

Woolley

The
**Australian
Christian**

National Weekly Representing Churches of Christ



*"Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me;
for of such is the kingdom of heaven."*

Church Seeks to Unite East and West

BRITAIN

World's Evangelical Alliance

TO the World's Evangelical Alliance has been given the vision of using the Festival of Britain as an opportunity to recall the nation back to God, and to engage in a campaign of witness to the value of the Bible in national and individual life. The form which this effort is to take was outlined at the annual meeting of the alliance, at the Central Hall, Westminster, on June 14 when, with Lt-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith presiding, the secretary, F. Roy Cattell, said the Central Hall had been taken for the month of September, 1951. An exhibition would illustrate the work of numerous Christian societies, and in a series of evangelistic meetings the gospel would be presented to the thousands from all parts of the world who would then be visiting London.

The project was warmly commended by Dr. W. E. Sangster, who expressed the hope that many would find a Saviour for their own souls, and take back One who could solve all problems to the communities they represented.

Reviewing the history of the past century, the Bishop of Worcester spoke on the futility of depending upon human success for the maintenance of peace or the promotion of righteousness. Since the 1851 Exhibition we had again and again been involved in war, and since 1945 we had been swept into a torrent of evil. But now there appeared to be a growing hunger for God, in which the alliance saw a great opportunity which it was eager to seize.

Prof. James S. Stewart, of Edinburgh, in a powerful closing address, disposed of the notion that personal allegiance to Jesus Christ was a matter of mere emotion. History was against it; it held men in desperate places; it was a plain consequence of the resurrection; Christ was contemporary and the constant companion of the believer. If the church could recapture that truth it would be revitalised, and the springs of evangelising passion would be stirred. At the moment it was like a ship in dry dock; our prayerlessness and lack of surrender kept the sluices closed. If we let in the tide God would do exceedingly abundantly more than we could ask or think.—“The Christian.”



JAPAN

Is Japan Becoming Christian?

ASKED if it were true that the Japanese people was in process of becoming a Christian nation, Dr. Michio Kozaki, Moderator of the Kyodan (United Christian Church of Japan), replied, in an article appearing in the issue for May 23 of “The Messenger,” the leading organ of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in the U.S.A., that the idea which had arisen in the West since the war that the Christianisation of Japan was only a matter of time, “must be tempered by realism.”

“One cause of the optimism was the very friendly attitude which the Japanese as a whole had to the American occupiers, though the latter had defeated Japan. . . . From this friendship many foreign visitors infer that the Japanese will accept Christianity. . . . At the same time it must be acknowledged that more Japanese are attending their own churches than before the war.”

Dr. Kozaki asked that the following factors be taken into consideration in the appraisal of what was at present going on in Japan:

“Until not many years ago Christianity had for nearly three centuries been strictly prohibited. . . . The fear of approaching this faith, because it was considered anti-national, evaporated when the war ended.

“Another change favorable to Christianity was the alteration in the Emperor's position. He had been considered a son of God. Our nationalists and militarists even used to compare him with Christ. The end of the war also ended that. Furthermore, the form of government has been changed from totalitarianism to democracy. All these changes have created an entirely different attitude toward Christianity and the church.

“It must be emphasised, however,” Dr. Kozaki goes on, “that this new attitude of the people toward Christianity does not mean that they



have decided to become Christians. The number of Christians is rising much faster than before the war, but the rate of increase is still not very great. For example, it is estimated that in 1948 more than 45,000 Japanese were converted to Christianity (Protestant and Catholic). That is the largest number in the recent history of Japan—but still not great in a nation of some 80 million.

“I think the process of making Japan Christian will necessarily be slow and difficult. There are many obstacles ahead of us. For example, Japan has an old civilisation of her own which includes the well-rooted religions, Buddhism and Shintoism. The common people, in their families and communities, live these religions.

“Again, more than the people of most other nations, Japanese read newspapers and books. Because of this high literacy, it is very difficult to produce in Japan anything like the ‘mass conversions. . . .’

“For 70 years the Japanese were educated—and, in part, forced to be indifferent to religion and morals. To-day they are inclined to feel that religion is only for the ignorant.

“Finally, among non-Christian Japanese there are many good persons, ‘great characters.’ Why, people ask, is it necessary to become a Christian

in order to be saved? People, who observe this good in non-Christians, are apt to look at Japanese Christians who are not living a life of Christian witness, and what they see also discourages them from becoming Christians.”

Summing up, Dr. Kozaki stated:

“In my opinion, it is a good thing that it will not be easy to make this nation Christian. It means that we ourselves must first be converted to be real witnesses for Christ.

“The close fellowship of all Christians is another prerequisite of a Christian Japan. To-day there are many independent missions from America, tied together neither in organisation nor Christian fellowship. Such lack of unity and co-operation does great harm for the cause of Christianity in the ‘younger’ (mission-founded) churches of nations like Japan.

“Such are the problems that Japanese Christians face in a great time of opportunity. We strive to create a new Christian nation which will become a witness in politics and economics, in the education and in the social life of the world. With this great ‘holy ambition’ we Christian Japanese appeal to you in the rest of the world for your co-operation and prayer.”



NETHERLANDS

“Church and Peace”

THE Council of “Church and Peace” (Kerk en Vrede—an inter-confessional pacifist organisation) has recently issued an appeal to the Dutch nation against the militarisation of the Netherlands. We quote the following:

“... Christians have to ask themselves whether they are willing to be absorbed into a totalitarian system of untamed and unchecked brute force. The militarisation of our nation is contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Trust in brute force cannot go hand in hand with obedience to the command of Christ.

“Do not say: it is just the same whether we co-operate in the preparations for war or whether we do not. This is not true. We did not speak like that with regard to national socialism. We must not allow ourselves to speak so now. A Christian may not be a defeatist.

“Do not say: what can I do, I alone? We are called to be obedient in faith to Jesus Christ.

“We summon Christians in the Netherlands to break free from the anti-Christian faith in brute force, which forms the background of militarisation nowadays. Only in this way we shall be able, if necessary, to resist totalitarian Russian Communism in a more Christian manner than we did resist totalitarian German National Socialism.

“Faith and obedience in faith is what matters. Your faith and your obedience in faith is what matters. Christians in the Netherlands, you do not belong to the American or Russian bloc! you belong to our Master, Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us, and who will be also the Saviour of the world of 1950. Do not allow yourselves to be brought in. Refuse to co-operate in the militarisation of our nation. Trust in Jesus Christ's promises and obey his commands.”



PALESTINE

Water for Palestine

THE shortage of water in Jerusalem, in both ancient and modern days, has ended with the completion of a pipeline by which water will reach the capital from the coastal plains. The pipeline will enable residents in Jerusalem to have baths, and also supply twenty new settlements and promote industrial development.—“B.W.”

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THE SHADOW OF SATAN

WE are born into a conflict we cannot avoid. We are aware that there are ideals and principles of a good life we must not neglect. The struggle to hold to this strait and narrow way is strenuous. Even if we give up the fight, and just drift with the evil about us, we are not happy. Memories of a better life and the stirrings of conscience distress the person who loses his grip upon life. Man belongs to two realms: he is of the flesh and of the spirit. When the demands of the flesh are strong, the spirit rebels against being forced to keep company with the beasts of passion. On the other hand, when the spirit lifts the body into the realms of the higher life, the flesh objects and calls for a time "to eat, drink and be merry." Paul found himself in a constant state of warfare. The armies of the spirit were at war with the forces of the flesh.

What takes place in man also occurs in the world. There is a constant struggle between the beast in man and the "image of God" within him. When the beast has become uppermost, men have stooped to do the vilest evil towards fellow human beings; when the Spirit of God has led, men have become saintly heroes in self-sacrificing service.

II.

WHILE man can improve his surroundings, he cannot change his nature. The hope that man might evolve, after thousands of years of civilisation and training, into some nobler creature, has not been realised. What pagan hosts inflicted on their enemies has been equalled by the deeds of men who have lived in modern Europe.

We may wonder why the good in man has not subjected the flesh, and why the ideals of Christ have not gained a complete victory over men. We must realise that each generation is evil and must be saved from sin. Because men and women of a past generation in Europe were converted does not ensure that the Western world is Christian. With the false idea abroad that children of parents within the church are born Christians (because they were of the household of the faithful) has been advanced recently to encourage infant baptism, and to give the impression that Christianity can be inherited. But Christ can enter a heart only if he is born into it. Every individual must be converted, and must experience fellowship with Christ to enjoy sonship with God. We have taken too much for granted. We have thought that all those who have come from Christian homes were disciples of Christ. The church has neglected the task of evangelising and converting those raised in her midst. In large, nominal Christian populations we have pagan communities who can revert to evil ways as soon as conditions are favorable. In times of war and unrest, we have seen how inhuman man has become to man. Alas! we have no assurance now that men will act differently in the future. The wisdom and spirit of the Christ are not heeded. We have become so sure of our own "wise" ways of dealing with problems, that we hardly think of entrusting ourselves to the wisdom of God. We are so much children of the flesh, we cannot dare to trust the Spirit of God! Like Paul, we reach a state of despair and cry with him, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" As Paul's hope was in Christ, so ours must be also.

III.

This problem of evil in the world goes deeper than the flesh. We cannot consider men falling so low merely to satisfy human desires. We shall not understand man or the present drift toward diabolical evil unless we appreciate Paul's teaching on the subject of

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sin. In his letter to the Ephesian Christians, he declared that we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but against "the potentates of the dark present, the spirit-forces of evil in the heavenly sphere."

IV.

JESUS pointed to one who is capable of destroying a man's body and soul. This one is referred to as a person. The Master said, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10: 28).

Our Lord was not spared the trials of this tempter. He was "in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4: 15).

So far as Christ is concerned, we have no right to say his temptations had their origin in his own being. There was no sin in him. We must look for the source of his temptation outside his body. In the account of the Lord's temptation (Matt. 4: 1-11), we note how Satan appealed to Jesus through various weaknesses in the human character. There was the appeal to his appetite, when he was hungry; the effort to flatter him and to stir up pride in his powers and abilities; the approach to human love for wealth and worldly authority. Satan uses these channels of human frailty to reach each man's soul. He often identifies himself so cunningly with our human desires, we find it difficult to know of his activities. Baudelaire has said, "The devil's best ruse is to persuade us that he does not exist."

Stephen Spender, in "European Witness," writes of the recent tragic happenings in our modern world. They had their origin, not within, but without, man. It is possible for masses of godless people to come under the sway of the devil and be "demoniacally possessed," as that well-known psychologist, Professor Jung, claimed. Behind the sorrowful events of Germany, H. G. Baynes, "studying the question from the angle of the mental pathologist and medical psychologist, found the explanation in demoniac possession."

In view of this Stephen Spender wrote: "The only answer to this past and this present is a conscious, deliberate and wholly responsible determination to make our society walk in paths of light." In other words, there is need for a revival of religion to save society from the dark deeds of Satan. The light needed is the Light of the world.



HORRORS OF MODERN WARFARE

MODERN warfare brings death and tragedy to the innocent as well as to the guilty. If, as Duff-Cooper suggested, the atom bomb were used in Korea to bring the war there to a speedy end, thousands of men, women and children who are not connected with the war would suffer. The results of an atomic explosion are not confined to the damage inflicted at the time it is dropped, for the full consequences do not reveal themselves for years. In some instances children of the second and third generation will be affected by the bomb explosions that took place in Japan in the last war. While the usual bombing methods might be used against military targets with some accuracy, the atomic bomb is designed to destroy a whole city.

The warfare of a hundred years ago was confined mainly to those who took part in it; it was terrible enough then. To-day the threat is against the whole community.

We trust that peaceful means will still be effective through the United Nations' Organisation, to bring the nations together in peace.

Whither Modern Youth?

A recent review of youth activities in Birmingham, England, reveals an alarming drift from churches.

WE believe readers will be interested in this review of a book entitled, "Eighty Thousand Adolescents," appearing in "The Life of Faith." The book has been compiled by staff and students of the Westhill Training College, Birmingham, England. An investigation was made into the life and activity of young people in the city of Birmingham. We present the review as follows for the information of readers.

I

We learn from this survey that it is not true that young people to-day "are never at home"; neither is it true that thousands "just live at the pictures." Further, as far at least as Birmingham is concerned, remarkably few of them visit the public house; and gambling, while admittedly a serious social evil whatever its extent, appeals to only a limited percentage of young folk between 14 and 20. We are surprised to learn that the peak age for juvenile delinquency (in 1948) was twelve, and that most of the breaking-in offences were the responsibility of the eleven-year age group. Yet, speaking generally, it is unfair and inaccurate to assert that times were never so dark as to-day. Delye into history and it will be discovered that ignorance and evil have often been more widespread and more blatant.

What, then, is the most characteristic feature of modern youth? What emerges from this scientifically conducted survey that will help us to diagnose the wrong, and assist in applying the remedy? Expressions like "aimlessness," "purposelessness," and even "illiteracy" bring us close to the heart of the problem. Listen to words from the report: "The general picture presented by this inquiry is depressing. . . . It has astonished us that the standard of writing and spelling among so many of these young people should be so poor, and that the reading of so many should be limited to 'comics.' . . . Although a quarter of these young people attend church, only ten of them (out of 1004) read any kind of religious newspaper or magazine. But then there is scarcely a 'serious' publication of any kind which can claim more than half a dozen of these young people among its readers."

The picture is that of Browning's "aimless, helpless, hopeless." Lurid Sunday "news" papers are read avidly—but not books, apart from, occasionally, "the book of the film." "Don't read"; "No time for reading"; "Not interested in books"—these are typical answers. No wonder we find evening activities described like this—"Whent no were," "whent to the cinema," "play billyards" or "mesed arowend." Modern young people are not passionately wicked; they are not, in fact, passionate about anything. It may surprise our readers, for example, to find in the report that "The statement that is sometimes made that Communism is spreading extensively among young people would not appear to be true of our city." Youth no longer marches to battle for any ideal; it lounges up against the wall, and couldn't care less.

II.

But there are other statistical facts which are perhaps even more disturbing to evangelical Christians. Over a quarter of the youth of Birmingham are in regular touch with one or other of the religious denominations. Further, half of all the youth units in the city meet in church halls. Surely it is distressing and strange that the churches are not, as a consequence, much stronger? Why are we not being continually encouraged with news of conversions and wholesale additions to the kingdom of Christ? It is not for the report to provide exhaustive answers to these questions, although in-

formation is marshalled which should cause us serious searching of heart and mind. We have a tremendous and obvious opportunity. Yet somehow we are failing to seize it. The loss of our teenagers, the drift from the Sunday schools, uniformed organisations and youth meetings, is tragic. Is it that we are failing to cater for the entire personality, with our artificial categories as to what is and is not "worldly"? Do we fail to recognise that young people grow up, that the child rapidly becomes a man or a woman, and is no longer content to be lumped with the children's unit, but looks now for the adult group? What have our churches to offer these youthful adults?

The fact that certain methods and movements are generally accepted in evangelical circles as orthodox does not necessarily make them right. After all, honesty compels us to admit that we are not holding the majority of our young people, and we should therefore give frank attention to every thoughtful challenge.

Reading of the Scriptures

A. R. Pigdon, of Drumcondra, Vic., presents the second article of a series to aid those sharing in a mutual ministry. Here he gives some valuable hints to readers.

HINTS FOR SCRIPTURE READERS

THE standard of scripture reading in our churches is in need of great improvement. Quite frequently the value of a passage is almost completely lost, because of wrong pronunciations and pauses which alter the sense of the passage. If a few simple rules were observed, it would improve greatly the standard. We will consider the subject under three headings:

1. Different Types of Scripture Passages

All scripture should not be read in the same way. We will note several different types of passages.

1. *Narrative.* E.g., Acts 8: 1-4. Such passages, written in the third person, should be read in a conversational tone.

2. *Poetical.* E.g., Exodus 15: 11-15; 1 Cor. 13: 1-3. There are many poetic passages apart from the Psalms. Read them as you would poetry.

3. *Doctrinal.* E.g., Romans 7: 7-14. In many passages in the epistles a reasoned argument is built up, needing very careful preparation and reading or the whole sense is lost.

4. *Hortatory.* E.g., Acts 7: 51-53. Such passages should not be over emphasised, but a conversational tone is quite out of place here.

Many set readings contain various types of passages. E.g., Matthew 11: 20-30. Here we have three distinct types. Sufficient has been said to make the reader aware that every passage cannot be treated alike, but must be read according to its subject matter.

2. Preparation Before Reading

Commence preparation in plenty of time. It is a good idea, on receiving your plan, to look over each reading you are to take during the quarter. It is unpardonable for a planned reader to come to the platform without having read over the passage previously. There is a three-fold purpose in this preparatory reading.

III.
But perhaps the need is not so much for frantic endeavors to bring our methods up to date, as for a serious attempt to return to fundamental principles. "Eighty Thousand Adolescents" stresses more than once the importance of good leadership, and trained leadership. "Of all the factors which determine the quality of work done in youth organisations by far the most important is leadership." Yet that is hardly a twentieth century discovery. Did not our Lord give himself to the task of training a handful of raw, rough men who would be able to carry on his work?

Aimlessness, and drift must be countered by purpose and passion; the fulness of Christ is the answer to the emptiness of the world. A student of Westhill, a young German doctor, who had at one time been a member of "Hitler Youth," had fought in Hitler's armies, and had been wounded on the Russian front, but is now a convinced Christian, said on the eve of his return to Germany: "The young people in your churches have everywhere received me with kindness and courtesy, but I am concerned about the casual quality of their faith; they do not give to Christ anything, like the devotion which we once gave to Hitler. They do not see the urgency of the present situation." Do we see it? Then how seriously are we going out to meet it?



1. *To Obtain the Sense of the Passage.* It is impossible to read a passage well unless the reader understands what it is about. It may be necessary to read it over several times, and to read a section preceding it to get the meaning. At the same time you should note what kind of passage it is. See previous remarks.

2. *To Check Difficult Words.* There are many names and words in the Bible with which we are unfamiliar. Pronunciation of all doubtful words should be checked, the meanings of all unknown words ascertained, and words unsuited for public reading altered or omitted. The preacher will help you gladly in all these things.

3. *To Become Familiar with the Wording.* To do this it should be read over as often as necessary so that pauses will not be made at wrong places and emphasis given to wrong words. Try to read it just as it would be originally spoken or told.

3. Reading the Passage

1. Stand erect.
2. If the Bible has to be held, it should be held chest high and away from the body.

3. The passage, book, chapter and verses should be announced before the reading is commenced.

4. Read every word distinctly, not running the words into one another. Fast reading is not good reading.

5. Read loud enough for people in the back of the chapel to hear you.

Visitor to American Church

Dr. A. J. Saunders concludes his review of links between Australia and America. He also offers a few observations on Christian unity.

WE continued southwards to Des Moines, Iowa, the seat of the great and flourishing Drake University, where so many Australian students have taken work. One thinks at once of T. H. Scambler and his brother George, P. J. Pond, Harold Knott, James Groom, the Mathieson brothers, and others. Drake is expanding with new buildings, and is serving the brotherhood splendidly. On the Sunday we attended the large University church. I was invited to address the adult Bible class, composed of young married people. The idea is to train these young people in Christian principles of conduct and service; there were some 70 or 80 present. I spoke on marriage customs in India. The Australian representative at Drake to-day is Will Moore; he is on the staff of the Bible College, affiliated with the university. He is a teacher of ability, is well liked, and is doing a fine piece of work.

We then passed on to Chicago, where we spent three delightful weeks visiting old friends and my Alma Mater—the university which I attended as a student. At the Disciples' Divinity House of the University of Chicago, I met the Dean—W. B. Blakemore. I think we can claim him as a representative of Australia, for his youth was spent here when his father served both Perth and Melbourne churches.

I lived for a while at the Evanston Y.M.C.A. It was interesting to meet there two former Melbourne Y.M. workers. They were in charge of the Evanston association. They were Norm Weston (general secretary) and his assistant, Noel Hughes. They have a large programme of activities going on all the time, and were doing a good job.

I was invited to spend an evening with the Wabash (negro) Y.M.C.A. on the South Side. They have a large four-storey, brick building, financed and run entirely by negroes. They are very pleased over the fact that one of their own members of the Wabash association is now a secretary in the Madras, India, association. He is well liked, being received on an equality with Indian members and staff. It is this rising above race prejudice and a sense of inferiority and a new sense of recognition that is extremely pleasing to the modern, educated negro.

Travelling south in Illinois, I spent a delightful week-end at Eureka church and college. Several well-known Australians have been students at Eureka. Years ago H. G. Harward studied there. At the morning church service, I asked one or two of the elder members if they remembered Mr. Harward. "Yes," they said, "we remember Harry Harward; he was a fine man and an eloquent preacher." Cyprus Mitchell and George Moore were both Eureka students, and are still remembered with much appreciation. The latest from Australia was Will Moore who is highly regarded.

It was a pleasure to find so many Australian men who have done really well in U.S.A., and who are held to this day in appreciative remembrance.

Passing on with a stop-over of two delightful days at beautiful Niagara Falls, we came to Boston. I spent one memorable week-end with Angus McDonald at Darien, not far from New York City. He stated that he had taken charge of a community church in New York. He is continuing his studies, and was expecting his parents to make the trip to U.S.A. this year and pay him a visit.

Now, in conclusion, allow me to make one or two general observations. The Disciples' movement is not progressing in the States along the Pacific coast, nor is it advancing in the States along the Atlantic seaboard. It has made considerable progress in the middle and southern States. Although in the beginning Alex.

Campbell, and especially his father, laid great emphasis upon church union, now I discovered a trend towards separation. On the other hand, many church people are viewing with great concern the narrowness and barrenness of denominationalism in the face of a well-organised and aggressive Roman Catholicism and Communism. If we are to survive this century we must unite.

A few years ago the Barton W. Stone Christian Church saw little future for their work as a separate body. They cast about for a body with whom to unite; they settled their differences and finally united with the Congregational body, including home and foreign work, publications, Sunday school literature, and so forth. They are known now as the Congregational-Christian Church; the merger is working extremely well. The Disciples and the Northern Baptist are negotiating for a merger. The Community church is another merging of separate bodies. With the examples of Canada, South India, China and Japan before us, there



H. G. Harward, a Pioneer Evangelist.

is hope for an aggressive and united church to meet the problems and challenge of these latter days. May the wish of our Lord yet come true: "That they all may be one; that the world may believe."

The Book of Salvation

Report of Bible Society's 146th Annual Meeting, London.

THE British and Foreign Bible Society's 146th annual meeting was held in the Central Hall, Westminster, London, with H. B. Rattenbury, president of the Methodist conference, as chairman.

W. J. Platt, general secretary of the parent society, said in his report that during the last nine months the society had published 2,357,000 portions of scripture. That is, they had published half a million more scriptures in London in the last nine months than in the previous twelve months. It was worth noting, too, that whereas nearly 600,000 complete Bibles were published in England by the society during the year 1948, the output was over 1,000,000 complete Bibles during the nine months of 1949. Increasingly, the emphasis coming from many countries over seas was for complete Bibles as against portions or New Testaments, and it was a remarkable fact that no time in human history had witnessed so many complete Bibles on the printing presses of the world.

During the nine months of 1949 under review, the society had published the Christian gospel in six new languages. In nine months they registered as many new languages as in the previous twelve. To date the total number of tongues in which the society had published the scriptures was 790.

One of the remarkable facts about the new languages just mentioned is that all six of them come from that area of tension—South-East Asia—and half of them were translated by nationals of those countries. According to widespread testimony, individuals in the Far East were at this time more receptive than ever to the penetration of new ideas, including Christian ideas, and it was encouraging that at such a time six new languages had been translated there.

The chairman introduced Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa, one of the speakers at the meeting as "this outstanding brother from Japan." Dr. Kagawa, small and serene, yet something of a human dynamo, brought greetings from the Bible Society of Japan. Handling a Japanese

New Testament, he described it as "a more potent document than any political manifesto." He told of Burmese young men who clubbed together to pay a teacher to help them to study it. After alluding to his social work in Tokyo, he held up the plain paper-covered volume and cried, "This Book is a book of salvation for the oppressed."

H. M. Arrowsmith, general secretary-elect of the Bible Society in Australia, gave a survey of the society's work in Australia, and also a vivid story of Bible triumphs in the Pacific Islands. "The whole Pacific," he said, "is alive." Mr. Arrowsmith said that his presence, and that of Dr. Kagawa, brought Pacific focus to the platform. He added, "You in England may think of the Far East; we in Australia think of the Near North."



WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

*A book inspired by God alone,
A story strange and sweet;
A book of poetry and song,
A history complete.*

*Wherein is found salvation for
All mankind—you and me:
Revealing Jesus Christ, who died
To set the sinner free.*

*A hand that guides us all the way
To mansions up above;
A rod and staff of comfort is
The Bible that we love.*

—Selected.



COMMONWEALTH ROUND-UP

HERE AND THERE

The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. advises that the demand in recent weeks for copies of "The Ministry of the Word," by A. R. Main, has exhausted available supply.

Arthur L. Brown, president of conference of churches of Christ in Great Britain, in replying to greetings sent by Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Kemp, said: "You will be happy to know that Australia was well represented at the welcoming of visitors. Among those with us are Mr. and Mrs. Claude Verco and daughter, of Blackwood, S.A.; Miss Rita Cemm, of Parkdale, Vic.; Miss Gibbons, of Australia; and Miss Margery L. Wilkie, of Ballarat, Vic."

Church at Lake-st., Perth, W.A., has planned diamond jubilee anniversary services for Sept. 10-17, the 17th being homecoming day. Church reports two additions by letter—Mrs. Kirwan and Miss Entwistle. The arrival of "Dominion Monarch," on which Garfield Todd and family were travelling, synchronised with morning service. Mr. Todd addressed church and told of activities of mission in South Rhodesia. Services were broadcast on July 2 (a.m.), 16th (p.m.), Aug. 13 (a.m.), 20th (p.m.). A series of "Happy Hours" for children were held recently, attendances going from 50 on Monday to 160 on Friday. About 50 children signed cards indicating they go to no Sunday school or church. These young folks and parents will be contacted in home, this being one of the efforts in preparation for tent mission to be held in October, with H. M. Long, of Ballarat, as missionary. It is eleven years since last mission was held locally. The tent will be erected on same site.

A. McRoberts exhorted morning service at Maylands, W.A., Aug. 13, and Endeavorers conducted evening meeting. Mr. McRoberts is holding a mission at Wembley church. Several members have attended meetings. Mr. McRoberts has recently held a series of "Happy Hour" sessions after school at Midland Junction. This was followed by invitations to mothers to attend a social rally in town hall, issued by Women's Conference Auxiliary. Visiting speakers have been Mr. Liu (China), Mr. Scott (B. & F. Bible Society), and Mr. Hammer. A girl and a youth from Sunday school have been baptised and received into fellowship. Women's Guild organised a fine concert in hall on Aug. 11. Proceeds reached six guineas, and will augment funds for mission work. Mrs. Ross, of Oakleigh, Vic., talked to sisters of social service activities in Victoria. J.C.E. members distributed flowers and oranges to inmates of hospitals on Aug. 13.

Successful Tour

FEDERAL SECRETARY IN NEW HEERIDES.

ANDERSON has just concluded three-weeks' successful visit to Pentecost. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been much encouraged. The visitor was welcomed on first Sunday in a three-hour service when a good congregation from all areas gathered. Churches handed over their offering, £300. A further £50 was given towards Federal secretary's visit to the islands. Mr. Anderson then spent four days among northern churches, and was given an enthusiastic reception, and happy crowds gathered. One week was given to southern group, which included a visit to new Christian village on east side of Pentecost. This visit led over steep mountains, involving five hours of stiff climbing and through heavy rains. There were seven more baptisms at Ranwash, bringing total to 65 in less than a year. The last old heathen man has also become a Christian. Mr. Anderson contacted the heathen village of Lonlibli and opened church there. He anticipates that the whole village will become Christians shortly. He has now returned to Aoba, and

will visit Macwo next. Miss A. F. Kennedy arrived at Santo per Qantas, July 27, and arrived per launch on 28th, happy and well.



Josiah Park, president Federal Conference, Hobart, Tas., October 6-13.

Fire Damage

BUILDINGS DESTROYED AT COBURG, VIC.

AT 2 a.m., Friday, Aug. 18, a fire destroyed a kindergarten hall, kitchen and vestry, and seriously damaged roof, ceiling and north-end wall of chapel. The cause is not known definitely. Visitation evangelism is now a regular monthly venture in this church. Last month four pairs of men reported having made evangelistic visits, some of which were most encouraging. Communicants for June averaged 105 weekly, highest June average on record. Mr. and Mrs. Walkerden, formerly of Brunswick; Mr. and Mrs. Purton, formerly of Preston and Yarrowonga; and Sister McCormick, formerly of Maryborough, have been received by transfer.



Food Parcels to Britain

THE British churches of Christ advise through Eric Hart, who has just returned from chaplaincy duty on the migrant ship "Ranchi," that, owing to the liberalising of rationing, and in some cases, its discontinuance, food parcels are not any longer needed.

Churches express their thanks to all those who, through recent years, have come to their aid. What the parcels have meant to the recipients, words fail them to express.

However, money in hand for parcels may still be spent, without fear of its being unappreciated or wasted. The Social Service Committee will be sending a final consignment in the near future.—Will. H. Clay.



New Cause, Euston

THE first anniversary of the Bible school at Euston, N.S.W., was celebrated on July 30. Euston is a border town between Mildura and Swan Hill. It is an old town which has taken on new life because a considerable amount of land has been opened up for irrigation. Among new settlers there were Mr. and Mrs. J. McGregor, from Geelong church, and Mrs. and Mrs. Dodd, from Gilgandra church. These

brethren decided to commence a Sunday school. The local hall was engaged. Children gathered and parents showed interest. On occasion of anniversary, there were one hundred people in hall for afternoon service, and thirty-five scholars on platform. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Chislett, from Boundary Bend, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Staley, from Swan Hill, and twenty-eight young people from Mildura church. Mr. Chivell addressed scholars and parents.

On the same day the Lord's Supper was set up in home of Mr. and Mrs. McGregor. It was decided that regular meetings for breaking of bread will be held. Two miles across the river is the new settlement of Robinvale. Those who are thus leading in the work are to be highly commended. If any one knows of members in Robinvale or Euston districts, Mr. McGregor would be glad to have their names.



Federal Aborigines Organiser

THE Federal Aborigines Mission Board advises a change in position of organiser and secretary to the board. Early in the year D. G. Hammer notified that, with a young family, he would not be able to continue in the Federal work, requiring considerable time itinerating away from the State.

After the board's careful survey for a suitable successor, J. Keith Robinson, of Lake-st. church, Perth, at the invitation of the board, accepted the position. His appointment is endorsed by all State committees. He will take up duties at the end of February.

Mr. Robinson is well known among churches of Australia and New Zealand, having served acceptably at Bunbury, North Perth, Nelson, N.Z., and Perth. He will have been for 7½ years minister at Lake-st. He is a graduate of College of the Bible, Glen Iris. He has been associated actively with broadcasting in Western Australia, and as city minister has represented the brotherhood with ability and dignity in religious and public affairs. In the Western State's youth work, Mr. Robinson built up the department, first as honorary organiser, then as chairman, with a part-time organiser, until a full-time secretary-organiser could be appointed. While his present ministry is continuing successfully and happily, both church and minister accept the challenge to the larger Federal need.

Suitable recognition is being planned of the work of Mr. and Mrs. Hammer without whose sacrificial pioneering effort our Carnarvon mission, now a community of nearly 100 souls, might not have been established, and might even have ended in disaster for the native cause. Mr. Hammer is to commence an engagement with Balaklava church, S.A., in November.



Guest Home, Qld.

THE Queensland Christian Guest Home was opened officially on Saturday, Aug. 5, by C. R. Burdeu. Many friends were present and listened to a musical programme provided by Mrs. C. J. Connel, Miss Hall and Miss Haworth. R. M. Wilson delivered an address entitled "Evangelism Through Social Service" which was appreciated. At special offering, £234 was contributed in cash and promises. C. H. Wright prayed that home be used for Christian service. A very fine organ was presented to Home by Mrs. A. Clarey, as a memorial to her son who was killed in last war. Afternoon tea was served to visitors by ladies' committee. All preliminary arrangements are now made, and first guests will be in residence on Aug. 15.

News of the Churches



Western Australia

Harvey.—Several new members attend sisters' meetings. With six machines, assembled at Mrs. K. Stanford's home, a special sewing afternoon aids Bethesda Hospital fete. Sisters have purchased curtains for baptistry. Busy bee was held on church grounds to plant trees and shrubs. Extension to back of chapel for kinders is in progress. Mr. and Mrs. Lowe made their confession of faith and were baptised on July 23. Mr. Maiden spent July 30 with Bunbury church. Mr. Hicks spoke here. Mr. and Mrs. M. Livingstone's second daughter, Valma, was married to Peter Horton, F. Ewers officiating. Visits to New Australian camps by Mrs. Maiden and Mrs. Roesner have been continued. On Aug. 1 Mrs. Maiden entertained church sisters and informed them of work in eastern wheatbelt. Mrs. A. Finger and Lynette Livingstone are home from hospital. A kitchen tea was tendered to Leila Ottrey and Len Jones prior to their wedding.

Inglewood.—An outstanding feature of past month has been success, evident in large attendances and spiritual tone, of midweek prayer meetings held in homes of members. By holding two meetings simultaneously at opposite ends of district, the needs of all brethren have been catered for conveniently. General standard of all meetings has been good, and many fine sermons have been delivered. Mr. Raymond has planned to attend Federal Conference, and has made arrangements for Mr. Greenwood to conduct gospel services during his absence. Two were baptised during month, both being senior Sunday school scholars. Young people's work is promising, and Bible school has been progressing well.

Subiaco.—All plans are in hand for 52nd church anniversary. Visiting morning speakers were J. K. Robinson on July 23, and W. Paget, Aug. 6. Christian Endeavorers combined in a successful orange and flower distribution on Hospital Sunday, Aug. 13. Mr. Walker and Miss Olwyn Payne have been received into fellowship by faith and obedience. Miss Jean Lee has returned from the Eastern States, and Miss June Simmonds and Bill Burke have departed for extended periods in Victoria and Queensland respectively. The first five sessions of the Thursday evening "Winter School" have attracted larger gatherings.

South Perth.—Mr. Nixon resumed his ministry on Aug. 13, after six weeks' absence on sick leave. Church appreciated assistance given by visiting speakers: G. Whiting, H. E. Greenwood, A. G. Elliott, R. Sack, R. Hillier, A. Wilson and R. Raymond. Men's Fellowship conducted the evening service on July 16. At conclusion of morning service on July 30, a Schofield Reference Bible was presented to B. Wesley in recognition of services rendered in commencement of church and as first secretary. All auxiliaries are working well.

New South Wales

Rockdale.—Special meetings are being featured for August, Mr. Andrews giving good messages. Mr. Craig, of Hurstville, exhorted ably on Aug. 13. A special rally is planned for 17th, when women agreed to display goods made for aboriginal mission.

Tasmania

Hobart (Collins-st.).—Since last report attendances and offerings have been maintained, comparing favorably with last year's figures. During July church had fellowship with John McLean, formerly of Brighton, Vic., at present third electrician aboard "Port Vindex." Mr. McLean conducted evening service on July 9. Church welcomed opportunity to renew friendship with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Street and family, on furlough from United Aborigines Mission in W.A. Y.P.F. has been meeting weekly since its inauguration in May. In addition to weekly meeting, a Sunday evening tea meeting is held. Sunday school regrets resignation of Mrs. O. England as kindergarten teacher. Mr. and Mrs. England and family have removed to northern Tasmania. Sunday school showed appreciation of Mrs. England's faithful service by presentation of a small gift at the close of school on July 2. Annual meeting of Mission Band was held in May. Mrs. Heard and Mrs. Watkins were returned to offices of president and secretary respectively. Mrs. Holloway and Mrs. Clifford were elected vice-presidents. Mrs. Madel-Cole was speaker at this meeting. Mrs. Ure, a missionary on furlough from Papua, was speaker at June meeting, and Mrs. Street spoke of work among half-caste aborigines in southern W.A. At a special meeting, held on July 26, church dealt with resignation of Tom Clark as trustee, and appointed Messrs. E. Bowes and S. Cooper new trustees. Mr. and Mrs. Coomber have been welcomed into fellowship, on transfer from West Hobart.

South Australia

Flinders Park.—Annual business meeting of church was held on July 26. Elders appointed are: H. Francis, A. Alexander; deacons, A. Pearce, F. Cussell, W. Powell, D. Bennett, I. Schmeltzopf and A. Lukehurst (secretary), W. S. Webb (treasurer). Deaconesses, Mesdames J. E. Webb and G. Houston. Church has £310 in new building fund, and recently men of membership have renovated the interior of chapel, whilst Ladies' Guild collected and purchased gardeners and palms. Ladies' Guild, led by Mrs. J. E. Webb, is in good heart with 18 members. Mrs. W. S. Webb continues, after many years, to spiritually superintend large Junior C.E. Society. A Boys' Brigade has been formed under F. Russell as captain. On Lord's day evening, July 30, 8 young people were immersed, and have since been received into fellowship. Special church 24th anniversary services have been successfully held and well supported. Speaker on 6th was C. Vincent. In the evening J. E. Webb spoke. Choir helped. On Wednesday evening, 9th, speaker was H. Cave, president of conference; Croydon church male quartette and soloists assisted. Messrs. A. Curl and Hubbard are at present in hospital, and C. Richardson's health concerns church. Girls' basketball team is in second to top position. Congratulations of church were extended to Elaine Webb, who was dux in Adelaide Royal Hospital nurses' examination.

Hindmarsh.—Work in church continues faithfully. A lad from Bible school has confessed

Christ. Mrs. W. Barrey has been welcomed through faith and obedience. J. E. Shipway is presenting special messages on loyalty at morning and evening services during August. Basketball and table tennis teams are doing exceptionally well. While no prizes were gained in Sunday school examination, some high markings were secured. Mrs. Reg. Price, who has been ill, is improving. Mrs. Perry has suffered bereavement in passing of her husband. Miss Harriet Smith passed away on Aug. 13. Miss Reeves is not well at present, and the family has suffered bereavement in the passing of a sister. Church, with several other churches in district, is entering a united mission to be conducted by Mr. Bron. Carlisle, of the Evangelisation Society.

Glenelg.—E. R. Sherman, of Maylands, was speaker at 58th anniversary of church at worship service. Evening service was conducted by A. Hutson. Choir rendered an anthem led by K. Kitto. Solos were rendered by Lorna Lee and John Woodroffe. K. Leak, choir-master, is recovering from an operation. A. McGlasson is a delegate from S.A. to a moral rearmament conference at Caux, Switzerland. He travelled via America and England. On his return he takes up office as State conference president. J. A. Kimber was received by faith and baptism. H. A. Kempster, one of our oldest brethren, passed away on Aug. 3 and was laid to rest at North Brighton Cemetery. Annual church social was held on Aug. 2. An interesting programme was presented to an appreciative audience. Pastor brought evening to conclusion, after supper, with a devotional period. Sunday school teachers met G. Stirling and Vic. Stafford on question of new school lessons at 10 a.m. Mr. Stafford addressed worship service. S. E. M. Riches gave an illustrated lecture on work among lepers at evening service. Christian Youth Fellowship had a courtesy visit by members of S.A. Tourist Bureau, who showed films of Australian scenery. There was a good attendance, and proceeds will be forwarded to a conference committee. Church annual business meeting, held Aug. 9, reported membership to be: active 167, inactive 29, isolated 20. Gains 25, losses 25, average at Lord's Table being 95. Financial: receipts, £813; expenditure, £759; credit balance of church, £25. School enrolment 180, average 124, polio having hindered attendances. Porch building fund is £639. A building permit is being sought. All departments brought encouraging reports. Mr. Hutson outlined officers' plan for future work. Mr. James resigned as elder, and appreciation of his services was recorded. W. Rudd was elected to eldership. The retiring deacons were re-elected. Mr. Beaumont was chairman of meeting, and Ruth Blackeby brought scriptural recitation and J. Woodroffe sang two solos.

Unley.—Quarterly church family night attracted increased attendance, particularly of young people. A strip film on "Stewardship," games, competitions, and opportunity for social fellowship at supper, provided a happy evening. The cold wintry weather, combined with considerable sickness, has affected attendances, the average number of communicants for June being 130 and for July 129. The church is engaged in preparation for a week of visitation evangelism, with G. M. Mathieson assisting to give instruction to visitors. This will conclude with membership Sunday on Aug. 20. Mrs. W. Spiers, of Ceylon and Indian General Mission, spoke at a recent midweek meeting. A large group of C.Y.F. members enjoyed a camp-fire evening at Sturt Gorge, and on another evening engaged in practical work around chapel. Installation of a gas stove in chapel kitchen was made possible as result of a gift by an anonymous donor. On Aug. 6 a sudden attack of malaria prevented Mr. Norris from conducting gospel service. Don Bowes, at short notice, acceptably preached in his stead. A film afternoon, at Sunday school, was appreciated by scholars and teachers. Two teams of basketballers (girls) are having a successful and enjoyable season.

Nailsworth.—On Aug. 5 Mr. Fisher showed missionary strip films at a meeting of the "Poona Prayer Pals," held in home of S. Herring. Children are preparing a Christmas box for Indian missions. A special address was delivered at first anniversary of Enfield Heights school on Aug. 6. In afternoon Koongarra Park held second anniversary. Mr. Fisher also gave two sermons at Nailsworth for observance of loyalty week. On Aug. 10 a rally was conducted by youth council, with a pictorial dialogue that was followed by an address by J. E. Shipway. Representatives were present from several suburban churches. J. Hunting, of Biblical Research Society, gave an interesting lantern lecture to Men's Club on Aug. 15. Bible school is delighted that three scholars gained State prizes in recent examinations.

Fullarton.—Three State prizes came to Fullarton in the scripture examination. In Div. 1, Patricia Walker obtained first prize; division 5, Jennifer Outlaw a third prize, and in division 7, Judith Holton a third prize. Mrs. Manning coached young people. On Saturday last monthly Bible school rally was held, there being a fairly good attendance. Colds and sickness have been very prevalent. A happy time was spent in fellowship. On Aug. 13, attendances were affected by sickness. The minister was unable to take his usual place, but Mr. Gordon Reimers, of Campaigners for Christ, preached well. At evening service Geo. Philp conducted song service. E. Humphrey Hall gave an outstanding address which was appreciated.

Kilburn.—Mr. Patching, of Prospect, was speaker at 11.15 a.m. service on Aug. 13. 33 adults and 30 young worshippers were present and Mr. Lawrance, sen., conducted service. 126 attended 10 a.m. Bible school, and photos. of school on foundation of new kindergarten room were taken at close of session. Mavis Peacock gained second State prize for Div. 3 in scripture examination. C.Y.F. visited loyalty rally at Nailsworth on Aug. 10, instead of holding usual meeting at Kilburn. J.C.E. had attendance of 14. Don Wallage, of Nailsworth, has joined Bible school teaching staff. With this additional help from Nailsworth and more promised, the way is opening up to gain new scholars.

Queensland

Mackay.—At annual business meeting, held July 14, J. Bell, J. Blackburn, E. Lambert and J. Langland were elected deacons, with E. W. Nielson, secretary, and B. W. Nielson, treasurer. Conference president, Mr. Pitman, chaired meeting, and spoke at both anniversary services and at Bible school on July 17. Church reports reduction of building debt from £210 to £85, during past year. Attendance has improved considerably, since fine weather began several weeks ago. Fellowship with visitors from Brisbane, Adelaide and Victoria has been enjoyed. Bible school is practising for anniversary, and reports one new scholar, a migrant from Norway. Thursday evening fellowship meetings have proved a blessing. One person each week is appointed to ask a question, and this is a great incentive to Bible study. Future prospects for work are very bright.

Roma.—There were average attendances for June and July; communion service 38, gospel service 22. Church was pleased to have fellowship with Mrs. R. Muller, Mrs. Atkins and also Mr. Williams, who spoke morning and evening. A happy time was spent by C.E. at manse to raise funds for aged people's home.

Victoria

Brighton.—Forty were present at church annual meeting. The following officers were elected: Elders, E. F. Baker, P. H. Luke, T. R. Morris; deacons, N. R. Arnott, K. W. Arnott,

K. P. Balson, E. L. Carter, C. Davis, E. B. Hilbig, A. T. Mann, W. Meadows, R. A. Morrall; Bible school superintendent, R. P. Morris; treasurers, J. H. Charlesworth, C. W. Emmett; assistant treasurer, W. R. L. Rodgers-Wilson; secretary, R. Scott; assistant secretary, I. Henty. Additional officers elected were: organist, Mrs. W. R. L. Rodgers-Wilson; assistant organist, Don Price; leader of J.C.E., Miss Vi Lanaway; Mrs. Youens was appointed representative to Women's Inter-Church Council. T. R. Morris was appointed unanimously a life elder. At conclusion of meeting ladies served supper. Since introduction of morning Sunday school, senior school has increased in number. Sunday Fellowship class now holds meetings after evening service at homes of members, average attendance being 30. In annual scripture examinations, Miss Judith Charlesworth obtained first prize in Div. 6. Mr. and Mrs. George Cook and family have moved to Ashburton. Mr. Cook has been Sunday school secretary for past two years. John Richmond was received into fellowship by faith and baptism. R. H. Green, minister of Ascot Vale Methodist church, conducted a service, on behalf of the Committee for International Relief, at which approximately £100 was collected as a special offering for such relief. Several members visited the Guest Home, Oakleigh, during July and conducted evening services. 170 were present on Aug. 13, when choir rendered a sacred cantata, "Penitence, Pardon and Peace" (Maundel), soloists being Mrs. C. G. Taylor and Russell Price. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and family leave this week for Chatswood, N.S.W., to conduct a mission.

Reservoir.—Senior Youth Fellowship was held on Aug. 6. About 30 young people enjoyed an educational film afternoon provided by W. Peeler. At fellowship tea R. Burns presided. Sixteenth church anniversary services, July 30, were well attended. In morning 80 were present at an every member breaking of bread service. Conference president, A. Withers, delivered an inspiring address. About 70 members and friends were present for a re-union afternoon. J. Plummer, first preacher of church, brought an interesting resume of early pioneering work done in district. Deacons' wives arranged catering, etc., for re-union tea, 55 enjoying hospitality. Miss Russell, of Coburg, assisted with splendid elocutionary items, whilst Mr. Wells, of Preston Methodist church, rendered fine solos. Anniversary was brought to a close with the gospel service, at which R. Burns spoke and choir rendered items, nearly 100 gathering in chapel for this final meeting. Ladies' Guild continues to perform a sterling work. Membership has grown to 24. An "apron day" and also a "grocery afternoon" have been held. Much sickness among members has affected some meetings. Church rejoices in return of Mrs. McInnes to regular worship.

Hamilton.—Since last report Lord's day services have all been well attended. C. W. Jackel has commenced a series of gospel messages. Much visitation has been done, and Christian Endeavorers circulated 1500 leaflets over city. Interest is keen, and there is a good spiritual tone in church. Mr. and Mrs. Lunn have been received from Gardenvale. In an effort to link church with home, a special parents' and children's afternoon was held. Service featured latest methods in child education, and addresses were given by R. J. McPherson and C. Jackel. An increase campaign is in progress. Twelve new scholars have been gained. An inspiring "back to Christian Endeavor" rally was held. Mr. Jackel led devotional service, and Mr. McPherson led the social programme. Young people are making a fine spiritual contribution to church. A bus load attended Warrnambool C.E. convention. Mr. Jackel addressed the Baptist

Ladies' Fellowship. J.C.E. is conducting a campaign to gain new members. 81 broke bread on Aug. 13.

Ormond.—Mr. Vautier's ministry is proving helpful to church. There have been two baptisms. All auxiliaries are doing good work. P.B.P. and K.S.P. are helping church and Sunday school. Good Companions and Explorers are growing. Clubs parade each month at evening service. Wedding of S. Johnston and Miss Buchannan was celebrated on July 20. Business meeting of church was held last month, and deacons elected were Messrs. Bradley, Gairns, Johnston, R. Mitchell, Hood, Knee, Booth, Erfans, Flanders; deaconesses, Sister Vautier, Bean, Cranley, J. Evans, E. Mitchell, Mulroney and Delgforce. Memorial church committee held pleasant Sunday afternoon. Melbourne Spiritual Choir rendered a beautiful programme of singing. Sick folk include D. Mitchell and Sister Cranley, who are in hospital but doing fine.

Drumcondra.—Mr. Pigdon, as president of Geelong C.E. Union, conducted anniversary services on Aug. 6 at Manifold Heights Baptist and North Geelong Methodist churches. He exchanged with Mr. Wright on the 6th and Mr. Rawlings on 13th. Half-yearly church business meeting was held on Aug. 15. Good reports were read from all auxiliaries. Ten members are taking correspondence course in teacher training. £3 was sent to C.I.R.C.A. It was decided to discontinue food for Britain appeal. 37 parcels have been sent in last 18 months. A Bible school scholar, Barry Tattersall, gained first prize in Victorian scripture examination in Div. 1. Church has planned programme for 25th anniversary.

Echuca.—Recent conference, held at Echuca, was greatly enjoyed, speakers giving uplifting messages. Mrs. Hargreaves has presented a series of talks on the second coming. Youth Fellowship is in a healthy condition, with Mr. Hargreaves and Jack Parry leading spiritual and recreational sides respectively. Church has enjoyed recently fellowship with Sister Gwen Rowe, of Kaniva. Mr. Hewitt, of Echuca Technical College, addressed church on morning of 13th in connection with Education Week. Church congratulates Wendy Hartvigsen on obtaining prize in recent scripture examinations.

Collingwood.—On July 23, Mrs. Ted Collins and Margaret Collins were baptised; they were received into fellowship on July 30. A youth tea was held on 30th. During gospel service Mr. Cooke baptised and welcomed into fellowship Syd Neil, Stan James and Sid Dooling. Another successful social evening was held on July 28. Mrs. Hodges visited Women's Mission Band on Aug. 2 and gave a helpful message. Sympathy was expressed to loved ones of Mrs. Wimpney, who passed away on July 28 after long illness.

Mt. Evelyn.—On July 9 R. Macpherson and Nancy were received into fellowship by letter from Brim. During A. H. Pratt's convalescence addresses have been given by H. Graham, R. G. Macpherson and Mr. Fenny. A. H. Pratt exhorted on July 30 for first time since his operation. F. Pedley has had a relapse and is very ill. Church is making a big effort to clear debt on church building block by end of second year, which is Sept. 10. Amount owing is £42/5/-. Attendances are good. Overseas offering was £3/10/-.

Red Cliffs.—Christian Endeavor meeting was held in home of Mr. and Mrs. K. Chislett, on Aug. 3, with 20 present. F. Combridge, of Mildura, gave consecration address. Mrs. Lang and Mrs. Martin held an "at home" in chapel on Aug. 3. A number of these have been planned to raise money for Sunraysia Ward in Murrumbidgee Nursing Home, and also for local talent fund. Mr. Lang gave appreciated addresses on Aug. 6 and 13. A gift evening was given Miss Elenor Cook and Col. Wurfel on Aug. 15.

West Preston.—Good attendances continue. Youth work is encouraging. Junior, Intermediate and Senior C.E. Societies have combined in an effort to raise funds for purchase of amplifier equipment to assist Colin Thomas with work in India. Mr. Kimber, a college student, is assisting Mr. Withers during his presidential year. Recent offerings: overseas missions, £56; projector, £31.

Warragul.—Mrs. Quayle presided over monthly meeting of Women's World Day of Prayer held in chapel on Aug. 11. Ladies' Guild presented two dozen church of Christ hymnbooks to church. Mr. and Mrs. Quayle, with Sunday school teachers, took a number of scholars for a hike and a picnic on Aug. 12. Sunday school is conducting a campaign for new scholars. Much sickness prevails and is affecting attendances.

Bayswater.—An enjoyable "ship social" was held in chapel on evening of July 29. There was a large gathering, and £10 was raised for tennis club. All 9 scholars who sat for scripture examination passed creditably. Mr. Hibbert has been asked to continue with church for another term of twelve months. Anniversary practise has commenced under leadership of P. Jordan, of Boronia. Mr. Robertson McCue, of Local Option Alliance, addressed church on morning of Aug. 20. Social Service offering so far is £6/3/-.

Northcote.—July average attendances were: breaking of bread 148 and gospel service 109. Annual F.M. offering, £56/7/-; to this amount is added £81/10/- from the duplex envelopes. U.N.A.C. appeal reached £33 and C.I.R.C.A. contributions exceeded £76. Mr. and Mrs. W. Turner, from Kyneton, and Mr. and Mrs. M. McNicol, from North Essendon, have been received into fellowship. Mrs. Burt has been transferred to Coburg and Mr. and Mrs. Perry to Springvale. Miss Jean Andrews has resigned her position as leader of Good Companions, on account of her removal to Horsham, and Mrs. W. Turner has succeeded her. Forty women were present at last meeting of Mission Band held at home of Mrs. Hannaford. Miss Tregear addressed fourth birthday gathering of Junior Mission Band on Aug. 17. Annual contributions to C.F.A. totalled £154/6/3, a record in history of church.

Horsham.—On July 26 an anniversary tea in school hall, followed by an amateur hour concert, was successful. Bible school entries in State annual scripture examination showed commendable results. 26 women of church journeyed to Dimboola on Aug. 15 to meet with Dimboola Mission Band. At close of gospel meeting, Aug. 6, a youth confessed Christ and another two on Aug. 13. D. R. Stirling's addresses are appreciated.



Norseman Mission VICTORIAN WOMEN'S GIFT.

SOME time ago the Victorian Women's Conference, having exceeded their quota of the aborigines "Living Link" missionary support, decided to make a special gift to Norseman mission. They wanted the gift to be of value to the "Living Link" missionary (Miss Flo. Schurmann) and at the same time provide useful equipment for the whole work.

It was decided that a washing machine would best represent the idea of the gift, and a search was commenced for a larger than usual type of machine which would serve the mission's requirements. But a suitable commercial type machines proved hard to find. Eventually it was decided that two household washing machines would, together, serve the purpose even better, at approximately the same cost (about £140).

The help of various W.A. brethren was called in to locate the necessary machines, and also motors to suit the direct current of the mission's own electricity supply. Shortages of such materials in W.A. caused an un-

fortunate delay in the proceedings. However, we are happy to say that the machines are now fitted with correct motors and are in constant use at mission.

The workers all realise the great value of the Victorian women's gift. Thank you, ladies, for a thoughtful and extremely useful gift.—D.G.H.



In an Australian religious journal, this statement appeared: "There is perhaps more money given for church work to-day than ever before, yet the people themselves are not particularly interested. We have the most modern machinery, making quite a noise, yet the general spiritual life is dim and low." A review of the work in most religious communions will support this claim. The day for a real awakening is needed. We are being impoverished spiritually by our material prosperity.

Open Forum

FOR "CHRISTIAN" READERS.

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

PRAYER OF PENITENT THIEF.

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom (Luke 23: 42).

MUCH has been written upon the subject of the "apostolic commission" with the relation of the above to it, and after it, as it affects the sinner's salvation in coming to God for pardon. I wonder why the single point which concerns us in this memorable incident (in the reference made by the malefactor to our Lord's "coming in his kingdom") is not referred to. In whatever way he had come by the knowledge, he recognised in the rejected Prophet by his side, the King of Israel, the Son of God. He believed that, notwithstanding his rejection and crucifixion by Israel, he would one day come again in his kingdom. Marvellous faith in such a man and at such a moment! If the "dying thief" had listened to the testimony of Jesus before the high priest (Matt. 26: 64; Mark 14: 62), or if he had known what he said to the disciples that "some of them should not taste of death till they had seen the Son of man coming in his kingdom" (Matt. 16: 28; Luke 9: 26, 27), we could better account for his faith and his prayer. It is presumable that this "brand plucked out of the fire" thought of it as near. A dying man would scarcely pray to be remembered in some distant age, after centuries or millenniums had rolled away. One thing seems certain, the most incredible of all interpretations is that which would represent his prayer as still unanswered, and the "coming" of which he spoke as still among the events of an unknown futurity.—T. J. Johnston, Launceston, Tas.

Obituary

Mrs. Juliet Ann Brooker

THE passing of Juliet Ann Brooker to be with her Lord on April 30, at the age of 74 years, has been a great loss to membership of church at Semaphore, S.A. Our beloved sister was baptised many years ago in the Grote-st. chapel by Mr. Thomas, who also was

the officiating minister at her marriage. For many years she worshipped at, and was an active member of, the Grote-st. church. Eleven years ago she was received into the fellowship of the Semaphore church by letter of transfer. To this church she gave the same loyalty that had been characteristic of her whole life. Although growing old, she gave her service in the choir to the end, and was a regular and consistent attendant at church services and all auxiliary meetings. Mrs. Brooker was one of a great band of the saints of God, who serve, without seeking any publicity, yet by their faithfulness, bear witness to the saving and keeping power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Of her it could be said, "She took Christ with her into her life." We thank God for such an example of devotion, and mourn, but not as those without hope, for we find comfort in the sure and certain promises of our Lord.—S.E.M.

Henry Alfred Kempster

IN passing of H. A. Kempster the church at Glenelg, S.A., has lost another of her aged members. Mr. Kempster was baptised at Norwood during ministry of the late Leslie Baker, over 35 years ago. Since then he has remained one of the loyal brethren in church life. Over 33 years ago he came to Glenelg and identified himself with the church. For many years he was usher, and waited upon the tables at the communion service. He was affectionately known as "Pop" in church and in community, and was highly respected. He enjoyed good health until about five weeks before his death, when he had a seizure, and then another on the day of his death. He was laid to rest in the North Brighton cemetery on Aug. 7. Many floral tributes were received. He leaves a wife and two married daughters to mourn his loss. They are comforted in the knowledge of a life well lived and the glorious hope of a reunion in Christ's presence.—A.H.

J. Olafsen

AFTER being laid aside for some weeks, J. Olafsen, a foundation member of Gawler (S.A.) church, was called from this life on July 18. Our brother was baptised at Balaclava, during ministry of W. L. Ewers, and on Nov. 2, 1919, his membership was transferred to church at Gawler, of which he was the first secretary, in which office he continued for some years; he was also a deacon for an extended period. Mr. Olafsen had reached a ripe age, and died "strong in the faith." To his widow and her three sons the Christian sympathy of church is extended. W. Green, who was closely associated with Mr. Olafsen in early days of the Gawler church, assisted writer at graveside in the Willaston cemetery.—G. R.

Thomas Arthur Pettigrove

IVANHOE church, Vic., suffered the loss of one of its foundation members on July 21, with the homecall of Thomas Arthur Pettigrove. Mr. Pettigrove's failing health had forced an early retirement from business. When the call came it was in his own home, surrounded by loved ones, that he passed peacefully to his rich reward. His first association with churches of Christ was at Northcote over thirty years ago. There he served as a Bible school teacher and a leader of the Y.P.S.C.E. With the removal of his home to Heidelberg, he then joined, with his wife and young family, the small group who began the church at Ivanhoe. From its beginning Mr. Pettigrove served as a deacon, and he continued in this office until his death. His faithfulness and friendly, unassuming nature endeared him to all whom he met. He had a particular interest in young people, and his home was always open to encourage and to befriend them. Truly he leaves a fragrant memory of a sincerely consecrated life. At his funeral on July 24, a large gathering of

church friends and business associates bore splendid testimony to the influence of his life and the effectiveness of his faithful service for his God. To his wife, Mrs. Alice Pettigrove, and to members of his family, Harry, May (Mrs. Arthur Reed), Lal (Mrs. Harry Earl) and Bill, the Christian's hope is truly "a glorious hope." We know they look forward in faith to God's great day of re-union, and we commend them to him, "until the day dawns and the shadows flee away."—P. R. Thicksins.

Richard Pryor

THE passing of this aged brother on Aug. 1, at Swan Hill District Hospital, Vic., has brought a sadness and a loss to the little church at Ultima. Although 83 years of age, Mr. Pryor actively served in church. The week before entering hospital he read the scriptures and led in prayer. Mr. Pryor was baptised at Barker's Creek, near to Castlemaine, in 1903, by the late A. W. Connor, and came to Ultima to take up wheat farming in 1910. With a number of others he witnessed to the New Testament teaching in this small Mallee shire, and was secretary of the church for almost 30 years. When it was planned to establish a cause at Swan Hill, he was ever ready to encourage this, and watched the growth with pride and interest. Although somewhat retiring in disposition, he was known and loved by a great number of people throughout the whole district. At the funeral service held in Ultima chapel, D. A. Cockroft, a former preacher in the district, spoke feelingly of our brother's life and worth. At the memorial service on following Sunday afternoon, H. I. Walmsley assisted Mr. Candy in the presence of a large congregation. Loving sympathy goes out to Mrs. Pryor, the widow, to Les. Pryor (Castlemaine), Mrs. Ferguson (Dartmoor) and Mrs. Jones (Colac). "We loved him well, but Jesus loved him best."—C.C.

Miss Harriet Smith

ON Aug. 13, Miss Harriet Smith, at age of 78 years, fell asleep peacefully in Christ. Many years ago she became a member of Hindmarsh church, and continued faithful in Christ until the end. A physical affliction over the last few years prevented her attendance at services, but she was always pleased to see the preacher and talk of Christ and the church. She was interested in the missionary work of church, and often sent along her contribution to this work. She was a brave, faithful soul, who often spoke of her waiting time, as one in which she was making continual preparation to meet her Lord. She believed with her whole heart that she would meet her Saviour in person, when she passed from this life. This thought enriched her whole life. In this faith she passed away. Truly of her it could be said, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." Her loved ones will ever be comforted, because of her faith and kindness. We commend them to God.—J. E. Shipway.

IN MEMORIAM

JACKSON.—In loving memory of John Barclay, called home Aug. 26, 1945; loving husband of Annie and father of Joan. "Peace, perfect peace."

JOHNSON.—In loving memory of our dear mother, who passed away on Aug. 25, 1946, also our dear sister Florrie, who was called to higher life on Sept. 21, 1922.

Not just to-day, but every day,

In silence we remember.

In the sweet by-and-by

We shall meet on the beautiful shore.

—Inserted by Elsie—Alf and Alice.

MACDONALD.—In loving memory of my brothers, Harry, killed in France, Aug. 15, 1918; Morrison, who died at Beaufort, Sept. 19, 1925; and our dear mother, Isabella, who died at Horsham on Sept. 12, 1932.

Oh, not lost, but gone before us;
Let them never be forgot;
Sweet their memory to the lovely,
In our hearts they perish not.
—Mary Dumesny, Quantong, Vic.

THANKS

Mr. and Mrs. B. L. S. Mann and Airdrie (Kilburn, S.A.) thank the many friends for their kindness during their recent attack of poliomyelitis, and inform them that all are convalescing at home. Will all please accept this notice as a personal expression of appreciation and thanks?

BIRTH

HOLMES.—Aug. 8, to Shirley and Ron—twin sons, Lindsay Charles and Noel David. All well, Emerald, Vic.

RIVETT (nee Smith).—On July 28, at Portland district hospital, to Dorothy and Bert—a daughter (Janet Dorothy).

DEATH

HART.—On Aug. 15, at her home, 31 Thomas-st., Unley, S.A., Jean, widow of late Edward J., and beloved mother of Dulcie, Beryl and Marie; aged 84 years.

WANTED

Christian family, four adults, child 13, require house, rooms, caravan or other accommodation, seaside or coast, 3 weeks from Dec. 19. Alternatively would like to arrange Christmas exchange of homes with other Christian family. References. Write A.L., 64 St. Hellier-st., Heidelberg, or 'phone JL2156.

A Christian lady to share home and expenses with a Christian lady at Old Colonists' Home, Rushall. No rent. Interview 858 Hampton-st., N. Brighton, or 'phone FX3047.

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COMING EVENT

SEPTEMBER 1 (Friday).—The Victorian Women's Conference Executive Council will meet at 2 p.m. at Swanston-st. The speaker will be Sister McIntyre, of City Mission at Port Melbourne. Mrs. Martin, of Bayswater, will lead devotional meditation. All ladies welcome.

OAKLEIGH EVANGELISTIC MISSION.

SECOND AND CONCLUDING WEEK—

Week Commencing August 27:

Sun., "Sweet Mystery of Life," R. Wilson.
Mon., "What Shall It Profit a Man?" P. French.
Tues., "What's in a Name?" L. Armstrong.
Wed., "Ignorance is Not Bliss," R. Wilson.
Thurs., "The Great Confession," P. French.
Fri., "Who Runs Your Home?" L. Armstrong.
Sun., "What Hope for the Future?" L. Armstrong.

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Come! Enjoy this time of good fellowship. Please notify the hon. sec., C. Cole, by Saturday, Sept. 9: 'phone, UM1248; address, 40 Gerald-st., Murrumbidgee, S.E.9.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

August 22, 1950

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NORTH PERTH CHURCH OF CHRIST TENT MISSION,

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SUNDAY, AUG. 27, at 6.45 p.m.

SPECIAL WOMEN'S SERVICE.

Come and hear Mrs. Washfold, President Women's Conference, in a 7-minute talk. The Nurses' Christian Movement Choir, led by Mr. C. Gadge.
Mr. J. Wiltshire will address the meeting.

RINGWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST ANNIVERSARY SERVICES,

AUGUST 27.

11 a.m., Morning worship and communion. Speaker, F. A. Youens.
3 p.m., Pleasant Sunday Afternoon. Speaker, F. A. Youens.
7 p.m., Gospel service. Speaker, A. Cameron. Past members and all friends cordially invited. Basket lunch at 1 p.m. Tea provided at 5 p.m.

Those intending to be present for tea please advise A. F. Cooke, 50 Ringwood-st., Ringwood. 'Phone, WU6551.

BACK TO DRUMCONDRA.

25th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY,

RE-UNION EVENING,

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2.

Special services, Sunday, Sept. 3.

All former members who plan to attend these celebrations please write to R. E. Tattersall, 1 Lascelles-ave., Manifold Heights, Geelong West, and hospitality will be provided if possible.

YARRAWONGA 25th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.

Sun., Sept. 10, 11 a.m., Conference President, A. B. Withers.

7 p.m., Conference President, A. B. Withers. Tues., Sept. 12, Banquet, 6.30 p.m. Speaker, A. B. Withers.

Past members and friends cordially invited. Hospitality for past members will be arranged. Contact A. R. Chappell, Telford P.O., Telford, or ring Yarrowonga 108.

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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.

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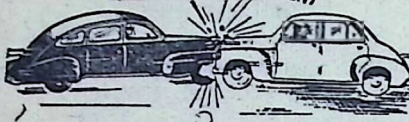
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