

Woolley

The Australian Christian

National Weekly Representing Churches of Christ



THE YOUTHFUL JESUS.

And it came to pass that after three days they found him (Jesus) in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. . . . And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

Church Campaigns to Restore Peace

SWEDEN

Church Conference Against Atom Bomb

GENERAL Church Conference of over 2300 members, which opened in Stockholm under the presidency of Archbishop Brilioth, and was attended by H.R.H. Crown Prince Oscar and by the Archbishop emeritus, Dr. Erling Eidem, unanimously subscribed to a petition to the World Council of Churches to use every means in its power for the obtaining of a ban on atomic weapons. Conference further asked the Swedish Government to make representations to the United Nations with a view to outlawing the atom bomb.

GERMANY

Soviet Zone Preachers

THE administrative body of the Old Prussian church, at its meeting in Berlin, which was also attended by representatives of the Rhineland and Westphalian member-churches, issued an emergency ordinance regarding the pastoral office, with special reference to the shortage of pastors in the Soviet Zone. It lays down that such lay churchgoers as possess a special aptitude for preaching the word and for the cure of souls, and as have already proved their worth in the service of the church, may, without receiving preliminary theological training, be called on to take over the office of preacher.

UNITED STATES

Hebrew Bible in Braille

THE Jewish Braille Institute of America has announced that the entire Hebrew Bible is now available for the blind in Braille.

The project, comprising twenty encyclopedia-size volumes, took five years to complete.

Delay in publishing a Braille Hebrew Bible, the institute's announcement explained, was caused by the lack of an internationally accepted Hebrew Braille alphabet. Such an alphabet was completed in 1936, subject to revisions by a committee of prominent scholars. Final revisions were made in 1944 and work on the Bible was started soon after that.

UNITED STATES

Anti-merger Decision

DR. DOUGLAS HORTON, secretary of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, expressed confidence that a recent Brooklyn Supreme Court decision barring merger of the Congregational Christian churches and the Evangelical and Reformed church, will ultimately be reversed.

Dr. Horton said he was optimistic because, "in general, the higher courts are more concerned with interpretation, whereas the lower courts are more apt to consider the letter of the law."

FRANCE

Queen of Netherlands in Paris

IN the course of her official visit to Paris, H.M. Queen Juliana, of the Netherlands, went, with H.R.H. Prince Bernhard, to the church of the Oratoire, where they were welcomed by Pastor Marc Boegner, president of the Protestant Federation of France.

After going to the sacristy to sign the Golden Book, as Queen Wilhelmina had done in 1912, the Queen and her husband visited the apse to see the monument to Admiral Gaspard de Coligny, the Protestant leader, who was killed

not far from there on the eve of the Massacre of St. Bartholomew in 1572. It should be mentioned that Queen Juliana's ancestor, William the Silent, married as his fourth wife the admiral's daughter, Louise de Coligny, and it was for this reason that her majesty laid at the foot of the statue a wreath of red and white carnations, bearing in white satin the tribute, "We are thinking of your courage and your independence in God." The Queen gave to M. Vincent Auriol, President of the Republic, a Bible, illustrated by Rembrandt, literally priceless.

AUSTRALIA

Orthodox Religious Life

THE scattering of Russian refugees all over the world has had as one of its consequences that even in Australia there is now a flowering of Orthodox religious life.

Before the war there was a Russian congregation in Sydney and another in Brisbane. When the influx of new refugees set in from China and from Europe (with the help of World Council of Churches workers), church transit camp congregations were forthwith set up in the ports, which as immigration went on gained in scope and continuity as bigger and better-equipped camps were organised. Almost all these camps of assembly now have Orthodox chapels for the Russian and Yugoslav refugees. They are the starting-point for the formation of permanent parishes in the localities where the refugees are to be resettled, in particular in Melbourne and Adelaide. In Perth and Darwin the newly-founded parishes have as yet no priest, by reason of the distances involved.

In Sydney it has already proved necessary to build a second church, for which a site has now been procured. Even in Tasmania an Orthodox church has been opened. The Russian Orthodox diocese of Australia to-day has 14 parishes, with a large membership.

The Australian Government, which called a professional men's conference in Canberra, included among the invited representatives of the Russian Orthodox church and of the Greek Orthodox congregations, in order that they might submit their concerns in person.

UNITED STATES

Recognition of China Republic

ACCORDING to Religious News Service, New York, early American recognition of China's Communist government was urged in a memorandum addressed to Secretary of State Acheson by 68 Protestant churchmen, most of them associated with mission work in China.

"Recognition of the People's Republic," the memorandum said, "would provide a way of carrying on relations between the United States and China without implying on the part of our country approval of the Chinese government's philosophy or ideology. This is in line with the principles already followed by our government in regard to certain other nations."

The church men declared that "reliable information indicates that a majority of American missionaries in China desire to have our country recognise the present government. . . ."

"Christian missions, which, in addition to evangelism, comprise a broad programme of medical, educational, social and relief work, operate within the framework of the People's Republic, but non-recognition militates against the carrying on of such work by Americans."

Among the signers of the statement were Dr. Wynn C. Fairfield, secretary of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America; Dr. Rowland Cross, secretary of the China Committee of the F.M.C.; and Dr. J. W. Decker, a secretary of the International Missionary Council. All the signers said that they were acting entirely as individuals.

CHINA

Church Situation

RELIGIOUS News Service in New York prints an interesting comprehensive report on the church situation in China, in its issue of May 2, from a special correspondent in Hong-Kong.

"Although conditions vary in different localities, certain generalisations can be made. Some Christian leaders take a gloomy view of things, others appear over optimistic, but all agree that the experiences of the past years have shown that Christianity has sunk its roots deep into the good earth of China. The faith of Chinese Christians has held firm against intimidation, ridicule, and social and economic pressure.

"Letters and reports from all over China indicate that church attendance has grown markedly in the past year, both in the country and in the big city churches. A Chinese Christian leader in close touch with rural churches believes that they may once more become the vital force they were before the war years, although their resurgence is bound to be slow."

"Cottage Services. An interesting development in one of the big city churches is a series of 'cottage' services being sponsored by a group of young adults. The group is continuing its regular church-centred activities, but also is holding Sunday afternoon meetings at the homes of various members. About fifty persons attend the average meeting. Friends and neighbors, as well as regular church members, are invited, and the children also come. A simple service is held, with emphasis on group singing, and several speakers discuss current problems.

"This particular group is made up of white-collar workers for the most part, many of whom are having a hard time getting along during the present economic stress. They seem to feel that the small home meetings provide an intimate Christian fellowship which gives them courage and strength to carry on.

"Cottage meetings are common in rural areas, also where churches have not been re-opened, or where the authorities frown on larger meetings, as they still do in some places. One rural pastor reports he holds no scheduled services, but has a service whenever a group of his church members come.

"Schools. Of all Christians institutions the middle school appears to be the least likely to survive. One Christian leader says he thinks nationalisation of the middle schools is inevitable. The middle school is the natural focus for the government's indoctrination programme for youth.

"Students. Christian students and teachers live and work in a hostile climate, and extra-curricular activities seriously impinge upon class-work and study periods. There has been much less disturbance in the Christian colleges, but foreign instructors, especially those who teach history or English, are finding it increasingly hard to carry on.

"Hospitals. Varying reports come from Christian hospitals. Almost all of them had labor difficulties. Staff and servants want higher pay, which is hard to grant because the Christian hospital has never been a money-making concern, owing to the large proportion of free beds and free clinical services it maintains.

"In some places government authorities have taken over parts of hospitals. In others, hospital administrators have been able to make working agreements with the authorities, working co-operatively on local health programmes."

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Popularity of Henry Lyte's Hymn

ONCE again we have been reminded of the popularity of Henry Francis Lyte's hymn, "Abide With Me." From world surveys, this Christian hymn is considered by the common man to express the thoughts and hopes of life.

I.

BEHIND the hymn lies also the story of Christ's appearance to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. When the night was falling the two disciples plead with Jesus to share with them the fellowship of the evening hymn. This King of kings had not joined the two men in robes of majesty, but had come as a friend, who was able to dispel fears and doubts, by showing that, even in the death of their Christ, there was the hand of God. To downcast men there came new hope.

As men journey this earthly road, passing into valleys and over rugged mountains, in mist and sunshine, there are sorrows mingled with joy. When "other helpers fail" this Good Companion remains steadfast, always at hand to reveal the promises of God. He is no cruel judge who flings stones at the sorrowing sinner, but the Friend who is able to give grace to "foil the tempter's power."

When the span of life closes upon the aged, and death begins to appear, this Lord is at hand to lead through the darkness to the light of that Eternal Day. This Lord is the Companion who will abide with us through life and death.

The message of the hymn touches every secret depth of the human spirit, and expresses, in the beauty of poetry, what millions of individuals feel, but cannot utter. This hymn is to multitudes a prayer; the cry of troubled souls.

II.

THE author had two qualifications for this task of writing a good hymn. He was a poet. In 1813 he secured a scholarship at Trinity College, Dublin. For three years he won the Chancellor's Prize for English verse. Throughout his life he was a student of literature. In the second place he endured sufferings common to man. After becoming a minister, he served with churches in Cornwall and Devon. But ill-health troubled him. He suffered with asthma and later from consumption. He was happier, therefore, in warmer climates. Because of a remarkable sermon entitled, "Without God in the World," the Victorian statesman, Canning, secured for Lyte the church at Lower Bixham in 1823. Here he entered the life of the fishermen. He visited them in their boats and made sure that there was a Bible in every vessel before it left port. He established Sunday schools in his district. Soon 700 to 800 children were in attendance, under the care of many trained teachers. He supported the movement to abolish slavery, being an admirer of Wilberforce. He was beloved by children, and composed hymns for their annual school feasts.

III.

AS the years passed troubles beset him. His health broke completely in 1844. Because of the work of a certain sect, trouble broke out in his congregation. Then in 1846 his choir deserted him. He was ill, forsaken and falsely judged. He prayed that he might be privileged to write one great hymn before his death. It was only natural that his own experiences would be gathered into it.

Early in September, 1847, Henry Lyte preached his final sermon. He planned to spend the winter in Palermo. After the service he wrote the hymn, "Abide With Me." He had already written to a friend a letter in which he said, "I am meditating flight again to the south. The little faithful robin is, every morning at

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my window, secretly warning me that autumnal hours are at hand. The swallows are preparing for flight, and inviting me to accompany them, and yet, alas! while I talk of flying, I am just able to crawl, and often ask myself whether I shall be able to leave England at all."

Henry Lyte left London on October 1, intending to go to Palermo, but he took ill before reaching Nice, where he died on November 20.

IV.

THE hymn, "Abide With Me," did not become known until after the death of the author. He did not know that most of the work of his life before those last, sad hours would be almost forgotten, but the creation of a hymn in his sorrows would make him more famous than many emperors or statesmen. He did not know that men would praise his name a century after his death, and would continue to do so, perhaps, until the Lord comes. Often the sweetest songs are written in saddest hours, also the best work men do may never become known in their lifetime.

"Abide With Me" has been sung in chapels and in cathedrals. "When Queen Victoria died Clara Butt sang 'Abide With Me' at the memorial service. It was sung in the Abbey in 1947 on the day of Princess Elizabeth's wedding, which coincided with the centenary of the day on which Henry Lyte died. The Princess chose Lyte's other well-known hymn, 'Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven,' to open the service."



IN PRAISE OF LAUGHTER

WE were interested in this title in a religious journal. Religion is often made to appear so formal that laughter is kept out. We do not think Jesus excluded laughter from his life.

One of the temptations in laughter is to gain it at the expense of another. We laugh at the awkward situations in which others find themselves. We laugh at their physical or mental weaknesses. We do not think Jesus encouraged that type of laughter.

When a situation is tense and people take themselves too seriously, it is like a fresh breeze on a hot day to allow laughter to banish frowns.

If we could see ourselves as others see us, then we should not take ourselves too seriously, and fall out with the world. We would then banish our own importance by a good laugh, and then find how easy it is to get on with our fellows. It may be that it is because we may take ourselves too seriously that we cannot get on with them. As Ann Stafford wrote, "The people who are really good, the salt of the earth, so often have a twinkle. Their sense of humor is continually at work, renewing and restoring their sense of proportion. . . . They never stand upon their dignity, for they themselves would laugh at the idea of their having any dignity to stand upon."



"Every blessing carries with it a responsibility and, unless the responsibility is accepted, the blessing may be lost. There are those who say that the church should 'stick to the gospel and stay out of politics,' but, unless Christian people exercise their right to vote, we cannot expect anything better than a government controlled by evil forces. Shall the church let its members sleep when the need for Christian leadership in deciding the affairs of the nation is so great?

Every election is important, and only as righteous people discharge their duties as citizens can we expect righteousness in our government."

The Crisis in Korea

A. R. Pigdon, of Drumcondra, Vic., writes
of a virile church facing the tragedy of war.

THERE is a virile church in Korea, numbering approximately half a million members, but large areas in North Korea are still unevangelised. This Korean church has been through testing times before, and has witnessed some of the greatest triumphs of the cross in modern times. The period following the Russian-Japanese war was such a time of crisis. The victorious Japanese army remained in Korea and the proud Koreans found their independence gone. A wave of intense nationalism swept the land, and the nationalistic spirit was manifest within the church itself. The church at that time was the most influential organisation in Korea, and many urged the church to lead the people in a crusade for freedom.

It was a time of testing for the missionaries and the Korean church leaders. Hotheads within the church allowed their patriotism to inhibit the Christian spirit, and opposed the missionaries and leaders who preached a message of forbearance and forgiveness, and even love, toward the hated Japanese. Some left the church. The Koreans who supported the missionaries were threatened with violence. Meetings were broken up by mobs, but the church as a whole stood by her leaders.

The whole situation was complicated by the fact that arrangements had been made to transfer the leadership from the hands of the missionaries to the Koreans themselves. The promise had been made to do this, but how could the missionaries hand over the leadership to a church torn by divided loyalties and inflamed by intense national feeling?

II.

The annual week of Bible study was soon to commence. This feature of Korean church life has probably contributed more than any other single factor to the aggressive witness of the Korean church. It is a week when the church leaders gather into various centres to spend the time in intense Bible study in a similar fashion to our youth camps. Farms are left and businesses closed while God's Word is studied. The missionaries, realising the opportunity these gatherings would give to call the Christians back again to the spirit of Christ and to restore unity within their ranks, were much in prayer for God's blessing upon the gatherings.

The first epistle of John was selected for the studies. The apostle shows plainly that everything depends upon fellowship with God. He also makes it very plain that this fellowship is dependent upon love and righteousness in the believer. This message was a challenge to all feelings of bitterness or revenge in the lives of the leaders.

At Pyeng Yang over 1000 men were gathered for these Bible class studies in January, 1907. When the meetings began, there was unusual interest. Everyone was conscious that a crisis had been reached. For the first few meetings there was no apparent response. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar." These passages and others were used of the Holy Spirit to bring conviction to many. Then the break came. At one meeting prayer ended in an amazing time of confession, as man after man arose and confessed his sins, weeping and seeking God's forgiveness. That meeting did not close until 2 a.m. The same thing continued the following nights, until the whole company was completely transformed and no bitterness remained, but only a wonderful feeling of unity and love toward each other and towards the Japanese invaders. That was the rebirth of the Korean church. Those leaders went back to their churches and carried the spirit of love with them throughout the whole land.

Their gaze had been turned away from themselves to their Lord. From that time onwards the national interests became of secondary importance to the affairs of the kingdom of God.

III.

War has come to Korea again. The church there is, no doubt, facing another time of testing. But the present crisis, although centred in Korea, is having repercussions throughout the world and in our own land. Times of war are always times of crisis for the church. The danger is that the strong national feeling engendered will eclipse the spirit of love in the life of the individual believer.

To fight, or not, sometimes becomes the issue, but this is not the real issue. This is a matter where we must allow liberty of conscience. But there is an issue where the New Testament speaks so plainly that there is no room for two opinions. It concerns the spirit which we manifest towards our fellowmen. Our Saviour commands us, "Love one another." "Love your enemies." The Christian attitude must be one of love to all men, at all times, and

under all circumstances. There is no exception to this. John says plainly, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar." This attitude of love was demonstrated by Jesus towards his disciples, towards Judas who betrayed him, and towards those who crucified him. His utterance from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," breathes a spirit that is not of this world, yet it is the spirit his followers are called upon to manifest. If we fail to show this spirit we are not Christian. "If any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

The real crisis facing the individual Christian in time of war is whether this attitude of love towards all men will be driven out of the heart by feelings which begin in a sense of justice and self preservation and end in bitterness, hatred and revenge. If we are resolved to remain Christian at all costs, we must decide whether this spirit can be maintained.

Will our participation in war foster this spirit which Christ commands his followers to manifest, or will it drive it from our hearts? These are questions which every Christian must face. This crisis is facing many within the ranks of the church in our land to-day. It can best be decided from a restudy of the word of God, always remembering that love is not a matter of opinion but of command. As the Apostle John reminds us, "This commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."

Divided Post-war Korea

FAR and away the most critical problem of the church, as of Korea in general, is the double-headed hydra of a twofold "protective" occupation without co-operation between the two masters. The sharp cutting apart of life at the thirty-eighth parallel makes normal health impossible. With the industries in the north and the farms in the south separated, no circulation of social or economic life-blood can go on. On both sides of the line frustration at the postponement of freedom poisons all relationships and saps initiative.

Particularly in the north are conditions unfavorable to Christian work. The Soviet attitude toward religion and toward any private institutions for education or culture is the same in Korea as elsewhere. Inasmuch as communications are meagre and fragmentary, it is impossible to give an accurate report on all the churches. Some apparently have been closed, but others are going on. Their work programme, however, must be strictly limited in scope.

Dr. William N. Blair, a veteran Presbyterian missionary, was in April, 1947, permitted to visit his former home in Pyengyang, where he found much appropriation of property by the Russian occupation officers, and a number of Christian leaders were reported to be in prison. Yet fifty Protestant churches were carrying on in that one city. While he was in the city all the churches united in a Christian rally, celebrating the revivals of forty years ago, and praying for another outpouring of the Spirit. In that single meeting nearly 20,000 Christians gathered out-of-doors with immense choirs leading the singing through amplifiers. So the Christian witness even in the north is far from silenced.

The steady stream of refugees fleeing from conditions there to what is hoped will be a more promising situation under the Allied occupation creates another major problem for the already over-crowded southern zone. These displaced persons are on the heart of the Christians, and the women of the Seoul churches are contributing the full support of a worker who will minister to their physical and spiritual needs.

Thus, under conditions almost too trying to face, the Christian movement in Korea is giving a splendid account of itself.—Charles W. Iglehart.



Pray For Self

I MET God in the morning,

When my day was at its best,
And his presence came like sunrise—
Like a glory filled my breast.

All day long this Presence lingered,
All day long he stayed with me,
And I sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were torn and battered,
Other ships were sore distressed;
But the winds that seemed to drive them
Brought to me a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings
With a keen remorse of mind,
When I, too, had loosed the moorings
With this Presence left behind.

So I think I've found the secret,
Learned through many a troubled way—
You must meet God in the morning
If you want him through the day.

—Selected.

Great Welcome on Aoba

A. Anderson, now visiting New Hebrides, reports on the welcome given by native Christians.

UNTIL one is officially welcomed by the church there is somewhat of a restraint. When the welcome meeting has taken place, you have "arrived" and belong to the community. It is, therefore, desirous that the welcome service be held as early as possible after arrival. The first Sunday was, therefore, the appropriate occasion. Advance word had been sent to the villages to be ready for the great day, so all things were in readiness when the time came. Having such a crowd to handle, the meeting, timed for 11 a.m., did not actually commence till 12.15 p.m. To make up for this small discrepancy, it was continued from that hour till 2.30 p.m. Despite its duration it was so full of incident that the time did not drag.

When an estimated 350 people were seated inside and about the same number seated in groups outside, the church was then in readiness to receive the representative of the brotherhood from Australia. For large gatherings the building at Ndui-Ndui is totally inadequate to accommodate the crowd. Shortly after 12 o'clock the head teacher, Abel Barney, came over to the mission house to escort the guest to the church. George, the song leader, stood on the church steps and, at the appropriate moment, led the church in the welcome hymn. Though unaccompanied by a musical instrument, their singing is delightful. They sing from full hearts as unto the Lord.

Hymns are usually chosen that allow for the thought in their mind—to honor, firstly, Jesus Christ, and in a secondary sense, to honor the

with the Spirit of the Lord upon him "to preach the gospel to the poor, give sight to the blind, liberty to them that are bruised," so the visitor from Australia came in the Spirit of the Lord to preach to them. It was both a heartening and solemn occasion.

Immediately the welcome was over the church stood and sang, "Come Every Joyful Heart." So were their voices lifted to heaven, the climax coming when the final words were being sung: "There shall we see his lovely face, And ever be in his embrace."

My own experience at the moment was that I was seeing the lovely face of Christ in the dark, happy faces of those around me.

Home Missions in New South Wales

Ethelbert Davis writes of plans in his State, of the authority of the Bible, and of talks on unity.

THE Home Mission Committee has given consideration to the formation of a policy of advancement. The following plans are to be implemented with the co-operation of the churches:

(1) A teaching mission to be conducted in each church, with interchange of speakers, during September-December, 1950.

The supper was served with reverence and with dignity. The beautiful communion appointments were worthy of the occasion.

When the time came for response to the welcome and for the address, it was easy to speak. It is a great thing to serve the living God; it is a blessed thing to speak a word in his Name.

The meeting concluded with the singing of "Blest be the Tie that Binds," then the usual handshake with all at the door, and so the meeting was over, but the memory thereof will continue.



SISTER F. KENNEDY RETURNING

WE are now able to state that the doctors have certified that Miss Kennedy has regained her normal health, and she has been booked to return by Qantas plane, leaving Sydney, July 25. We know that missionaries and Aoban Christians are looking forward to her return.



Large numbers of Island Christians from most villages gather for special occasions. A group such as this attended the welcome to the Federal F.M. secretary.

occasion. Marching through the guard of honor and entering the church door, the welcome was ushered in with the singing of the hymn—

"Let him in . . .
Open the door and let him come in."

Two thoughts were uppermost—though the reference was to Christ himself, I was regarded worthy to be in his company, and so entered with him—what a blessed privilege. The second thought was: what a wonderful change in "their" hearts has been wrought, since Jesus came into their hearts. In our own living memory these people have been brought from darkness unto light, from cannibal feasting to the partaking of the Lord's Supper. My brethren, praise God for the work of our missionaries, and enlarge your vision as you see "the fruits of the Spirit" operative in the hearts of our brethren and sisters here.

The usual morning meeting was conducted, the only departure being the speeches of welcome by Abel Barney and Manasseh. The brotherhood and the board (Committee) were very lovingly remembered and thanked for their part in the work here. Abel, commenting, likened the visit to meeting of the brethren in Acts 15: 26, "Assembled with one accord," and also told the church how a group of them had gone to another island and the people heard them gladly (of this more should be told). Manasseh said that, like as Christ had come

(2) Special literature to be procured and distributed, both for evangelism and spiritual education.

(3) Formation of district groups with regular inspirational meetings.

(4) Circuit system to be explored; church officers to be encouraged to consider ways and means of putting same into effect.

(5) Organising the men of the churches.

(6) Visitation of churches in the interests of home missions being the basis of all organised work.

(7) Promotion of a deeper spiritual life in the churches as a first requisite in all the work.

(8) Greater emphasis on stewardship of giving through duplex envelopes.

Other Matters

H.M. committee is preparing a list of speakers who will be willing to assist churches when called upon in case of an emergency; this will not interfere with morning plan now in operation. To date 40 men have signified their willingness to co-operate.

A number of missions has been planned.

Arthur Baker is planned to conduct a tent mission at Penrith during October.

Geo. E. Burns is planned for a mission at Mudgee early in the spring.

Peter Retchford is booked for a mission at Inverell in September.

C. G. Taylor, of Brighton, Vic., will hold special services with church at Chatswood during August and September. Special missions are being arranged in other churches; no dates have been fixed yet.

Orangeman's Day

Three thousand members of Loyal Orange Institution took part in anniversary procession. At the rally in the Sydney Town Hall, A. Prior, minister of the Mosman Baptist church, was principal speaker. He said that the significance of Boyne victory was that the people of England had the Bible, had read it, and had seen that the only way to salvation was through Christ. "We regard as enemies of Christ all who add to or take away from this sufficient and impregnable rock of holy scripture." Mr. Prior said, "And in such a world as ours—a world in which scientists tell us that very soon the earth may be destroyed by some super atom or hydrogen bomb, and when politicians show us the engaging Red bear of atheistic Communism—the only assurance for us is the holy scriptures."

"That's What I Think"

Back a week or so we learned the following from conversation with two different men. We were discussing the question of Christian union with a preacher of another religious body, and in the course of conversation he said that he did not believe that there would ever be a union of churches. We said that we were in perfect agreement with that sentiment. We said we believed that Christ did not pray for a union of churches, but for the unity of his people. He then said, "What I mean is this, that there always have been and always will be different branches of the church. That is necessary because everybody would not want to be saved in the same way. Some people might not wish to be saved in the church of Christ, but in the Baptist church, or be saved in some other denomination." Our answer was that we thought that would be strange; we were under the impression that most folk would wish to be saved in Christ's way. The reply to that was, "Anyhow, that's what I think."

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COMMONWEALTH ROUND-UP

Here and There

“SPLENDID meetings at Wollongong, N.S.W., Sunday, 16th; three decisions.—Hinrichsen.”

“Inspiring closing Sunday night service, July 16, at East Ipswich (Qld.) mission, Lloyd Jones speaking powerfully; two confessions; two baptisms; thankoffering £202; total decisions 19.—Fergusson.”

By arrangement with the Tasmanian Tourist Bureau, the Tasmanian Conference Executive has now agreed to extend the period of registration for Federal Conference (Hobart, Oct. 6-13) to August 15. Accommodation can be guaranteed for all who register by that date by G. E. Ashlin, 46 Faraday-st., West Hobart.

Victorian Explorer Clubs for boys have united to share the cost of a sound movie projector. The response of club to the appeal was very pleasing to the Youth Department, a sum of £250/16/- being received. Surrey Hills provided £53, Caulfield (Bamburgh), £23, North Richmond £10/15/-, and Northcote £10/10/-.

W. H. Nightingale, of Como, Western Australia, has been a faithful minister of the Word for 44 years. He has assisted in organising 18 churches and many Bible schools. Throughout the years he has had a part in erecting many church buildings, four being built in a day. Mr. and Mrs. Nightingale have expressed the desire to visit again fields where they once labored, when in the East attending Federal Conference.

To implement the decision of Federal conference to establish a church at Canberra, a financial quota has been allocated to each State, Victoria's share being £3200. Churches are invited to plan now to make a major contribution before next Easter. N. J. Warmbrunn, a former resident of Canberra, and D. Wakeley, secretary of Federal Conference Executive, are associated with the Victorian Conference Executive secretary in launching the appeal within Victoria.

Church at Brooklyn Park, S.A., has started weekly cottage prayer meetings in preparation for visitation campaign. Meetings have been held in a wonderful atmosphere of Christian fellowship, and attendances show a steady increase. Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Brown are busy on plans for new Girls' Club. This will give a full range of youth activity. Mr. Brown, Bob Deane and Ted Collins are doing hard work to this end. With polio on wane, Bible school attendance grows; last week 100 mark was reached. Mrs. Charles Lewis, who has been very ill, is making a good recovery.

In the interests of sound exposition and as an encouragement to young men and women to study God's Word, The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd is offering the remaining copies of “Messages From the Word,” by the late Principal A. R. Main, at 2/- per copy, post free. The book contains 19 studies in ambiguous texts. This book of 122 pages is one every preacher and student can afford to add to their library. The book not only gives lucid interpretations of difficult portions of scripture, but offers guidance in the textual handling of scripture. Only wide research and clear thinking could produce the studies.

All meetings are being well maintained at Wembley Park, W.A. Average attendances for June have been: morning 50, gospel 55, Bible school 139. Three new members were received into fellowship: A. Smith by transfer from Lake-st. church, Phillip Dawson from Northam, Ian Hutcheson by faith and baptism. In addition one young girl, Lorna Gilbert, from senior Bible school, made good confession. Quarterly business meeting was held on June 29, 27 being present. A young people's social was held on July 20, a good number of young people being present. Jim McIlwraith conducted a programme of games. Church has

made arrangements to hold special meetings for two weeks, to be conducted by A. A. McRoberts, of Maylands.

It was required of a young preacher, serving in Victoria, to give teaching on the Lord's return. After delivering an address upon the theme, he presented members of congregation with a copy of H. G. Harward's booklet, “The Second Advent.” Any desiring to follow this example may secure booklets from The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., at 3d. per copy or 2/6 per doz., postage extra.

Melbourne newspapers have been showing concern about future of boys, who bypath trades in accepting dead-end jobs in favor of high wages. Parents who desire to direct their boy to a career that advances the cause of Christ, are invited to confer with management of The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. The express work of the company is to produce Christian literature. A position for a boy is vacant in press room. It is not too soon to negotiate even if school year must be completed.

At Nedlands, W.A., average attendances during June were: morning 53, evening 50. Ladies' Aid held annual at home on June 21, with 120 present, and talk by Miss Irene Glasson, of Y.W.C.A. Recently-formed men's fraternal is attended by 25 to 30 men. Speaker at last meeting was A. J. Fraser, chief inspector of fisheries. Ladies had a get together at home of Mrs. Owens, and on July 12 held a successful afternoon in chapel, Miss Swan being speaker. Young ladies basketball team has suffered only one defeat this season. Mr. and Mrs. D. Fimmell, who are now at Narrogin, have visited church on two occasions. Mr. Wylie has left for country, and is greatly missed by church and Bible school. Overseas mission offering has reached over £30.

June was a busy month at Townsville, Qld. A combined picnic was held, with over 100 present. At Armstrong's first anniversary over 50 attended prize-giving. Northern conference and annual business meeting kept the members busy, as well as a combined social to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Brumby, and to celebrate Miss Pat Scott's 21st birthday. A visit from the conference president, Mr. Pitman, was appreciated. Church has decided to have a mission and happy hour at Armstrong later in year. Frank Beale is new secretary. Graham Owen is relieving Miss Irvine as treasurer while latter is away. Mrs. Alice Owen has been welcomed from Albion. Roy Lassig has left Townsville for Bundaberg. Mr. and Mrs. Irwin have been away for health reasons for a fortnight. Mr. Brunby has been appointed organist, and his addresses have also been appreciated. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, from Oakleigh church, Vic., have been welcome visitors.

Midlands Youth Fellowship, Vic.

ANOTHER rally of the M.Y.F. was held at Bendigo on July 8. Although attendance was not as good as usual, a happy time was spent. Afternoon session was in form of a “tram hike.” The tram was a means to get the young people to Golden Square; from there group walked through bush to Marry Hill, inspecting engine room of an old mine en route. Tea was served by Bendigo church of Christ catering committee in chapel.

A number of novel games, under control of Ken Robinson, M.C., was enjoyed. At conclusion of games, a number of the young people

ple represented songs, and paraded before company. Miss Beryl Moon and Rex Robinson won the competitions. Mr. Stitt, of Maryborough, led devotional session, which brought to a close a satisfactory rally. Next rally is to be at Maryborough on Sept. 9.—J. C. Wills.

Achievements at Edwardstown West, S.A.

WHEN we began a part-time ministry with the little church at Edwardstown West two years ago, there was not a great deal to encourage any preacher to expect great things. There was a small Bible school building in which church met, a church with practically no young people in its membership, and the church itself with an average attendance of 18 or 20 members. This small company was struggling under a building debt of nearly £300. The brightest spot was a Bible school of about 80 members. Here was a great opportunity to prove a few things: (1) That God does not depend upon numbers, but upon absolute loyalty to Jesus Christ and New Testament truth; (2) There is no substitute for the commands and gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and his apostles; (3) The church is divine, and is the pillar and ground of the truth. Every sermon, morning and evening, emphasised these great truths. The question box was freely used, and scores of questions were answered. Slowly but surely interest and numbers began to grow. After months of intensive teaching and visitation results were seen. One after another decided for Christ, then they came in groups, and in all ages; soon the Bible school reached record figures of nearly 150 scholars; then came a Y.P.S.C.E. with 30 members, and after twelve months' existence this society has grown to nearly 45, with an average attendance of 35. Two basketball teams are at work, two tennis teams take the field this year, and a Young Worshippers' League of nearly 40 is now working, with an average attendance of 30. During past few months 47 have been added to church, bringing active membership to 90. Year's offering for all purposes is more than £500. Twelve months ago church held a temple day, £116 being contributed. On July 8 another temple day was held, and sum of £114 was given, clearing debt off property with £14 in hand. These are achievements of which the church can be justly proud, and for which we thank God and take courage.—P. R. Baker.

Advances at Hamilton, Vic.

CAUSE at Hamilton has always been a brotherhood interest, and has appreciated the assistance of the Home Mission Committee.

Twelve years ago a nicely appointed edifice was erected at this strategic centre of the Western District. It is with sincere gratitude to God that we can now state that the debt on this building has been liquidated.

Thanks are due to L. Mountjoy who, in an unobtrusive manner, presented a challenge to church by offering to donate an amount sufficient to clear half of the present building debt if church would raise rest by direct giving, the debt being £273. The offer was thankfully acknowledged, and the challenge enthusiastically accepted.

On July 2 there was a gift day and thanksgiving services. A sum of £142 was raised. With an additional £14 late offering, the amount increased to £156, making a grand total of £292. This amount includes a £20 legacy left by late Mrs. F. Niddrie. Thus the debt was cleared and an amount provided for painting of building. The occasion is one for rejoicing and thanksgiving.—C. W. Jackel.

News of the Churches

Western Australia

Inglewood.—Since conclusion of mission at Inglewood, services have been of high standard, with excellent preaching by R. Raymond. On June 25, Mr. Sewell, of Cottesloe, gave message at morning service. Work in church's auxiliaries continues in good heart. Young People's Society of C.E. has been strengthened in numbers. Sunday school has raised, during past two years, about £25 for Dhond Hospital, India, and over same period, by offerings once a month, raised £7 for aborigine mission work. Church has enjoyed fellowship with Sisters Ivy and Jean England, of Essendon, Vic. During July the midweek prayer meetings were held in members' homes, with two meetings simultaneously in district, Mr. Raymond addressing one and Mr. Greenwood the other. This catering for needs of more distant brethren has been a success.

South Australia

Semaphore.—June has been observed as stewardship month, and special addresses have been delivered by Mr. Matthews. Mission Band held annual meeting on July 4. Mrs. Fulford was speaker. A large attendance enjoyed her address. Musical programme was provided by Mesdames Ellis and Young. Afternoon tea was provided by ladies. Mr. and Mrs. N. Bray gave a pre-wedding party in their home to Miss Y. Nelson and V. Taylor, who were married in church on July 7, Mr. Matthews officiating. At close of gospel address on July 9, Elaine Hayter made the good confession.

Mile End.—Bible school had a record attendance of 110 on June 18, and school held a social on 30th to celebrate. Since then attendances have been well maintained. Monthly sing-song celebrated first anniversary on July 2 with a special birthday cake provided by youth council. Annual rally of C.E. societies was held on July 18, when over 110 gathered. H. G. Norris gave an inspiring address to representatives of 10 societies. Juniors presented a tableau entitled, "God's Garden." Choir assisted with two items, and church male quartette party also sang. Supper was served at close.

Cottonville.—On July 9 boys of newly-formed Boys' Brigade attended evening service. On same day G. R. Stirling outlined to Sunday school teachers lesson material to be introduced. C.E. annual rally was held on July 15, when Mr. Mathieson gave an address and items were given by Syd. Beek, Alison Cornelius and Bruce Ferris, with singing by Endeavorers. Intermediate Society has commenced a campaign to stimulate efficiency and service. Church held 54th anniversary services on July 16, when Mr. Mathieson spoke. Large congregations were present, and girls from basketball club sat as a group in the evening service.

Kilburn.—First of series of morning youth gospel services was held on July 16, when at 11.15 a.m., K. Henley conducted service and A. J. Ingham preached effectively. 33 adults and 35 Young Worshipers were present, and 26 young people stayed throughout service and sat with Bible school teachers. Marie Holdsworth (aged 13) and Helen McLaren (aged 14) responded to invitation. Bible school attendance was 130, including two new scholars. J.C.E. had 17 present, and C.Y.F. 22. There is much sickness. Sister Lawrance (senior) is now home from hospital, and is doing well.

Mr. and Mrs. Stacey and Rex, of Maylands, are frequent visitors, church being indebted to them for transporting Mr. and Mrs. Ingham.

Fullarton.—On July 16 attendance was good at morning service. B. W. Manning presided and Mr. Quinton, of Sudan Interior Mission, gave a splendid address. Mr. Quinton also addressed Junior Endeavorers. A song service conducted by Peter Mau preceded evening meeting. A ladies quintette provided an item in song. B. W. Manning preached a fine sermon.

Maylands.—Junior Bible school scholars' Christmas party, which was postponed on account of "polio" epidemic, was held this month. While some scholars were busy with scripture examination, July 9, Miss Lynda Foreman addressed remainder of school on life in India, which children enjoyed. Mr. Sherman conducted services that day. Ladies' choir assisted in singing at Croydon anniversary services. All branches of Christian Endeavorers are healthy. Church extends sympathy to Miss Alison Chandler in passing of her father on July 12. All enjoyed message from A. Hudd at morning service on July 16, and Mr. Sherman preached well at evening service.

Bordertown.—Endeavorers have been to Mundalla for a combined youth meeting, and to Dodd's, Koennecke's and Rees Jacobs' for cottage meetings. 25 members of society also visited Kaniva on June 8. Annual C.E. meeting was held on May 31, when Stan Milne was elected president; W. Carson, vice-president; Mrs. D. A. Verco, secretary. A novelty night, held at "Green Hill," resulted in £4/8/- being raised for youth department. After-church fellowship, arranged by Mrs. R. Maddern and Mrs. G. Brown, and held in different homes, has been enjoyed. Between 40 and 50 attend these sing-songs, which conclude with supper. Pre-marriage socials, to Misses Barbara Baker and Beth Martlew, were well-attended. Bible school anniversary was held on May 28, when G. R. Stirling gave inspirational messages. Young people's discussion group, under leadership of C. Manning, has been formed as part of Bible school. Church is grateful to A. H. Wilson, who is assisting with preaching and visitation while in district. A washing machine is being purchased for manse, and an electric heater has been provided by C.E. for use at church. Bruce Coventry, missionary from India, and T. Butler, president of H.M. Committee, have been visitors. Foreign Mission offering to date is £210. Women's and Men's Fellowship meetings are greatly enjoyed by all. Mr. Curtis' ministry continues to be a rich blessing.

New South Wales

Rockdale.—A fine programme was broadcast by Bible school over station 2CH recently. On July 9, P. E. Thomas exhorted church and Mr. Andrews gave gospel message. Mr. Andrews spoke morning and evening on July 16, several visitors being present.

Mosman.—At each of Sunday meetings since last report, Mr. Burns has spoken morning and evening. At gospel services, Mr. Burns has commenced a series of messages, based on prophecies in Old Testament history. Mr. Burns has taken fellowship meetings, pending compilation of a new syllabus, when all

auxiliaries will take part. On July 9, Bible school scholars took part in annual examination, 25 entering. Choir has been affected by sickness. Mr. Stimson has been confined to home. Church is missing his fellowship.

Gilgandra.—Morning meetings continue to be well attended, despite wet weather. Flood waters entered two homes belonging to our brethren. Many others suffered loss of fencing and stock. Many properties in town suffered much damage through floods. Church's property is situated well above flood level. A happy social evening was spent in hall, when a kitchen tea was tendered Miss Alice Burrell, prior to marriage to Jim Mitchison, of Taree. Mrs. Jack Morris and Mrs. R. Mudford have recovered after recent operations. Sister Dorothy Butler has returned to Sydney for further training in her nursing career. Seventeen pupils sat for scripture examination on July 9.

Victoria

Warracknabeal.—A baptismal service was held on June 17, when Mr. Wakefield baptised two girls. They were received into the church on 24th by Mr. Earl. Colin Thomas spoke on morning of June 24. Several young members visited Bendigo C.E. rally. Mrs. Rogers is recovering after illness. A social has been held by Girls' Club; Mrs. Earl, the leader, has been absent through illness, and Miss Norma Henderson and Faye Joyce are maintaining club during her absence.

Ringwood.—Interest and attendance are maintained in all auxiliaries despite sickness, some members having entered hospital. Mr. Cameron is doing extensive visitation throughout district, and continues to deliver forceful and challenging addresses. Building was full recently when John Robinson (Campaigners for Christ), assisted by a girls' trio, conducted evening service. A fellowship tea was held on July 2. A large gathering attended gospel service, when the film, "Barabbas," was shown. Bible school is progressing favorably. 11 scholars sat for scriptural examination. Overseas mission offering so far exceeds £12/10/-. Sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. McAlpine and family in recent bereavement.

Reservoir.—On June 25, Chaplain C. Young addressed morning service and gave an interesting account of his work among hospitals. Gospel service was well attended, R. E. Burns giving address. Church regrets that, owing to illness, Sisters Lee and Tuttleby are unable to attend. Mrs. Trathen continues to assist with visitation among members. Owing to official duties G. House has resigned as leader of Young Explorers. Appreciation was expressed for his fine work during 18 months of office. Ted and Ian Caldecott have taken over joint leadership. Junior fellowship was an enjoyable event, held on July 2, Mr. Baker, headmaster of Thornbury S.S., being speaker, and Alan Bagot presiding over programme and basket tea. Ladies' Guild and P.B.P. Club, both led by Mrs. Burns, continue to prepare flowers for Sunday services. Tennis Club is having a happy season of fellowship. "C" team is in second position in competition games. Messrs. Burns and Plummer shared the coaching work for Sunday school examination. Ten scholars sat for the same. R. Burns has spoken at all meetings for July, which were marked by an increase in numbers and an encouraging improvement in giving.

Caulfield (Bambra-rd.).—All departments of work are a cause for encouragement and thanksgiving. Brotherhood missionary work was specially featured at all services throughout June, when speakers at morning services included R. Bolduan, Doug. Nicholls and H. Williams representing three phases of work. A well-attended group rally on June 13, delighted in fellowship with Colin Thomas, home on furlough from India, and was instructed by his pictures. Confessions by Neville Matthews,

Dorothy Evans and Malcolm Dabb have been received. Two others dedicated their life in interests of missionary work. Overseas mission offering has reached £55. Les. Brooker was appointed a deacon and R. Goodman, assistant secretary. Fitting tribute was paid to Mr. and Mrs. E. Grenfell and their daughters, Beverley, Kathleen and Margaret, at a farewell function on June 12. A packed Bible school hall spoke eloquently of esteem in which they are held. Appreciation of their worth was expressed by several speakers. A parting gift of a canteen of cutlery was made on behalf of church. E. Grenfell was for many years assistant secretary of church, and Mrs. Grenfell was secretary of sisters' social circle. Prayers and good wishes follow them in their new venture in Queensland.

Minyip.—On June 18, all were delighted with Colin Thomas' visit and address on work in India was enjoyed. Overseas offering has reached £26. Brethren appreciate fortnightly service and messages given by Mr. Wakefield.

Preston.—At conclusion of Mr. Searle's gospel address on July 9, a young girl from Bible class made the confession. Building fund appeal was commenced on July 2, and will continue until November. On July 10, men's society enjoyed a visit from West Preston society, when a sports night was held. A record number of scholars sat for annual Bible school examinations.

Middle Park.—Work is progressing favorably, and the messages of Messrs. Keatch and Armstrong are appreciated. Ladies' Friendly Hour is doing good work for comforts for hospital patients. At close of Mr. Keatch's gospel address, July 16, members rejoiced to witness confessions of Beris Weston, Ann and Janet Keating. Several members have been laid aside by illness.

North Essendon.—In absence of A. Wilson H. Potts took charge of gospel service on July 2. Attendances at all services have shown slight improvement in past weeks. 24th anniversary of church was celebrated on July 16. C. Cole addressed morning service and A. Wilson preached at night. Bible school continues to grow, with six additions and an average attendance during June.

Horsham.—Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Stirling have visited many members throughout circuit. Mr. Stirling's addresses have been of interest, and a series of special subjects was chosen for July gospel services. At manse on July 13, a Christian Women's Fellowship was formed and office-bearers appointed. On July 18 ladies of church held an overseas mission afternoon and a profitable time was spent. Overseas offering amounted to £132.

Haven.—At a social on June 26, Mr. Gleeson and E. Mackley welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Stirling and Campbell. Items were rendered by Horsham artists. An enjoyable evening was spent under leadership of Allan Wyatt. On July 2 D. R. Stirling gave an interesting address. Allan Wyatt was preacher on 9th. Mr. Stirling spoke at service on 16th. Attendances and offerings have been good.

Kaniva.—On July 2, Gordon Williams, of Lillimur, was baptised at Kaniva, during B. J. Combridge's last meeting in circuit. July 9, J. I. Mudford commenced his interim ministry with church, taking services at Kaniva morning and evening, and at Lillimur in the afternoon. Meetings were fairly well attended. On evening of July 13, a welcome social was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Mudford. A happy evening was spent together, with about 60 present.

East Kew.—On July 23 Mr. Edgar, of Mission to Lepers, presented a colored motion picture of work amongst lepers of India. The picture was excellent, revealing work being done by Christian people in the mission. Claude Gadge is conducting singing of children for Sunday school anniversary, and is being assisted by Mrs. Gadge. Overseas mission offering exceeded aim of £60 by a few shillings. Collector, who has been appointed to receive con-

tributions towards payment of land at North Balwyn, reports very satisfactory progress.

Shepparton.—On June 25 church celebrated 69th anniversary, when Mr. Withers, conference president, was speaker. His addresses throughout day were appreciated. A delegation of nurses from Mooropna Hospital attended P.S.A., and the offering amounted to £15. Christian Endeavor Society is growing, and members are greatly encouraged by preacher, Mr. Lewis. Church extends sympathy to Mrs. Paul and Mr. Taylor in loss of their mother. Ladies' Guild and Mission Band are doing good work. A number of Bible school scholars sat for examination on July 9.

Drumcondra.—On July 9 Mr. Anderson, of Latrobe-terr. church, spoke at morning service. A training course for young men on helpers' plan was commenced on 10th. A baby show by the Ladies' Fellowship, was given at home of Mrs. Cliff Barker, who was formerly superintendent of kindergarten. Objective of £20 was reached in mission appeal. A presentation was made to Laurence Cooke, who is leaving for Queensland. Present membership of church stands at 136. Average attendances are: morning 74, evening 50, breaking of bread 74, Bible school 94, offering £13/5/9.

Hamilton.—Four adult members were received into fellowship at morning meeting on July 2, when Mr. Jackel gave special addresses in relation to forward move made to liquidate church debt. Church service was broadcast over 3HA on morning of July 9; Mr. Jackel preached at both services. Twelve Sunday school scholars sat for annual scripture examination. On July 13, Women's Mission Band held monthly meeting. Demonstration of basket handwork by Mrs. W. G. Hadden was enjoyed. Mr. Jackel addressed a fine service of W.C.T.U. on 14th. On July 16 services were again well attended, and a sound film entitled, "Who is My Neighbor?" was shown by B. A. Jackel, of Wedderburn. He also showed several sound films at an after-Endeavor service on July 18. This help was much appreciated by church.

WANTED.

A vacancy exists in our Sales Department for a young man or young woman interested in Christian literature. Previous experience an advantage but not essential. Apply personally or by letter to Keswick Book Depot, 315 Collins-st., Melbourne.

Matthew Henry's Commentary, good second-hand condition; also books by church of Christ authors. Particulars, P. R. Nielsen, 34 Wolseley-st., Bexley, Sydney.

Two unfurnished rooms and kitchenette or use of kitchen, in Christian home, by Christian woman.—Apply Miss D. Cook, 2 Balmer-st., Brunswick, Vic.

IN MEMORIAM.

BROWNRIGG.—Treasured memories of our dearly loved son, Arthur Jack, who passed to a higher life, July 30, 1937. A garden of memories.

DEMERAL.—Cherished memories of my beloved husband Claude, who passed away July 31, 1943. Resting where no shadows fall.—Inserted by his loving wife.

GENAT.—In loving memory of my dear wife, Min, and our dear mother, whom God called to rest on July 28, 1949.

Father, in thy gracious keeping,
Leave we now our loved one sleeping.
—Remembered by her loving husband and family, John, Genat, Moorooduc, Vic.

GIBSON.—In fond remembrance of our dear mother and grandma, Ada Milan, who was called home August 1, 1945.

—Jessie and Bert, and grandsons Bill, Ron and John.

WANTED TO BUY

Secondhand steel trunks for missionary purposes. Reply K. Skillicorn, College of the Bible, Glen Iris, Vic.

VEXING QUESTIONS.

"What's Wrong with the Cinema?" A. Morgan Derham, 9d.

"Does God Want You to be a Lodge Member?" 6d.

"Protestant Question Box," Monica Farrell, 6d.

"Questionable Amusements," F. P. Wood, 1/3.

"Gambling in a Nutshell," Rev. T. H. Fracer, 1/7.

"Movies and Conscientious Christians," Paul S. Rees, 1/9.

(Postage extra.)

KESWICK BOOK DEPOT,
For Everything Evangelical,
315 Collins-st., Melbourne.

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST 4 (Friday).—The Victorian Women's Conference Executive Council will meet at Swanston-st. at 2 p.m. Mrs. Aitken will lead the devotional meditation and Mr. F. Byatt will speak on "The Churches' International Relief and Rehabilitation." All ladies welcome.

VICTORIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST CRICKET ASSOCIATION.

Annual meeting to be held at North Richmond church of Christ hall, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m. All churches interested invited to send along representatives. Business to be discussed includes the proposed visit to Sydney at Christmas.—Sec, Mr. H. Kerrison, 114 Surrey-rd., South Yarra; Pres., Councillor W. A. Fordham, 184 Prospect Hill-rd., Canterbury, WF1403.

CAMBERWELL CHURCH OF CHRIST,

cr. Aird-st. and Riversdale-rd.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES,

SEPTEMBER 10.

11 a.m., H. B. Robbins.

3 p.m., Musical Afternoon.

5 p.m., Tea and Reunion.

7 p.m., Gospel Service, J. Turner.

Past members and friends cordially invited. For hospitality, lunch and (or) tea, contact E. A. Lewis, 1 Chestnut-st., Surrey Hills, WX3560.

PORT PIRIE CHURCH OF CHRIST, S.A.

75th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY,

AUGUST 19 and 20.

All former members will be welcome.

Contact R. L. McNicol, 10 Keith-st., Port Pirie, if you are able to come.

WATTLE PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST SUNDAY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ANNIVERSARY,

SUNDAY, AUG. 6, at 3 p.m., in the ORANGE LODGE HALL, BURWOOD RD., BURWOOD.

Speaker, L. Brooker.

Bright singing and items.

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS. CHURCH OF CHRIST, NORTH RICHMOND.

OCTOBER 22 to OCTOBER 29.

All former members and friends are asked to keep these dates free.

ADDRESS.

E. H. Randall (preacher Maidstone church, Vic.)—3 Richlieu-st., W. Footscray.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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Thine is the Power

PROGRAMME FOR SEPTEMBER

Call to Worship.—"O give thanks unto the Lord for he is gracious; and his mercy endureth for ever. Let them give thanks whom the Lord hath redeemed, and delivered from the hands of the enemy."

Hymn.—No. 501, "Purer in heart, O God."

Prayer.—Our heavenly Father, we thank thee that thou art a forgiving God, for so often we fail to do that which is pleasing in thy sight. Forgive, we pray, our sins of commission and omission, and grant to us a keener desire to do thy will, we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer in unison.

Bible Reading.—Luke 6: 27-30.

Meditation.—"The Power to Forgive."

Empires have risen and fallen, civilisations have been buried under the shifting earth of the centuries, relics of art which have been discovered have shown amazing skill on the part of their creators, yet, through the remnants of departed glory can be traced man's sinfulness.



"All Power."

Discoveries in science and up-to-date machinery have given power to man in this 20th century undreamt of in other ages, yet the ability to lift life to a higher spiritual plane by such discoveries has failed. Man's sinfulness spoils the pattern of this 20th century civilisation.

Throughout the long history of God's dealing with man he has shown himself more anxious to forgive than man has been to repent of his sins. This forgiving love of God has changed lives, and through changed lives, situations. Herein lies the hope for to-day. There is no one who is too sinful to be beyond God's forgiving power, nor is there any who is so righteous not to be in need of it. We all sin and are in constant need of forgiveness, so we in turn must forgive those who sin against us. When we forgive another's wrongdoing, it becomes easier to understand the underlying cause for the offence, and often it is possible to remove the root cause. This applies not only in the small circle but in world affairs. God's forgiving power is the hope for the age, but a repentant people is the channel through which that power flows.

Prayer.—Our Lord and our God, we pray that we who have received so much from thee may always be ready to show a forgiving spirit to those who wrong us. Help us to keep a humble and contrite spirit, for we are so prone to fall into sin. Bless thy church, we pray, and may there be an increasing desire on the part of thy followers to cleanse the sore spots of our civilisation. May the

nations praise thee, and where there is suspicion and hate between people, may there come sympathetic understanding. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

Hymn.—No. 669, "Look from the sphere of endless day."

Business—

Home Base Notes.

Overseas Letter.

Prayer for Missions.

Address.—"Women in the Universal Church."

Discussion.

Hymn.—No. 164, "Hasten, Lord, the glorious time."

Benediction.—"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and shew us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us; that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations."

(Hymns from Churches of Christ Hymnal.)



EXECUTIVE NOTES

South Australia

MONTHLY meeting of Sisters' Auxiliary was held at Grote-st. on Thursday, July 6, when 86 sisters were present, 68 being delegates. The devotional session was led by Mrs. H. R. Charlick, who spoke on "The Garments of the Spirit." The business session was presided over by the president, Mrs. C. Hughes.

Obituary.—The superintendent, Mrs. McCallum, reported that Mrs. Driver (Cowandilla), Mrs. Young (York) and Miss White (Maylands) had received home-call. Prayer was given for bereaved ones.

Home Missions.—Mrs. Shipway, in absence of Mrs. Green, gave the report. Mrs. C. Verco sent her best wishes from abroad. Committee during month visited Beulah-rd., Torrensville, Cheltenham, Maylands, Prospect, Cottonville. Milang is holding meeting to launch foundation of the Milang-Pt. Sturt-Strathalbyn circuit. This is not H.M. work, but is following H.M. policy of extending circuit work. It is also expected that a new circuit will be formed in South-east. Since mission work at Bordertown has greatly increased. Excellent meetings are being held at Goolwa.

Hospital.—Miss Leedham and some of her committee visited Prospect sisters on May 25 and received many useful gifts, also 11/- to be distributed to sick. 91 visits were paid to various hospitals and institutions in June.

Dorcas.—Miss Mann has visited Grote-st., Croydon, Semaphore and Colonel Light Gardens, where annual meetings were held.

Temperance.—Mr. Hughes is working hard to stop the granting at Pt. Pirie of 11 more wine licences and three hotels, also Canberra granting money for wine advertisements in Canberra. Mr. Paddick has visited 15 State schools on Band of Hope teachings, and has commenced 5 new societies.

National Council of Women.—Mrs. Shepherd gave her presidential report, stating that aim of council is to establish a bond of union between women's societies and to advance the interests of women and children. Miss Ruth Gibson, of the South Australian Department of Education, has now become the president of the National Council of Women.

New South Wales

Mrs. G. Burns was leader of devotional session on July 7, and the president, Mrs. E. Snow, presided over business conference. Reports were given by various superintendents,

showing that there has been much activity in first part of year. Mrs. Snow announced that two of the foundation members of N.S.W. conference had passed away during month—Mrs. Corbett, who had been a former president, and Mrs. Sheaston. Another active member of former days, Mrs. Fairweather, had passed away. Mrs. McCallum reported on her visit to Lismore, Byron Bay, Murwillumbah, Grafton, Inverell, where meetings were held, and to Armidale, where isolated members are living. Greetings were brought from these country centres. In spite of gas restrictions, members from Belmore were able to provide a cup of tea by bringing in kerosene stoves.

Victoria

At July meeting the president, Mrs. Washfold, was in chair. Attendance was 100. Mrs. F. Youens led devotional meditation, the thought being taken from Matthew, chapter 6. A special welcome was extended to Mrs. Horace Kingsbury and daughter, Mrs. Stanton Wilson and Miss Clifton. Mr. W. Clay was speaker for afternoon. He told of the beginnings of Social Service work in Victoria, and how it had grown over the years. Mention was made of passing of Mrs. Thurgood at age of 92 years. Mrs. McCann reported having visited Mildura as guest speaker for Sunraysia Women's Conference. During month six ladies of Executive visited Ballarat and commenced a Women's Conference in connection with Ballarat, Geelong, Colac and Meredith churches. Reports were received from Social Service, Aborigine Committee, Missionary Department, and Inter-church Council representative. Mrs. E. L. Williams is congratulated on her appointment to office of junior vice-president of Inter-church Council. Mission Band contributions to date amounted to £150.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

THE World Council of Churches at Amsterdam in 1948 approved the setting up of a special commission on "The Life and Work of Women in the Church." This commission, nominated in 1949, held its first meeting at Bossey in March, 1950. Members felt that a definite crisis exists in the relationship of men and women, and also in the world of women themselves.

A preliminary survey had been made of the life and work of women in the church, which gathered information from all lands, including Australia. This survey is to be incorporated in a book; Mrs. Kathleen Bliss is to be editor. The commission has now undertaken to study "The Man-Woman Relationship." A brochure is to be sent to experts in various fields, and also to leading groups in each country to guide their study along useful lines. Winifred Kiek, Adelaide, is liaison officer for Australia.

The commission will study such matters as women's rights in the various States, effects of the war on the position of woman, changes in moral standards, the marriage relationship and woman's alleged right to motherhood. There are also church issues, such as the place of women in the making of church policy and the question of the ordination of women. Because of the conservative attitude of most churches, many able women are finding avenues of service outside the churches. It is widely felt that the churches are not sufficiently aware of the great changes that have taken place in the position of women in society, and also in the attitude of many women and of their growing demand for more adequate recognition.

The commission also has to study whether women, as women, have a special contribution to make to the life and thought of the church. The study of all these difficult matters will entail much research and discussion in which men and women must participate together. These matters should also be discussed in gatherings of church women.

HOME MISSIONS IN N.S.W.

(Concluded.)

In conversation with another preacher of a different religious body, we were speaking of what we thought would be the nature of the united church. We agreed that the united church would accept, without qualification, the eternal Godhead and Sonship of Jesus, his virgin birth, his atoning sacrifice on Calvary, his physical resurrection from the dead, and his personal return. "But," said the preacher, "what do you think will be the mode of baptism? Do you think that compromise will be made and both immersion and sprinkling be adopted? We have to face the fact that baptism is at present one of the obstacles to union." We gave it as our conviction that, when the church was united as Christ wanted it to be, it would be the immersion of the believer as in apostolic days, adding, that it looked as if the baptismal controversy may be settled before very long, as already some of the churches were re-examining the question, being doubtful of the practice of sprinkling. Apart altogether from the question of union, many churches are concerned about the practice of infant baptism. The reply was, "I'm beginning to think that way, too."

"If someone steps upon your corn,
Don't grumble, stamp, or curse,
Just think about the centipede—
His corns are so much worse;
And if your throat is feeling sore,
Just give yourself a laugh,
How would you like to have a throat
As long as the poor giraffe?
So when in trouble, remember first,
There's always someone somewhat worse."



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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.).

BIBLE SCHOOL AND SCRIPTURES.

MANY thousands of children in our land are being brought up in what are practically pagan homes. The only opportunity which many of them have of hearing of the saving power of Jesus is through our Bible schools. Some years ago investigations were carried out, almost simultaneously in Britain and America. The result showed that from 95 to 97 per cent. of juvenile criminals had never attended Sunday school. As far as I can discover, no mention is made in the scripture of Bible schools. I wonder if any person is in favor of closing such schools, depriving children of their chance to hear the gospel, because the scripture has no record of such gatherings? It would be interesting to have an answer to that question.—W. J. E. Lewis, N.S.W.

WHO ARE PEACEMAKERS?

I WOULD like to express my appreciation of your editorial of June 27, "No Unity Without Love." I am not surprised that it aroused considerable comment. It was a word in season fitly spoken; it was more than that, it was a discerning and a prophetic message. It is worthy of that comment quite regardless of the source from which it came. Now I take pleasure in adding to it that wonderful word, "Who are Peacemakers?" appearing in the issue of July 11. These articles are worth publishing together in pamphlet form and dedicated, "To the Prince of peace and all the blessed peacemakers." How true it is that those who promote class conflict, in any way at all, cannot logically censure international wars.—K. M. Roberts, Whyalla, S.A.

RESTORATION AT WORK.

IN "Restoration at Work" ("Christian," July 11, 1950), the writer says, "Early in the Restoration Movement the test case of Aylett Raines brought discredit on the movement, because he retained his views on Universalism. Both Campbell and Scott defended him. So long as a man preaches the gospel, his private opinions matter not at all. Raines had obeyed the gospel; his life was upright; they could ask no more. Isaac Selby held his own views of Unitarianism in the early years of our movement in Australia. We have not been without our defections, and undoubtedly any world movement will have many." The implication seems to be that, as Campbell and Scott defended Raines, despite his views on Universalism, so Selby could have been, or was, defended in the Australian church in connection with his views on Unitarianism. Perhaps the writer is linking Selby with "defections" and not matters of opinion; the passage is ambiguous. "Universalism" and "Unitarianism," as words, have a resemblance of appearance, but there are oceans of difference between the former, which is a theory as to mankind's ultimate condition after death (a matter of opinion), and the latter, with its denial of an essential of the Christian faith—the divinity of Christ. Neither Campbell nor Scott would have defended Selby, any more than the Australian brethren did. Incidentally, Mr. Selby was not in the early years of our movement, which began in the eighteen-forties; his connection, for a few years only, was in the eighteen-nineties.—H. G. Payne, Albion, Qld.

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Obituary

Charles Sidney Doll

CHURCH at South Melbourne, Vic., suffered a sad loss on Friday, June 30, by the sudden home-call of a well-beloved brother in the person of Charles Sidney (Tom) Doll, at the early age of 34 years. Our brother joined the church during the Macnaughtan-Saunders mission early in 1946, and proved a source of encouragement and strength to the church. He took a keen interest in the work, serving as a Bible school teacher, reader and deacon. His bright, cheery disposition was an inspiration to all. The church can ill afford to lose such a virile young man. Our Christian sympathy is extended to his beloved wife and relatives. V. Longthorpe and C. Dunse officiated at the service at the home and the graveside. A large representation of brethren and friends was in attendance, and the many beautiful floral tributes proved the love and esteem in which our brother was held.—D.F.M.

H. Legg

ON June 21, Mr. Legg passed on to join the invisible congregation of saints who worship at God's throne. The message of churches of Christ to restore original Christianity and the proclamation of the Christian ordinances by them appealed to his seeking mind in early manhood, and he united with the work at Berwick and later Emerald East. He went to W.A. where he was a foundation member and first secretary of the Harvey Church. Returning to Victoria in the early years of this century, he went to Montrose where his intense devotion and love of the Lord were always evident, and his hospitable home always open. Since 1942 he worshipped at Oakleigh. His constant attendance and interest, despite failing health, indicated his loyalty to the Master. We convey our sympathy to his sons and daughters, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Corr, Trevor (Montrose), Ralph (Ringwood), and Mrs. Ashley (Wattle Park), who, with us, look to the God of good hope and grace.—K.J.P.

Olive Barbara Young

AFTER being confined to her home for almost two months, Mrs. Young passed peacefully to be with Christ. Though our sister had been for some time resigned to the thought that she would probably not recover her strength, her home-call came suddenly on June 14, at age of 63 years. Mrs. Young, with her husband, came to York, S.A., by transfer from Hindmarsh, at age of 26 years, and during following 37 years she served faithfully and well in various avenues of Christian service, including offices of deaconess, Bible school teacher, Cradle Roll superintendent, and secretary and president of the Ladies' Guild. Just two months prior to her death, she received recognition from the S.A. Youth Department for having served 27 years in the Bible school. Outside her actual church work, Mrs. Young was well known for her social and community interests, especially during the war years, and later. Her service as Red Cross helper was greatly appreciated. In her immediate family she is survived by her husband, one son, Angus, two daughters, Gladys (Mrs. Barrey) and Jean, and four grandchildren. To these, and to her daughter-in-law, by whom she was greatly loved, is extended the sincere and loving sympathy of the church. She, being dead, yet speaketh. Her works do follow her.—L. G. Johnson.

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