION POULTRY PROJECT MAKES GOOD

LAST year two interested brethren provided the necessary finance to erect a 600-bird intensive poultry house on the Norseman Mission, and upon its completion by Mr. Park and native helpers, 600 day-old pullets were donated by the chairman of the Board, Mr. Maston Bell.

These pullets have been well cared for, and have now grown to maturity, producing some 100 dozen eggs per week. Mr. Park has proved that there is a ready market for eggs (at a good price) in the Norseman mining district, and also for the culled birds as dressed poultry. But the most valuable part of the project is that it provides practical farm training for the older mission boys and girls, in a district where normal farming and industrial training would be hard to obtain.

Following a visit of Mr. Albany Bell to the mission, he and Mr. Maston Bell have been so impressed with the possibilities of this "industrial" side of the work, both as a business proposition and a means of training the young native men, that they have offered to underwrite a scheme to provide a married couple for the mission work. Their primary interest would be this industrial side of the work, poultry, gardening, manual training, etc., using it as part of the full mission programme of development of the lives and personalities of the children under their care. It is expected that the actual profit from the project will pay the necessary salary (these brethren will meet the deficiency, if any), and as well as training children, the couple would share in the spiritual development of the mission.

The Aborigines Board has accepted the offer of these brethren, and a suitable couple are being prayerfully sought. The scheme presented also provides for the housing of the new workers, and a two-roomed cottage has been purchased from a mine which is closing down. This will be expanded into suitable quarters in a similar manner to the additions to "Bethany" (Mr. and Mrs. Felton's house), which were made during the building drive early this year.

This programme marks another step forward in the training of our under-privileged native children into a full life of Christian citizenship.—D.G.H.

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SURREY HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST. DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS, SEPTEMBER 9-17, 1950.

Sat., Sept. 9, Temple Day, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 10, JUBILEE SUNDAY.

11 a.m., Worship Service.

2.45 p.m., Bible School Reunion.

5 p.m., Fellowship Tea.

7 p.m., Gospel Service.

Tues., Sept. 12, Young People's Reunion Social, 7.45.

Wed., Sept. 13, Women's Day, 2.30 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 14, Girls' and Young Women's Evening, 7.45.

Fri., Sept. 15, Boys' and Young Men's Get-together, 7.30 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 17, "Beginning the New Era."

11 a.m., Worship Service.

7 p.m., Gospel Service.

KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND. WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, KADINA, S.A.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS,

JULY 29-AUGUST 6, 1950.

Visiting speakers: W. H. Nightingale, F. G. Filmer, C. Smith.

Assisted by choir under leadership of C. E. Larcombe.

Greetings solicited for Roll Call and Temple Day Service on July 30, at 11 a.m.

—Secretary, Alf. P. Russack, 9 Moonta-rd., Kadina.

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BIRTH.

TIMMS (nee Hunter).—On June 21, at Port Pirie, S.A., to Muriel and Harold, a daughter (Karen Rae).

DEATHS.

JACKEL.—On June 30, Lily, the beloved wife of Frank Jackel, loving mother of Stanley Edward, Ada Florence, Frederick William, Wallace Gordon, Daisy Edith, Lloyd Ernest, passed peacefully away at Lakes Entrance. Sleep on beloved, sleep, and take thy rest, Lay down thy head upon the Saviour's breast, We love thee well, but Jesus loves thee best, Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

McGREGOR.—On July 3, at the Children's Hospital, Ian Christopher, dearly loved son of Alan and Ethilda and darling brother of Elwyn and Valerie. "We sorrow not as those who have no hope."

YOUNG.—On June 14, 1950, at her residence, 20 Pont-rd., Welland, S.A., Olive Barbara, the beloved wife of Sydney Harrold Young, and loving mother of Jean, Gladys (Mrs. Barrey) and Angus; beloved mother-in-law of Phyllis, and loving grandma of Peter, Barbara, Bronwen and Marged. Aged 63 years.

A life of service for God and her neighbors.

"Loved with everlasting love,

Led by grace that love to know;

Spirit, breathing from above,

Thou has taught me it is so!

Oh, this full and perfect peace!

Oh, this transport all divine!

In a love which cannot cease,

I am his and he is mine."

THANKS.

A. LEONARD PRATT.—The wife of above, Mrs. E. Pratt, wishes to tender her sincere thanks to all friends in State of Victoria and Tasmania for their kind expressions of sympathy in her very sad bereavement, and for numerous floral tributes, letters, telegrams and cards. Will all kindly accept this as my very sincere expression of gratitude?

IN MEMORIAM.

LEE.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Lionel Wilton, called home July 21, 1949, and loved father of Aub. (dec.), Ray, Merv. (dec.), Ken (dec.) and Rod.

My true pal in life,

My pal he is still;

He will be watching and waiting

For me over the hill.

—Inserted by his loving wife, Tess, and sons, Ray and Rod.

MARTIN.—Treasured memories of our darling mum, who passed away July 22, 1948. Never forgotten by her three daughters.

Silent thoughts, tears unseen,

Keep your memory ever green;

Life is eternal, love will remain

In God's own time, dear, we shall meet again.

—Inserted by Mrs. Holmes, Marcia-st., Toongabbie.

PARSONS.—In loving memory of my dear husband and father, who passed away on July 15, 1949.

God saw that he was weary,

The hill too steep to climb,

So he gently closed his tired eyes,

And whispered, Peace be thine.

—Inserted by his loving wife and family.

STREADER.—In memory of our loved ones, father called home June 21, 1912, and mother, July 15, 1942. Resting where no shadows fall. —Inserted by Hilda and George.

PEET.—Treasured memories of my loving husband, Ernest William, who passed away July 11, 1945. A thought for to-day, a memory for ever.

—Inserted by his loving wife.

WATERMAN.—In loving memory of our son, Will, late missionary churches of Christ, China; loved husband of Grace, father of Joan and Winnie; passed away on service in China, July 17, 1932. In God's care.

Soft the winds that blow from the Homeland,
Sweet the morn that breaks on the shore;
Soon we'll meet again our loved ones,
Where sorrow, pain, and death come no more.

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Obituary

Emily Taylor

MORELAND church has sustained another loss in the home call of one of its oldest members. Our sister fell asleep in Jesus on July 8, at the age of 83 years. She was a foundation member, and was associated with the work at Moreland for over forty years. She was a gracious Christian lady, gentle and kindly, and given to good works. Throughout her long life she maintained the spiritual glow. She loved the church, and for many years was very active in the women's work. In old age her greatest sorrow was that she was unable to attend the Lord's house. It was fitting that the funeral should leave the chapel where she had worked and worshipped so long. E. J. Miles and W. Gale officiated at the service in chapel and at graveside. A large gathering of friends paid testimony to a lovely life. The beautiful floral gifts were a tribute to a life well lived. We commend her loved ones to the loving care of our heavenly Father.—E.J.M.

ADDRESSES.

R. J. Rogers (secretary Brim church, Vic.).—Box 44, Brim.

D. L. Shue (secretary Chinese church, Queensberry-st., Carlton, Vic.).—21 Munro-st., East Kew. Phone, WL1594.

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"Christ and Modern Life." A London Journalist, 2/11 (3/2).

"The Coming of the Son of Man." E. J. Poole-Connor, 3/2 (3/5).

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'Phone, FJ2524.

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

Manager: W. R. Hibburt.

Subscription.—Through Church Agent,
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