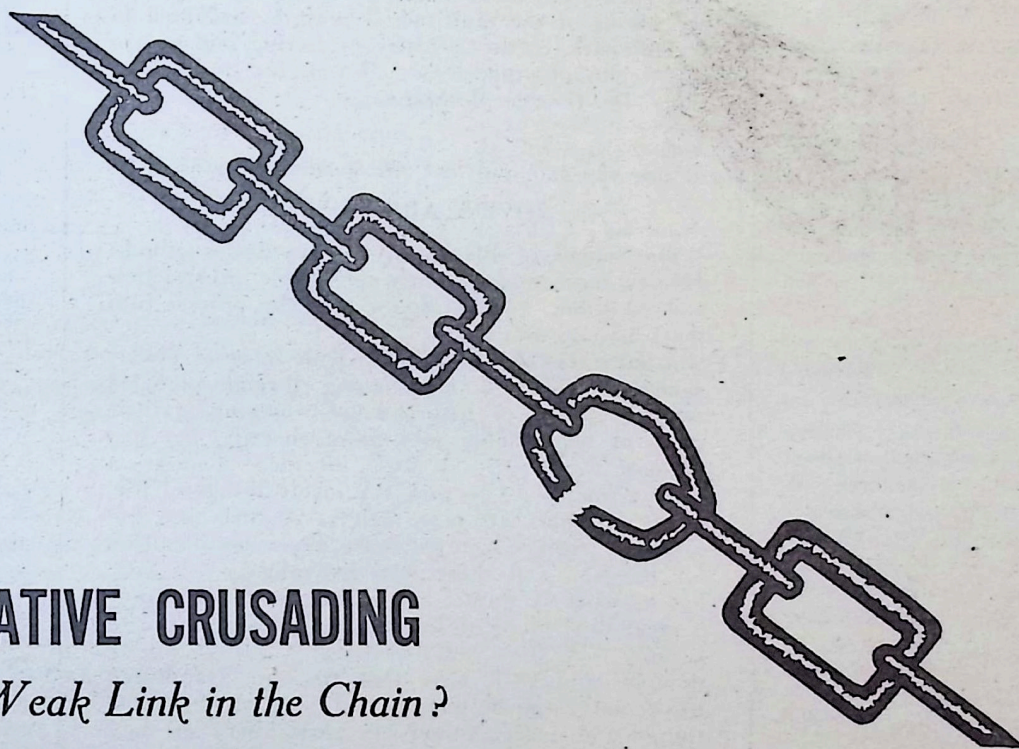


The Australian Christian

National Weekly Representing Churches of Christ



CO-OPERATIVE CRUSADING

Is There a Weak Link in the Chain?

EASTER time is conference time for churches of Christ in all Australian States, except South Australia, where it is held in September.

Conferences of churches of Christ carry no legislative powers. Congregations still retain their full congregational powers. However, unless conferences result in co-operative crusading they are purposeless. A chain aptly illustrates conference. Each link (congregation) retains its individuality, but purposefully links itself with others. It is a conscious expression that all Christians are one in Christ and every congregation an integral part of the Body of Christ. As the separate link loses its usefulness when parted from the chain, so a congregation aloof from conference limits its ability to contribute its utmost. Conferences are able to plan and enterprise in the work of the kingdom in dimensions well beyond the capacity and the ability of a local congregation. Committees and departments accept the responsibility of carrying into action the united intention of conferences. Conference is a time when the brotherhood reviews the results of co-operative crusading and revitalises the constituent parts of the brotherhood.

The axiom, a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, applies to a conference just as it does to anything else. Present-day conditions impose great strain on the church of God, and a weak link imperils the work of the churches.

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TEXT FOR THE WEEK:

God commendeth his love toward
us in that, while we were yet sin-
ners, Christ died for us.—Rom. 5:8.

(Selected by church officers,
Blackburn, Vic.)

A THOUGHT STIMULUS

Nobody grows old by merely liv-
ing a number of years; people grow
old only by deserting their ideals.
—F. P. Jones.

A friend is somebody who knows
all about you and likes you just
the same.—Mizner.

Relating Religion to Life

*Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our
sorrows.—Isaiah 53: 4.*

THE PENALTY OF LOVE.

Son of Man, I accept the price of thy revela-
tion; I accept the penalty of love. It was thine
own penalty; love laid on thee the iniquities of us
all. Hadst thou been less loving thou wouldst
have suffered less. Had thy Father not delighted
in thee he would have delivered thee; truly thy
cross was thy crown. If I love like thee, I must
pay for my love like thee. I must pay for it
with heavy-ladenness—with receiving on my head
the hands of the multitude I must be ordained to
my ministry, to thy ministry by having laid on me
the weight of other lives. I wait for thy ordina-
tion.—Dr. George Matheson.

Hate the evil and love the good.—Amos 5: 15

LOVE'S ARITHMETIC.

The school of life uses very practical methods.
All scholars are kept busy on simple subtraction
and addition. Mary Moore puts the process into
the following words:

A little less of grumbling, a little more of praise,
something just to help along through tangled
twisted ways. A little less of worrying, a little
more of trust, doing jobs more cheerily, not just
because we must. A little bit more courage, a
little keener sight to pick the lovely things of life,
to see through darkness, light. A little less im-
patience, a little gentler tone, more consideration
for the old, and those who live alone. A little
less of what "I want," and a little more of "You,"
a great deal more of loving, and "Please what can
I do?" A little self-forgetting, a lot of kindly
thought, and we'll have that treasure, Happiness,
which never can be bought. Taking off unwanted
things, and adding something great, that's the best
arithmetic to put upon life's slate.

*Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify
God in your body, and in your spirit, which are
God's.—1 Cor. 6: 20.*

STEWARDSHIP.

One of the most difficult lessons for a Christian
to learn is the relationship of money to the king-
dom of God. What a curse money may become!
How many lives it ruins! On the other hand, what
a blessing money may become! It sends the mis-
sionary to Africa. It provides a home for the
homeless. It ministers to the sick. It feeds the
hungry. It clothes the naked. It provides the
buildings in which to worship God. We all handle
money (the amount is only a matter of degree),
and in this we have to render to God an account
of our stewardship. Let us look to our stewardship.
The beginning of stewardship lies in the fact that
we owe life and all we possess, and the world in
which we live, and everything about it, to God.
Stewardship is the Christian answer to Communism.

FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS:

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The Necessity of the Cross

EDITORIAL

A KEY becomes a necessity to gain admittance to a building when doors and windows are securely locked. Likewise the many secrets of life require the necessary key before they will yield their treasure. The cross of Christ is the key that opens the doors to the meaning and the fulness of life. The answer to the riddle of the universe is God, and the answer to the riddle of God is Christ. To this suggestion Dr. Stanley Jones replies: "Then the answer to the riddle of Christ is to be found in his sacrificial spirit culminating in his cross. To understand this is to understand Christ, to understand Christ is to understand God, and to understand God is to understand the meaning of the universe and of life. The cross then is the key. If we lose this key we fumble. The universe will not open to us. But with the key in our hand and heart we know we hold its secret."

The indispensability of the cross is not an overstrained thought of preachers. It was the Christ view and admission in discussing his mission. There is a point reached in the Master's education of his disciples when he discloses in explicit language that he "must needs go to Jerusalem; he "must needs suffer many things . . . and be crucified." The why of the "must" is found in the authority under which he was working. The nature of the authority is best understood in his own words, "Therefore doth the Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it up again. No one taketh it away from me, but I lay it down, and I have authority to take it again. This commandment received I from my Father." Under such authority and the considered objective, "To give one's life as a ransom for the many," "To seek and to save that which was lost," he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem. "I must walk," he said, "to-day and to-morrow and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem"; thus deliberately Christ chose the way of the cross and all that it meant.

The cross is a disclosure of the awfulness of sin. Once humanity brought forth a perfect bloom—One who combined all the virtues and graces, yet he was put to death in that hideous way with not even a chance of fair play by the recognised decent people of that day. Discussing this point T. R. Glover says, "Men count themselves very decent people; so thought the priests and the Pharisees, and they were. There is nothing about them that one cannot find in most religious communities and in all governing classes: the sense of the value of themselves, their preconceptions and their judgments—a strong feeling of importance of the work they have to do, along with a certain reluctance to face facts, and some indifference as to what happens to other people if the accepted theory of cause or state require them to suffer. There is nothing about Pilate and Herod and the Pharisees and the priests that is very different from ourselves. But how it looks in front of the cross! We begin to see how it looks in the sight of God, and that alters everything; it upsets all our standards, and teaches us a new self criticism." Jesus had to rebuke even Peter's outlook concerning the cross. "Your outlook is not God's but man's." The cross discloses God's outlook upon the sins of the world and proclaims the remedy.

Editorial Comments

GOD TOOK THE INITIATIVE

If we sit down before Calvary and calmly think out the meaning of the cross, we see that God's love and mercy is not exploited at the cost of his justice and righteousness. If such were the case Calvary would belittle God. "Christ's death did not move God to love us, but God's love moved Christ to die for us." God took the initiative. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. God provided the Saviour whom "he made to be sin for us." He found the way to meet the necessities of righteousness and justice while exercising love and forgiveness. Christ and the cross satisfies the necessities of the Godhead. Paul refers to "a righteousness coming from God, which depends on faith in Jesus Christ and extends to all who believe. No distinction is made, for all alike have sinned, and all consciously come short of the glory of God, gaining acquittal from guilt by his free unpurchased grace through the deliverance which is found in Christ Jesus. He it is whom God put forward as a mercy-seat, rendered efficacious through faith in his blood, in order to demonstrate his righteousness—that he may be shown to be righteous himself, and the giver of righteousness to those who believe in Jesus" (Rom. 3: 22-26, Weymouth). Obviously, if God maintains his righteous character, we cannot afford to ignore the security of the cross and its conditional salvation.

THE BROTHERHOOD'S HONOR LIST

Churches of Christ have no ecclesiastical titles or vestments with which to adorn those they delight to honor. The highest honor they bestow upon a member is to ask him to become a servant of the brotherhood. When a man, approved of God by his loyalty to Christ and his word, is chosen as a conference president he acquires no authority or financial compensations. Any "greatness" he seems to possess is that of the esteem of his brethren and their respect for his office and its high responsibilities. He is nothing more or nothing less than a servant of the brotherhood. His joy is to discharge his duties in a manner that reflects credit not on himself but on the brotherhood and the cause of Christ. We bespeak for conference presidents, and indeed all in executive positions, the generous goodwill and understanding of their brethren. Let all grace the honor they confer on those called to high office by sharing the tasks in these grave days.

A CORRECTIVE FOR SELF-CONFIDENCE

It is required of a man to believe in himself. If he lacks confidence he fails to initiate. However, uncontrolled self-confidence disfranchises a Christian from the worthy representatives of the meek and lowly Jesus. Self-confidence is regulated by the constant recognition of the pre-eminence of Christ and one's dependence on him. At the very moment Jesus was outlining his kingdom the disciples were reasoning amongst themselves which of them should be greatest. Later they realised the limitlessness of Christ's kingdom, and that there was ample room for all, and an investment of their full personality. A realisation of the spaciousness of the kingdom is a corrective for self-importance. When one comes to know the mind of Christ one is "lost in wonder, love and praise."

PREACHING - A Summons to Action

Extracts from sermons delivered on March 4 by some of the N.S.W. preachers mark them as men with a concern for the ministry of preaching and teaching.

P. E. Thomas, Marrickville

Jeremiah in his day was appalled at the low ebb of the moral and spiritual life of the nation. He saw disaster ahead, declaring that the only way of salvation was a return to God. His appeal fell upon deaf ears.

It may seem of little consequence to us what happened to the Jews in the dim long ago, but the thing that should concern us is that we are travelling the same road.

If Jeremiah talked of lying words and low moral conduct, we may ask, where is truth and national righteousness to-day? We lie for military expediency, for political expediency, for business expediency, for anything and everything that suits us, and we act in the same way. Like the Jews of old, we greatly prefer trade and power and material wealth to things of the spirit. In consequence we weaken and face ultimate disaster. As Archer Jones says with truth, "We pay in the integrity of our manhood, in honor, in truth, in character. We forfeit our soul's content, and for timely gains we barter the infinities."

The church must be the prophet of to-day constantly calling both by precept and example the people back to God, to Christ and the kingdom of heaven.

R. V. Amos, Chatswood

Any serious student of scripture must be impressed by the high conception that Jesus had concerning prayer. To use Alexander Whyte's phrase, he believed in "the magnificence of prayer." And not only that, he sought also to impress his followers with the same idea. It seems, therefore, that our spiritual poverty is largely the result of our failure to take God at his word, and our refusal to believe him when he says that he will open the windows of heaven in answer to the faithful, fervent, feeling prayer of the believer. Let us, then, renew our faith in the power of prayer. But that prayer must be filial speech and not formal statement. And above all, we must not forget the truth that Dr. A. M. Fairbairn once stated, namely, that prayer is the communion with God of a God-like mind. It is such prayer that opens the windows of heaven for the outpouring of divine blessing.

W. J. Crossman, Wiley Park

"The mercy of God" was the theme and the text 2 Tim. 1: 16, "The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain." When exhorting the church W. J. Crossman said, "In the ministrations of this man solace is brought to one of God's representative men. The apostle was a prisoner in a Roman dungeon. The comforts of his own hired house were denied him. Nero was the Emperor, and what a man he was! One by one Paul's friends have deserted him; at last he had to say, 'Only Luke is with me.' While Christianity was thus enduring persecution, Onesiphorus, an Ephesian who had befriended Paul in his own city, reached Rome; he learned of the apostle's fate: he determined to go to his relief. 'He sought me out very diligently,' says Paul, 'and found me.' The task was not easy, and so as he writes to Timothy, he simply utters a prayer for his beloved friend, 'The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus. The Lord grant unto him that he may find the mercy of the Lord

in that day.' Can we fail to grasp the un-failing charm of these words? Onesiphorus did not blush for the cross; to him it was neither folly nor shame, hence we find him seeking out Paul—no slight proof of the profundity of his faith."

L. G. Read, Hamilton

The Bible is something more than an epic work of human genius. It is more than the best of all books. In a unique sense it is God's book. It is God's revelation out of the great silence. That one impressive fact differentiates this book from all that has gone before, and from all that shall come after. And here is the enormity of to-day's neglect—not only that we have cut ourselves adrift from an enriching social influence, but that we have proclaimed our indifference to the will of him who made us, and who holds us all as in the hollow of his hand.

This book has a significance, a grandeur, an eminence, unshared by any other. It is the word of God to our stricken and sorrowing race. Losing it, we are more than impoverished—we are hopelessly lost.

Ira A. Paternoster, North Sydney

The Roman soldiers were doubtless not the first, and certainly not the last, to make a joke of a holy occasion. When they placed a purple robe on Jesus, a staff in his hand and a crown (of thorns) on his head, they thought it was great fun. Down through the ages other men have treated Jesus in similar fashion, forgetting the while they were making light of the greatest Person of all time. To-day men choose Barabbas in place of Jesus. The lesser good in life takes precedence over the greater. Men live for to-day, forgetful of eternity. Some openly deny him, rejoicing in their blasphemy of his name. Many profess to own him, yet refuse to serve him. To them we hear the Master say, "Why call ye me Lord, and do not the things I say?" He is worthy of better treatment from those he died to save.

R. Saunders, Bexley North

W. E. Sangster in "The Art of Sermon Construction" says, "When one thinks of the awful wounds life administers at times, the sudden bereavements and betrayals, the secret anxieties, and the gnawing inner griefs to be able to speak a sure word of God to suffering souls is an honor of which no man is truly worthy." A modern Christian with the songs of David and Daniel in his heart has testified, "Just a quarter of a century should be a sufficient time to prove thoroughly the blessings of God, for such has been my experience. In times of sorrow he has proved a comfort, and has given the joys of heaven where sorrow should have been. In sickness I have seen him perform mighty miracles; in sin-sick lives I have seen him bring the same wonderful change. In days of despair and warfare I have seen his guiding influence, and can truly say, 'He is a God that doeth exploits.'"

Not I but Christ be honored, loved, exalted.
Not I but Christ be known, be seen, be heard,
Not I but Christ in every look and action.
Not I but Christ in every deed and word.

W. Thomson, Wagga

Something that is common to all of us, in certain measures, is time. Because it is so common men waste it. It is true that they are forever trying to 'save time,' but do so without utilising that which they have to good, much less holy, purposes. In reality time is far more precious than the most thoughtful of us may realise, unless it be he who knows he has little of it left. . . . Save time as you will, it takes Christ to change the precious moments of life into such acts and words as will meet us in eternal glory. Even as he changed the common water into wine at Cana of Galilee, so does he change the moments of a dedicated life. . . . The phrase "part-time" has had too big a place in our vocabulary in past days. It has thus found its way into Christian living, to the great loss of the church. . . . "Time once lost can never be regained" is an adage oft repeated, but when it means time lost for the Master, time lost for the development of our own souls, time lost when we could have been a blessing to others, it becomes a knell.

G. E. Burns, Mosman

A reverent study of the prophetic word reveals the amazing accuracy with which the prophets portrayed the life, the death and the triumph of Messiah. The twenty-second Psalm is an irrefutable proof of the claims of Jesus. In this morning's reading of fourteen verses we have, "The parting of his garments, the casting of lots for his robe, his prayer for deliverance, and the triumphant cry, 'Thou hast heard me.' We have his resurrection, and his gathering with his brethren in the midst of the church, the world-wide spread of the gospel, the establishment of his kingdom, the governorship of Messiah, and finally the answer to the cry of the prophet, 'Who shall declare his generation?' (Isa. 53: 8.) The Psalmist replies: 'A seed shall serve him; it shall be counted to him for a generation.' The childless Christ has found his children in the seed that shall serve him."



Worth a Moment

Men who get, but never give,
Last for long, but never live.

The government imposes taxes on our income. We ourselves impose taxes on our output.



"The Christian life is not an imitation of, but a reproduction of Christ."

"The man who lives close to God is never found bragging about his own holiness."

Neutralising the Work of the Devil

The Son of God appeared for the purpose of undoing the work of the devil.—1 John 3: 12.

"YOU SOURED WHAT WAS SWEET"

"So at last I have met you face to face. I have heard about you ever since I could understand, and for some years I served you. Now I am face to face with you. I want you to know how much I despise you. I say that because of what you did to me and what you are doing to thousands of others. You lied, misrepresenting life to me. You soured what was sweet, corrupted what was pure, laughed at my ideals, and turned me against God. You were out to spoil this life for me, and to have me lost for eternity. Fortunately my eyes were opened to see how deceitful you are. I'm glad of this opportunity to tell you how I despise you for what you did in me. Don't think I am afraid of you. Not for a moment. Sometimes you take me unawares, and I fall into your snare; but I'm not in it long. You know that, for I love and serve One who defeated you on a Cross. You don't like me mentioning the Cross, do you? I love talking about it. Don't imagine you will ever separate me from the One who defeated you there. The more you try the more I despise you, and the richer becomes my fellowship with Jesus. If there is anything for which I can thank you, it is this, that you make me keep close to my Lord. What you intend to be my undoing is really the making of me. Enough about myself. I am concerned about the welfare of others. I go into lots of homes where you are at work. I see young people you are ruining. You are spoiling our community and nation. You keep the nations in constant turmoil. You are making the blood to flow again in Korea. Haven't you the slightest vestige of pity left in you? Your gloating expression and cruel grin reveal you haven't. I despise you for it. Really, I cannot understand you. You know you are doomed. Jesus has defeated you, and soon will destroy you. Why must you drag thousands of people into Hell with you? Why cannot you redeem the past a little by being honest with people? You laugh at me. Don't think I appeal to you in this way because I think we are being defeated. If it is fight you want, it is fight you will get. We will not rest until we have driven you out of the last life, and you with all your evil works are cast into Hell. God has pledged himself to do it, and you know it. I'm in this fight on God's side. . . ."

Just then I became conscious of Someone at my side, and a hand placed on my shoulder. The Devil swore and slinked away.—*I. J. Chivell, Mildura, Vic.*

"I WOULD ASK HIM TO READ THE BOOK OF REVELATION"

I must confess that I do not want to meet him, but if by any chance it were possible to meet him in this life in person, what then?

Would it be best to tell him how wicked he was, and how terrible he was because of all the evil he had caused? Probably he would be very pleased to know that he was so successful. No, I do not think I would give him this satisfaction; rather I would use his own weapon, discouragement. I would show him how foolish he was to be fighting against God; he is a defeated enemy from the moment Christ died on the Cross and rose from the grave. We know that he trembles at the name and person of Jesus Christ. Surely he must realise that

he can never overcome the church, for Jesus has reminded us that nothing can prevail against the church. I would urge him to read again the Book of Revelation, for I know that as he read, he would read of his ultimate defeat. Satan is constantly using his weapon, but I have a Leader and Saviour in whom I can overcome. Satan fights in his own strength and therefore must lose. The ultimate victory is with Christ, God's Son (1 Cor. 15: 24-28).—*Russell Banks, Swan Hill, Vic.*

If you could have five minutes' conversation with the Devil, what would you say? Several have responded to the editor's request to exercise their imagination. The response is not an effort to entertain readers, but a challenge to confront evil in a positive manner.

"LISTEN, SATAN!"

The One who delivered me from your control, the Lord Jesus Christ, did not question your right or your power when you tempted him without success, but surely you are aware of sin and its consequent shame and misery which you have caused in this once beautiful world. You comfort yourself by despising the untold multitudes whose lives have been reborn as a result of what you thought was to be a final victory for yourself. Is this not enough proof that your doom is imminent?

May it not even yet be within the range of possibility that, in spite of your failure, there may yet be hope for your deliverance and reconciliation to the Father through the atoning blood of his Son.

Satan, once fairest of heaven, yield in repentance to God; lay down your pride and own his supremacy. He will not cast out even his arch enemy.—*J. Anderson, Geelong, Vic.*

"I'M RELYING ON ROMANS 8: 33, 39"

Mr. Brooker: Sorry to jostle you, Mr. De Vil.
Mr. De Vil: That's all right; I meet people this way. How are you doing?

Mr. Brooker: Getting along. It's difficult to apply Christian principles to business these days.

Mr. De Vil: No wonder you are finding it hard; the only way of success is to keep your business dealings and your Christianity quite apart. Get as much as you can, anyhow, anywhere, anytime. Do you attend church?

Mr. Brooker: Yes. I suppose you never go?

Mr. De Vil: I never miss; that's where I do my best work. I get the members to criticise one another, find fault with the preacher or a leader, withhold their offerings or support because of a trifling incident.

Mr. Brooker: Do they take notice of you?

Mr. De Vil: I'll say. I get them to stay away from church to build their homes, repair the car, paint the house and attend to the garden. I persuade them to crowd into Sunday the things that belong to week days.

Mr. Brooker: Well, I must get along. Your name?

Mr. De Vil: Mr. De Vil; see you later.

Mr. Brooker: Not me, I am relying on Rom. 8: 38-39.—*L. E. Brooker, Caulfield, Vic.*

"STOP ROARING LIKE A LION, SATAN"

"Now hop it, and smartly. I'm through with you. One is my Master, even Christ. Know you not that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey. It is written, 'Yield not your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God.'"

"Stop roaring like a lion, I haven't finished yet. Now about the promised reward from your service. Contentment, wasn't it? Contentment! Pardon my mirth. You wretched deceiver! Wrecks in Europe, chaos in Korea, blighted homes and blasted lives, yet still you offer contentment. What rot! Now get moving and keep moving out of my experience. By the way, there is a story you should read in chapter twenty of the Book of Revelation. Read it often, especially the tenth verse. Yes, especially verse ten. Good-bye!"

"The only weapons for fighting against the devil are scripture and scorn," said Martin Luther, and who knows better than Martin? I concur.—*G. A. Grainger, Williamstown, Vic.*

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It will doubtless remain problematical whether the Devil ever listens. Like some known persons, he is very loquacious, and may find it easier to talk than listen. Indeed, it may be his major sin—a refusal to listen to the voice of God and to the children of God.



A Call to Conference

N. H. Matthews, Conference President, N.S.W.

With a deep sense of gratitude we all thank our heavenly Father for the great privilege of another year of service, praying and trusting that our stewardship has indeed been pleasing to him.

What a wonderful and magnificent opportunity conference affords for a lovely fellowship and co-operative spirit. Let us all remember that the success of conference depends upon every constituent unit; may we therefore create a beautiful atmosphere deep in spiritual devotion and continue to show unswerving loyalty, love and witness to Christ, ever anxious to uphold the honors of his name.

We belong to a great brotherhood; let us continue to ever strive to be more worthy of the cause of New Testament Christianity. Yes, we have a tremendous responsibility; may we together face the task with the fullest confidence, knowing God will give us the strength if we are ready and willing to be used in his service. In Heb. 3: 14 we read, "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end."



Seventeen students are in residence at the Churches of Christ Bible College, N.S.W. The first term for 1951 commenced on Feb. 21.

B. W. Manning commenced the seventh year of his ministry at Fullarton, S.A., on March 4.

Ira Paternoster is now in the fourteenth year of his ministry at North Sydney, N.S.W.

Cyril Flood concludes his ministry with the church at Ponsonby-rd., Auckland, N.Z., at the end of March, and will undertake special work under the direction of the Dominion Home Mission Committee.

Friends of Chaplain H. A. G. Clark will regret to learn that he is in hospital in Japan recovering from pleurisy and pneumonia.

A recurring adverb of the New Testament is NOW. It puts meaning into the fact of Easter—"Now is Christ risen from the dead."

A group of young people from the Mildura church, Vic., has arranged to come to Melbourne for the Easter Conference. W. W. Saunders, State chaplain of the Pi Christian Fraternal Orders, is arranging accommodation for about twelve of these, and another six, all girls, will stay at the Waterman Memorial Camp Site, Monbulk.

Keith Skillicorn has now commenced his work in India. "I am writing from Khuntipara, Sarguja," he says, "where Jack Christie, together with his loyal band of Christian workers, is seeking to establish a permanent Christian mission against what many would term overwhelming odds. Some, in face of such bitter opposition, would be tempted to abandon the whole project, but dare we do this? It is not for us to decide, for the love of Christ is urging us on to bring new life to these suffering people, at present so firmly bound by sin, superstition and fear." He explains in great detail the nature and extent of the opposition to the work of the missionaries. In a concluding paragraph he writes: "A Moslem chief man in a neighboring village has just arrived to reveal to us a plot by an official to beat up two of our teachers tonight on their way to the night schools."

A highlight of the 47th annual Southern Conference, S.A., was the inauguration of a youth rally in the evening, which proved to be a great success, extra seating accommodation being required. The programme was arranged and provided by G. R. Stirling (State youth director) and young people from the Mt. Compass and metropolitan churches. There was one decision. The following officers and committee were elected for ensuing year: G. Cox, president; Mr. Thorowgood, vice-president; J. P. Yelland, secretary; G. Grundy, treasurer.

The 1951 conference of the Victorian Local Option Alliance will be held in the Independent Hall, Collins-st., Melbourne, on April 23, at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m., when the annual report and balance sheet will be presented together with resolutions on important matters. Prominent speakers will deal with various phases of the liquor question and discussion will follow.

Y. M. Middleton recently compiled a brief history of the Chatswood church, N.S.W. He records that during the past 32 years the church has contributed £12,750, of which £3335 was for Home Missions. During the above period nearly one third of the total receipts was disbursed to brotherhood and other than local work.

Inglewood church, W.A., tendered a farewell to Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Greenwood on the eve of their departure to their new work at Kalgoorlie. Mr. Greenwood, as an elder and supply preacher, had made himself very valuable to the Inglewood congregation. Mrs. Greenwood also has done a great work as cradle roll superintendent and teacher of the senior girls. She was also president of the Ladies' Guild. L. Peacock made to them both some lovely presentations from church. The conference president was also present to make a presentation on behalf of the brotherhood to both Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood.

Missionary News

MORE BAPTISMS, INDIA.

Following the report of three baptisms at Dhoraja and six at Bose (an entirely new village) comes the good news from Baramati that a further eight have been baptised. These added to those recorded in India and twenty on Aoba Christmas time brings the total to thirty-seven in two months.

"On Sunday, Feb. 18, there were eight baptisms at Baramati. One was of Sonabai Jadhav. This was a real conversion, and she is so happy. She has already tried to win other members of her family to Christ, and has succeeded in more than interesting her nephew. He writes that he is daily reading the New Testament which we gave him. Sonabai has also told her brother, and he may come some day to be baptised. This is a wonderful thing.

The others were from the boys' home. Peter Khan was baptised, and also gained a pass into the High School. (Peter was brought into the Shirigonda home by a policeman when the lad was just a wee mite. He had been abandoned and thrown into a hole. The policeman felt there was no one else who would care for him. He found a home, and has been with us ever since.) As supporters are keenly interested in the boys they support we append the names: Peter Khan, Prasad Powar, Babu Kokare, Shamsunder Daniel Peter, Simon Powar, Chandrakant Chakranarayan, Keru Yellappa Jadhav. I am really happy about the children."—Edna Vawser.

HAPPY GATHERING ON MAEWO.

We have had the joy of appointing Isaiah to eldership on behalf of the churches on Maevo. The day had been chosen previously for us to come, so fortunately we were able to keep the appointment, which is not always possible. Thanks to the "Grace" we were able to meet any sea between Maevo and Aoba. Abel Barney took a few dozen loaves of bread and other things as a present from the Aoba churches as a contribution to the kai-kai. On arrival we contacted the other churches at Pieteraro, Bytora and Mundarek, and a large majority was able to attend the service on Sunday.

The previous elder died in 1943. The vacancy had never been filled. An appointment to eldership means much in the way of leadership, for one is not merely a spiritual guide and leader, but a helper in every sphere and activity of village life... literally a "father" to all. Hence the grave responsibility of leadership is not readily desired by men in the church, for it is difficult to devote time and money as needed to such a task. But those who have accepted the responsibility have nobly stood by their vows and carried on faithfully to the best of their ability. This means a tremendous amount of work for the elder, if he is conscientious enough to spend time and money as demanded. Practically nothing will be done without consulting the elder, and he must give willingly of his time to be an advisor and friend.—Harold J. Finger.



A Message to the Nation

(Issued to the Australian nation by the Australian Council for the World Council of Churches at its annual conference at the final session, February 15, 1951.)

The Australian Council for the World Council of Churches, meeting in Jubilee year, believes that sooner or later denial or forgetfulness of God brings calamity to any people. In Australia we are in danger of ignoring God and setting up idols of group and class loyalties, of money, material comfort and human sufficiency. Idolatry always divides and destroys. The belief that God is the owner of all things makes possible a responsible, united Commonwealth. Without it there develop the unworthy exploitation and wastage of human and natural resources. Without it, also, personal and sectional selfishness are hindering the solution of our most urgent practical problem, inflation. In any Commonwealth worthy of the name, the Christian religion must be given its rightful place in national affairs and in the personal lives of its citizens, and be more thoroughly related to the total life of the community. Such acknowledgment of God as we know him in Jesus Christ will provide the spiritual foundations for our rapidly expanding national life.

Reconciliation is Australia's greatest need. We are dangerously divided by industrial, political and religious conflicts. National unity will not be achieved merely by condemning Communistic or other systems, but rather by the acceptance of positive national aims. These should include a greater degree of social justice and a fuller life for all citizens. A united reconciled Australia must rest on justice, respect for law and compassion. We stand by the principle of arbitration, but its processes must be constantly examined and accelerated, and it must always be supplemented by personal contact and face to face negotiation. Arbitration deals with things only as they are. It must be accompanied by creative thinking and progressive action which shall meet the deepest needs, and resolve the fundamental conflicts of our society.

We also urge Australians to recognise the larger responsibility that has come to our nation in international affairs. Every effort should be made to expand and improve our relations with other nations, especially with Asia. For example, West New Guinea must not be allowed to remain a cause of friction with Indonesia, and if no settlement is reached recourse should be made to the good offices of the United Nations for decision. Full support should be given to the United Nations as the most promising achievement in world community yet reached. We are alarmed at the continuing conflict in Korea, and are convinced that its course should not be determined by military consideration alone. We view with horror and compassion the long-drawn-out suffering of the Korean people. We endorse the British Government's view that there must be no further crossing of the 38th parallel by United Nations forces without the fullest consultation with the members of the United Nations, and we would add, without further serious and patient attempts at negotiation.

We believe that international justice demands that the Peking Government be admitted to the United Nations, and be given its full place in the comity of nations.

Recognising the dimensions and the urgency of the problems confronting Australia and the world, we call all our people to constant prayer. Only as we draw upon the unfailing resources of almighty God through worship, prayer and obedience to his commands shall his purpose for Australia and the world be fulfilled.

The Ministries of OUR WOMEN Federal Activities!

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES.

South Australia.—At the opening meeting on February 1, Mrs. Hamilton Brooker led the devotions. A welcome was extended by the president to Mrs. C. Vero after her trip abroad, and to Mrs. Candy whose husband has taken up the work at Grote-st. church. An all-day conference has been planned for March 29, when it is hoped there will be a good attendance.

New South Wales.—Members of the Parramatta District Conference led the devotional session at the meeting on March 2. The president welcomed the visitors, among them being Mrs. Warne, Victoria, and Mrs. Thrapp, Queensland, and also welcomed Mrs. Stephenson, wife of the principal of Woolwich College. The subject of "Citizenship" was introduced by Mrs. Snow, after which several delegates took part in a stimulating discussion. The consensus of opinion was that Christian women are called upon to interest themselves, and to take part in community and national affairs.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.

South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania and New South Wales have reported good attendances at the World Day of Prayer services, with a greater number of suburban and country meetings. The central meetings were held as follows:

Adelaide, at the Methodist Church, Pirie-st., when Lady Norrie, wife of the Governor, the Lady Mayoress, and the president of the National Council of Women were among the 600 women at the service. The address was given by Mrs. Brian Robin, wife of the Bishop of Adelaide. A ladies' choir of 40 members, under the leadership of Miss Mavis Roberts, provided the music. A youth session was held at 7.45 p.m., when 200 young people attended. Miss Barbara Pitt gave the address and deaconess Dorothy Clark presided. The Salvation Army choir led the singing.

Brisbane, at the Albert-st. Methodist Church when about 500 women attended. Mrs. Freeman Davies presided at the morning session, and Mrs. Cunningham gave the address. At the afternoon session Mrs. Dingle was leader and Mrs. McDiarmont the speaker.

Hobart held the service in the Cathedral, which was crowded to hear Lady Binney, the wife of the Governor, give the address.

Sydney had a good attendance at the Pitt-st. Congregational Church. Mrs. Dixon, president of the World Day of Prayer Committee, led the service throughout, and the address was given by Miss E. Lang, of India. Lady Northcott, wife of the Governor, sent a greeting and regretted she could not be present.

We hope to be able to give the reports from the other States next time.—R. McCallum.



A. M. GLASSON S.A.

Sends Greetings

To all States assembling in conference at Easter, South Australia (which holds its conference in September) sends greetings, trusting that all will be caught up with the oneness of purpose and grasp again the bigger vision of what Christ's kingdom can mean to ourselves and to our confused world.

Let us not be entangled with only statistics, recordings and findings of all the yesterdays, with its receipts and payments, and in the balance be found wanting. So often we have erred

in this way, and almost unknown and unnoticed, Jesus of Nazareth has passed by.

This year, in South Australia, our emphasis is on "The Inner Mission" to the churches, claiming and believing that His power is available, and can be ours to-day as it was in that church which we seek to restore. If we have that oneness of purpose, and one desire, then men will say again of us—"These people are different. We want to be like them."

Together let us be messengers bearing the good news.

"Rise up, O men of God. Have done with lesser things.

Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of kings."



A MESSAGE TO THE CHURCHES.

(Issued by the Australian Council for the World Council of Churches.)

We the members of the Australian Council for the World Council of Churches meeting in annual conference in the Jubilee Year, send greeting to our seven constituent churches. We give thanks to almighty God for his gift to us of Australia and for the achievements under him of all our people.

We have been considering the many phases of our fellowship of churches within the world-wide movement of which we form a part.

We have issued a message to the nation, and this will, of course, be shared by all citizens.

In planning the future programme of our Commission on Evangelism, we are moved to address you, the people of the churches we represent.

The churches exist in the community as the living Body of Jesus Christ. We all must face the challenge which has come to us to realise anew our responsibility to our divine Lord. We know and you know that a majority of Australians never darken the doors of our churches. They have no conception of the significance of Jesus Christ for them, neither do they know the church as a spiritual home. This fact should lead us not to censure them, but rather to question ourselves.

No church will attract unless it contains a company of people whose warmth of fellowship ensures a ready welcome. Too many churches fail to achieve this. The congregation is often cold, aloof, and just a group of individuals.

The sense of being a family in Christ is essential; but cannot exist unless he himself knits us together, and warms us with love for him and each other. Once we enter into the true fellowship of worship our churches come alive.

Into such a friendly and united fellowship we can invite people. And we should. If our Lord came to seek and save, we, too, must seek. Too long have we left this work to clergy and ministers. It is both the privilege and duty of each member actively to seek others. We can at least say to non-worshippers, "Come and see."

The tragedy of the world to-day is the tragedy of disunion, of wars, class bitterness, industrial troubles, broken homes. Unity comes of a common life—seeking together in worship the life of Jesus Christ. Thus we find life. And if we draw others into our fellowship, so that they, too, come to know the life in Christ, they also live.

An active worship, a living fellowship, an out-reaching missionary soul: these are the need of the churches in Australia to-day. At the same time the Australian churches cannot live to themselves any more than can the nation. Our missionary endeavor must seek to bring the

peoples of other races, especially of Asia the Pacific, to the knowledge of Christ and fellowship with ourselves in him.

To this venture we earnestly call you in the name of Christ, and for the well-being of our country and the wider world.

*I've been
thinking . . .*

By Horace Kingsbury.

I've been thinking of a boyhood friend who grew up with me in the Sunday school at Enmore, New South Wales, during the fine ministry of the late Geo. T. Walden. He was a friendly soul, and we soon became attached to each other. We were encouraged early in our lives



to accept responsibilities in the way of Christian service, and we were given training that stood us in good stead then, and has meant much to us throughout the succeeding years. In our young manhood we were separated by sea and land, but there has always been a blessed tie binding our hearts in Christian

love. Now in God's good providence, we find ourselves near again, though unfortunately we see but little of one another.

I've been thinking I would like to write something about this friend while he is active in the Lord's work and I am able. For years he has served in a secretarial capacity, without any certain congregation to love him. He has filled a position where one seems to belong to nobody in particular and to everybody in general. His best friend has always been Jesus, and God has always been his main dependence. The stamp of divine approval has been upon him and upon the work he has been enabled to do. Now as he moves among the brotherhood in Victoria, I can but imagine the uplift he brings to the churches he is called to serve, and I can well imagine the blessing he would bring to me and mine if we were among the "isolated" brethren, and our home came within his wide circuit. I believe in "flowers for the living," and invite you to join in this deserved tribute to William Gale.



What one cannot do alone is done with God; his power is adequate. "God is able to make all grace abound" unto "all sufficiency in all things." His resources meet life's crises at all times, in all places, under all conditions. "Though hard pressed on every side, we are never hemmed in; though perplexed, never driven to despair; though pursued, never abandoned; though struck down, never killed!" (2 Cor. 4: 8, 9, 20th Cent. N.T.). Christianity is a cultivated optimism whose formula is found in Phil. 4: 6, 7.—H. G. Payne, Lutwyche, Qld.

INTERSTATE C H U R C H N E W S

"... they rehearsed all that God had done with them."

Discipleship

Mrs. Tomlinson, Maryborough, Vic.
Norma Leaworthy, Geelong, Vic.
Glenis Eastwood, Geelong, Vic.
Patricia Gray, Geelong, Vic.
Shirley Gray, Geelong, Vic.
Pamela Tippet, Geelong, Vic.
Beverly Seal, West Preston, Vic.
Gillian Leonard, Chatswood, N.S.W.
Mrs. Garlick, Chatswood, N.S.W.
Miss M. Hansen, Balaklava, S.A.
Delma Mayse, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.
Frances Vasey, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.
Meryl Smith, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.
Lauris Candy, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.
Pamela Vasey, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.
Fay Vasey, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.
Graham Blackaby, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.
Barry Pryor, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.

Membership

Marie Taylor, Geelong, Vic.
Mr. McDonald, Geelong, Vic.
Mr. V. Muir, Chatswood, N.S.W.
Mrs. V. Muir, Chatswood, N.S.W.
Mrs. E. Bennett, Chatswood, N.S.W.
Mr. and Mrs. C. Ferris, Cheltenham, Vic.
Mr. French, Middle Park, Vic.

Marriage

Grace Smart and Alwyn Somerton, West Preston, Vic.
Thelma Roberts and Philip Woolford, Balaklava, S.A.

Fallen Asleep

J. Roberts, Adelaide (Grote-st.), S.A.

Queensland

Roma.—Mr. Clymer has concluded a year's ministry with church, and has been re-engaged for a further twelve months. Mr. and Mrs. Clymer are at present holidaying with their parents in Sydney, and will return to Brisbane in time to take part in annual conference at Easter. Attendances have been seriously affected during past few months on account of several members being on holidays.

New South Wales

Beverly Hills.—The improvement in the general appearance of chapel and grounds is a result of several working bees by the men. The inside facilities have been greatly improved also. On Feb. 18 Mr. Cavill conducted special youth service. Mr. Fairbrother made presentation of suitable books to Miss E. Lincoln and Colin Wheat as they enter Woolwich Bible College. Representatives of auxiliaries also expressed appreciation of past services of two young people

and presented useful books. Messages in song from Mrs. Clarice Inglis, and the Bible class and young people's choir were much appreciated. During period Feb. 18 to March 4, P. E. Thomas, of Marrickville, conducted special teaching mission. A splendid time of spiritual uplift was experienced by all. Mr. and Mrs. N. Matthews, conference president, and Mr. and Mrs. B. Clymer, of Roma, Qld., were among visitors on last night.

North Sydney.—Annual meeting held on a recent date showed the church in good heart. Interesting reports from all departments revealed faithful service rendered. Financially over £1400 had been raised, much of this going to various brotherhood activities. Preacher's salary had been increased in line with higher cost of living, and a substantial credit balance was in hand. At opening of college the principal and Mrs. Stephenson, together with members of their family and students, were entertained, the students leading a brief devotional session, after which a social hour was spent.

Tasmania

Launceston (Margaret-st.).—Averages for February were: 11 a.m., 80; 7 p.m., 79; and communion, 88. Lower figures due to removal of several regular attendants from Launceston. Annual offering for aborigines mission exceeds £48. Matron Skirving has left for England and Mrs. F. Motley for U.S.A. Miss June Mold has gone to Melbourne Bible Institute; Kevin Edwards and Glen Griffiths have both been transferred to Hobart. Ladies' Guild have recommenced their meetings for 1951. One lady confessed Christ at gospel service on Feb. 4, and was baptised the following Sunday evening. Mrs. J. H. Harrison has been appointed secretary of Bible school and Mrs. G. J. Foot Cradle Roll superintendent. G. J. Foot has relinquished superintendency of Bible school and T. J. Wilmot is carrying on until the appointment of a new superintendent. Following the evening service on Feb. 11, Miss Win Walker (on furlough from India) gave a fine lantern lecture on mission field there. Miss Walker is the "living link" of the Margaret-st. church. Mrs. Margaret Stevens is a patient in the general hospital following an operation. Mrs. Neville has had the misfortune to break her ankle again. Bible school has given £25 to the overseas mission committee for orphan support in India. A special offering for N.S.W. flood relief realised £10/4/3.

Hobart (Collins-st.).—Recent services have been well attended, and many visitors from mainland States have been worshipping with church. All services have been conducted by local brethren, assisted by visiting preachers. Choir, which for a considerable time has lapsed, has been reformed under leadership of Reg Bradshaw, who has recently come to Hobart from Victoria. Rita Heard, who for many months has been a patient at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, is at last making progress toward recovery. On Feb. 23 a social was conducted by cricket club. Young men are helped towards fuller Christian service through this auxiliary.

Mole Creek.—At church annual meeting on Feb. 12, officers elected were J. E. Byard, secretary, and J. D. Byard treasurer and reporter to

"Australian Christian." Visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Reeves, from Qld. Mr. Reeves exhorted church and preached gospel on two Sunday evenings. Mr. Hill, of Penguin, spoke on Feb. 4. On Feb. 13 Miss Winnie Walker, of India, gave a thrill in picture and story of what the gospel is doing there. Gwen and Betty Byard have commenced a young people's fellowship, which is growing. Church attendance is rarely other than every member present. Contributions are good for a church so small.

South Australia

Strathalbyn.—Average attendances at morning services have been 46 and 38 in evening. Church's 82nd anniversary was held on Feb. 18. Albert Anderson conducted services.

Pt. Pirie.—Average attendances for four Sundays in February have been: breaking of bread 35, gospel service 31, communicants 38. R. Dobbs, from College of Bible, concluded an interim ministry with the church on Feb. 11. Deacons of church have again filled the services. T. Edwards, president of Northern District Conference, spoke on morning of Feb. 18. F. Green took the evening service. On Feb. 25 J. Donley gave the message in morning and C. W. McDonald had charge of gospel service. Ministers from Adelaide will be visiting church on first Sunday in each month, and will supply both services. Offerings for all work have been excellent; an extra amount of £2 was received for aborigines offering on Feb. 4. Bible school is the only auxiliary of church that has reopened again, and attendances have been fair.

Adelaide (Grote-st.).—Attendances have been good, over 115 breaking bread for day. Gospel services particularly well attended, 200 present on Feb. 25. Ten young people have made their decisions and one re-consecration. Four have been received into fellowship by letter of transfer. The newly-formed Y.P.S.C.E. flying squad has arranged an interesting syllabus, and will provide plenty of opportunities for personal service. Choir is practising for Easter service on March 18, at which the "Crucifixion" by Stainer will be sung. J. Roberts, a church officer and member of choir, passed away on Feb. 26 after a long illness.

Fullarton.—Weekly prayer meeting was arranged at home of D. W. Thorpe on Feb. 27. After meeting opportunity was taken to surprise him. A presentation of a book was made in recognition of his retirement from active Bible school work. He has been associated with Bible schools as scholar and teacher for 67 years. Evening was brought to a close with a basket supper. Another happy event was on Thursday night, when a good number met in kindergarten room for a kitchen evening for Miss Janet McLean, who is to be married shortly to Robert Watts, who is entering the Methodist ministry. On Saturday the Bible school picnic was held at Clarendon. Thankoffering which in the past has been received in March for debt reduction is to be used now for improved lighting and floor covering, as the property is free from debt. This amounted to £36. At evening service on Mar. 4, the monthly address on prophecy was given by B. W. Manning; one man answered gospel call.

Kilburn.—A. Roberts representing Prospect church conducted 11.15 a.m. service on Mar. 4. C. Schwab was speaker and helpfully addressed 35 adults and 21 young worshippers. He also notified church that manse had been finally located at Florence-ave., Blair Athol, which position would adequately serve Kilburn-Enfield Heights circuit. Church was also thrilled to learn of personal interview with E. C. Hinrichsen with promise of mission to follow that to be held at Mile End. Bible school attendance was 120 and J.C.E. 17. Arrival of N. G. Kingston and family is eagerly awaited by both church and auxiliaries.

Queenstown.—Congregations are now picking

86th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA,

MARCH 21 to 29.

Synopsis of Programme—

Wed., March 21—Women's Conference, at Lygon-st. All day from 10.30

Thurs., March 22—

2.30—Swanston-st., Reception by President Women's Conference; for Country Women.
3—Lygon-st., Preachers' Session.

5.45—Lygon-st., Pre-Conference Tea and Discussion.

7.45—Lygon-st., Opening Session General Conference. President's Welcome and Address. Reports.

Friday, March 23—Lygon-st.

9.30—Conference Continued. Address by Incoming President.

2—Vital Departmental Discussions.

7—Information concerning Canberra Project.

7.30—Home Mission Demonstration.

Sat., March 24—Lygon-st., Conference Continued.

9.30—Discussion. Reports.

1.45—Further Vital Discussions.

7.30—Overseas Missions Demonstration.

Sunday, March 25—

2.45—Independent Church, Collins-st., Conference Sermon Session.

Monday, March 26—

All Day Picnic at Wattle Park.

7.30—Lygon-st., Christian Endeavour Rally.

Tuesday, March 27—

5.45—Lygon-st., College Old Boys' Club Reunion.

7.45—Social Service Demonstration.

Wednesday, March 28—

7.45—Melbourne Town Hall, Great Youth Demonstration.

Thursday, March 29—

7.45—Lygon-st., Aborigines Mission Demonstration.

up again after holidays. J.C.E. has had a successful year, averaging 62 in attendance. Boys' Brigade and Life Boys' and Girls' Brigade have all recommenced, and are enthusiastic about the new year's work. Their first parade for 1951 was held on March 4. This was also the harvest thanksgiving of church and a splendid crowd attended. Choir is back doing splendid service. Three have been received into fellowship by letter and one by baptism. One received in by letter came from Aberdeen in Scotland. Mr. Cain has been exhorting church on approach to Easter, and his messages have been well received. Mr. McGlassen gave an inspiring address to Men's Fellowship on purpose of his recent trip to Coux in Switzerland.

Balaklava.—At annual business meeting reports showed a year of progress amongst auxiliaries. Sunday school held picnic at Pt. Parham. Arthur Titter, of Glen Iris College, spoke to church while on vacation.

Victoria

Kaniva.—M. T. Lawrie has begun his ministry in circuit, and his messages are proving of much help and inspiration. A welcome social was held on Feb. 8. Usual meetings have been fairly well attended in morning with night attendances only fair. However on Feb. 25, 70 broke bread and 40 attended gospel service. J.C.E. is now being held during morning service after the Lords' Supper in old chapel; 30 attended on Feb. 25. 15 were present at I.C.E. Recently a presentation was made by church to C. Dow and Jean Williams prior to their marriage, and one to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Crouch prior to their departure to Portland, and another to Dick Williams, now at Melbourne Boys' High School.

Drumcondra.—Work has commenced on kindergarten extension being built by working bees. Mrs. R. Tattersall is seriously ill in hospital. Pamela Chapman has rededicated her life to Christ.

Hamilton.—At morning service on Feb. 18, R. McPherson, R. Goudie and N. Scriven gave addresses on aspects of stewardship. Stewardship campaign culminated with harvest festival meetings on Feb. 25, when there was thanksgiving and consecration service. Stewardship literature and pledge cards have been used freely, and much constructive teaching has been given. After appeal on Feb. 25 Margaret Myhill dedicated her life to enter training for fuller Christian service.

Merbein.—On Feb. 4 M. Keatch began his ministry with Merbein-Dareton circuit. On Feb. 8 a welcome evening was tendered Mr. and Mrs. Keatch, when a large gathering of district members and representatives of local churches attended. Sunday school has adopted new lesson series. Sunday school picnic was held recently.

Caulfield (Bambra-rd.).—Good attendance and interest are manifest in all departments. Whilst 19 brethren have been transferred during 1950, church is able to report additions by faith and obedience, 13; transfers from other churches, 18; also 2 additions of baptised believers. Success has been achieved by both Betas and Kappas in competition for best Chapter. Betas came second and Kappas won shield for second year in succession. Miss Jean Williams and Chas. Dow, of Kaniva, were honored as guests of church at social and gift evening, prior to their marriage. Mr. Saunders' ministry has been greatly blessed.

Dunolly.—Mr. Roberts conducted vacation services except on Jan. 16, when Mr. Living addressed church. Mr. Roberts is ministering to church for another year. Attendances and interest are well maintained. Bible school is continuing with good attendances. New teachers have been added to staff, and new lesson system is working well. Girls' Fellowship and

Ladies' Guild both held successful meetings to commence year's work. Fourteen attended Midland District Conference held at Wedderburn. Miss S. Beasy and Mrs. De Kusal are still in local hospital.

Essendon.—C.M.S. held first meeting for year on Feb. 11. Capt. Briggs (Salvation Army) was guest speaker. Mr. Mellhagger conducted baptismal service in evening. Men of church occupied choir seats and rendered two items. N. Cheal (K.S.P. chaplain) delivered address. Ladies' Fellowship held successful concert on Feb. 20. O. Bridge and Mrs. N. Hutton rendered duet at evening service. Cricket team ("A") has reached semi-finals.

South Yarra.—Homecoming day on Feb. 25 was marked by good meetings. Mr. Hargreaves was speaker at morning service; Mrs. Cole, soloist; Mr. Allen spoke to a crowded building. Visitors included Miss Taylor, from India. Mrs. C. Taylor was soloist, and choir, trained by F. Lewis, gave two beautiful anthems. Meals were provided by ladies. New carpets have been purchased for platform and aisles, and other renovations have been carried out. On Feb. 27, church had visit from Mr. and Mrs. Smith, from New Hebrides. Mr. Smith showed a film of work in islands. Supper was served by C.E. Society.

Stawell.—On Jan. 28 Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham commenced ministry. B. J. Combridge presided at Lord's Table. A public welcome was given on Feb. 8. Many attended, including local ministers, friends of other churches, and party from Ararat with preacher, Mr. Burt. Mr. Mortyn presided, and after words of welcome Mr. Cunningham responded. Campers from Hall's Gap attended gospel service on Feb. 18 and took charge of service. Mr. Stafford spoke. Campers were entertained at supper after service. Ladies' Mission Band held opening meeting on Feb. 15. Mrs. Cunningham, sen., was elected secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Cunningham, preacher's wife, was elected president; Mrs. Mortyn, vice-president; Mrs. Jackson, organist. Endeavorers are enjoying good meetings.

Prahran.—On night of Feb. 20, one sister came to Christ. Midweek prayer meetings have been well attended throughout year. An average of 30 attended each week. Annual business meeting was held on Feb. 21, and it was decided to instal the latest heating system. Bible school attendances have been steadily increasing, and 120 children were present last week.

Geelong.—At Sunday school anniversary on March 4, Stanton Wilson, from Hampton, was guest speaker. Children sang excellently under leadership of Mr. Annear. Ladies' Aid Society held picnic on Eastern Beach on Feb. 28.

Maryborough.—M. Coombes concluded short interim ministry on Feb. 18. Elders expressed appreciation of his services. Mr. Greenwood commenced ministry on Feb. 25, and there was one confession at evening service. Mrs. Shepherd is president of Ladies' Aid. Mrs. Matthews sec., and Miss Bryant treas. Miss Bryant is president of Mission Band. Mrs. Chamberlain, vice-pres., Mrs. Drake, sec. and treas. Church secretary, Mr. Lunn, has had to enter Stonnington Convalescent Hospital.

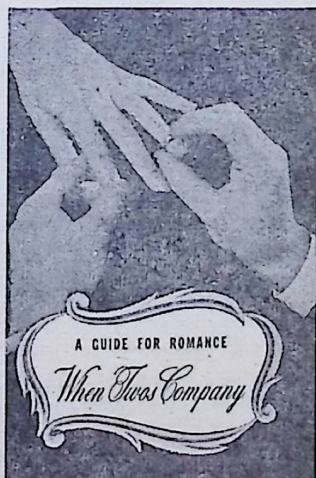
Portland.—Feb. 28 was thanksgiving Sunday, when an audience of 41 adults and 22 children (quite a number of both being holiday-makers) heard Mr. Champness, of Kaniva, deliver a message of thanksgiving at morning service. Gospel service was conducted by Mr. Goudie, from Wallacedale. Thankofferings at close of day amounted to more than £35. Although no new scholars have been added to roll this year, attendance at Sunday school classes are satisfactory.

Colac.—Members here appreciate the visits which have been paid and the messages given by parties from Geelong and Ballarat churches during college vacation. M. Wood, from

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College of the Bible, commenced his ministry on Feb. 25. A meeting for prayer and Bible study is being held every Friday night under the leadership of M. Selwood in preparation for mission in April.

Ballarat (Peel-st.).—During month of March special sermons are being given by T. Maxwell at morning services and by A. Graham in evening. These services are inspiring and good congregations attend. Special prayer meetings are being held during this month to pray for Colac mission. F. Hunting is to be leader. Sunday school children are looking forward to picnic to be held at Geelong.

West Preston.—At evening service on Mar. 4 A. B. Withers preached to a large congregation. Miss B. Seal was baptised. Visitors for day included Mr. and Mrs. Mortyn, from Stawell. Mr. and Mrs. Hart have returned from holidays. Mrs. Aitken was elected president of Ladies' Mission Band with Mrs. Box as vice-president. Ladies of church have packed more parcels of food for Britain.

Newmarket.—On Feb. 25 speakers at church anniversary services were Mr. Combridge, W.

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Atkin and Mr. McKenzie. Sister Keats, W. French and D. Hancock were soloists. Temple Day offering was £43. On March 4 Mr. McKenzie concluded series on hymns and Mrs. McKenzie rendered a solo. Young people combined with Ascot Vale for tea and after-church fellowship hour at home of Mrs. Boxhall.

Horsham.—On Feb. 25, 135 broke bread, 115 at evening service. A. E. Cremin spoke at both services. Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith and family, of Dandenong, are visitors. Mrs. Smith rendered a solo at evening service. Ladies of Horsham visited Haven Mission Band on Feb. 28. Churches have had special addresses on stewardship. Church tennis teams have reached semi-finals of A and C grades of Wimmera association.

Mt. Evelyn.—Church has land cleared ready to erect a building when a permit is granted. A. H. Pratt's sister whom he had not met for 33 years spent six weeks in fellowship with church. Being in isolation, she has become a subscriber to Mt. Evelyn cause. F. Pedley is still not able to attend church. Attendances are good and A. H. Pratt's messages are helpful. The Beecroft family had a miraculous escape from bush fires in answer to prayer.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—J. E. Brooke has resumed after holidays and indisposition, commencing second year of ministry. Help over period was given by R. Holmes, W. Atkin, C. Young, T. G. Westwood, W. A. Kemp, R. Enniss. The Misses Ellis, of Frankston, and Mrs. Madel-Cole, of Tasmania, were visitors. Fortnightly prayer fellowships have commenced. Last year C.F.A. members contributed £29.

Middle Park.—Mr. French commenced as assistant preacher on Feb. 25. He responded to words of welcome from secretary, Mr. Annetts and Mr. Armstrong, and appealed to church for earnest prayer and loyal co-operation. Evening service was well attended and Mr. French's gospel address was appreciated. Sympathy of church is with organist, Miss B. Houghton, who is ill. Mrs. Houghton is home from hospital.

Warragul.—Mr. and Mrs. V. Quayle have returned from holiday at Lakes Entrance. S. Wilson, of Hampton church, and M. Byard gave messages in absence of Mr. Quayle. E. J. Waters is greatly improved after recent illness. Mr. Walmsley, of British and Foreign Bible Society, gave morning address on Feb. 11. On Feb. 18 Mr. Lloyd, of Coburg, was guest speaker for day, when C.E. anniversary services were held, C.E. members taking part. Mr. Lloyd spoke at a rally on Saturday afternoon, when C.E. members gathered from other district societies. Ray Readhead on eve of departure for College of Bible, received a presentation of money from church, C.E. and Sunday school.

Frankston-Moorooduc.—At annual business meeting on Jan. 31, following were elected: Deacons, F. G. Adams, J. H. Bentley, J. F. Bolwell, R. J. Hinde, R. N. Jackson, J. A. Scarcebrook and C. R. Wells. Deaconesses: Misses H. D. Ellis and E. Skellern and Mrs. Morgan. These will constitute official board. Sunday school picnic was held at Moorooduc on Feb. 24.

Reservoir.—On Feb. 17 the Northcote Salvation Army rendered a fine concert in aid of the furnishing funds. Excellent services were held on Feb. 25, R. E. Burns speaking at both meetings. W. Brown has introduced a gymnasium class which is incorporated with K.S.P. club. Church business meeting held on Feb. 28 revealed a healthy condition in general work and a steady increase in membership which now stands at 93. The following officers were elected: Elder, Mr. Hing; deacons, Messrs. Allison, Bagot, McInness and Thodey; secretary, H. K. Trathen; treasurer, J. Plummer; auditor, A. H. Thodey; deaconesses, Sisters McInness and Trathen; S.S. supt., A. Bagot; organists, Sisters Plummer and Trathen. Other appointments were endorsed. Sympathy is extended to Sister Alma Hueston in loss of father.

BIRTH.

TURNHAM (nee Hodgkinson).—On March 3, at "Vaucluse," North Brunswick, to Marion and Albert, a son (Noel Leonard). A brother for Lorraine and Raymond). 59 Mark-st., Coburg.

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Obituary

Miss Myrtle Hillbrick.

On Jan. 26 Miss Myrtle Hillbrick, of Berwick, Vic., passed to her reward. She had been a patient sufferer. Baptised on March 26, 1910, by Lionel Johnson, she continued faithful through the years. She had been kindergarten superintendent, and was always a worker in the Bible school. Every visitor to the Berwick church knew the Hillbrick home. In later years Myrtle and Eva continued the hospitality to visiting preachers which had been the practice of the parents for more than a half-century. Myrtle was a quiet unassuming woman, yet was ever in the front line of service. Her passing will be a serious loss to the church. The funeral services in the church and at the graveside were in the hands of the writer, assisted by R. Sandells, R. Coventry, G. P. Pittman and Colin Smith.—W.H.C.

Thomas Morris Fox.

Thomas Morris Fox answered the heavenly summons on Sunday, Feb. 25, after a trying illness. He was born in England some 72 years ago. He became acquainted with our people at Parkdale, Vic., where his wife was happily identified with the church, and on their moving to Malvern, he was baptised into Christ during the ministry of F. E. Buckingham. Since then he has been active in the worship and work of the Malvern-Caulfield church. He was a gentle man and belonged to "the unobtrusive faithful." He lived an exemplary life and fell asleep in Jesus. Many friends gathered in a church service to do honor to his memory, to express sympathy to his loved ones, and to share their faith in the Saviour who has gone to prepare a place for all those who love him.—H.K.

Mrs. Mary Ann Goodwin.

On Monday, Feb. 19, Mary Ann Goodwin passed quietly to her reward at the age of 88 years. She was found regularly at the Lord's Table until failing health prevented her attending some two years ago. She joined the church at Kaniva in 1915, and later moved with her husband and family to Port Fairy, where they remained for some three years, thence to Geelong where they worshipped first at Latrobe-ter. and then Drumcondra. where the last 21 years of her life were spent. Our sister was active in the women's work both at Kaniva and Geelong, and was never absent on the Lord's day except when it was not possible for her to be present. Her quiet faithfulness was an example to all, and she will be missed from our midst. She is reunited with her husband who was called home just over twelve months ago. To her daughter, who has so faithfully cared for both parents, and to all members of the family we extend our Christian love and sympathy. The service at the funeral parlor and at the Geelong West cemetery was conducted by A. R. Pigdon.—A.R.P.



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"Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown him Lord of all."

As for the Buddhist priest, he disappeared and was seen no more.

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"All hail the power of Jesus' name,
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown him Lord of all!"

With eyes still closed he sang on and on; reaching the last verse he opened his eyes and found the scene completely changed. Every spear was lowered. The warriors made signs and took him to their huts and provided food and shelter. Thus were their hearts touched, and in God's hands this hymn opened the door for the preaching of the gospel in that region.



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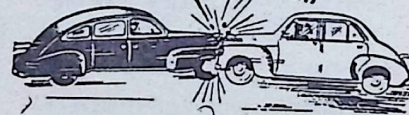
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