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Happy Holidays Ahead!

Who would not laugh when holidays are due,
And soon the routine round, life's ebb and flow,
Will be forgotten in the sun's warm glow,
In bush-land beauty or the sea's deep blue?

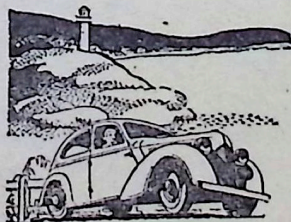
So much God gives us in this land we love—
We scale its mountains, on its beaches laze,
And find such healing midst these flying days
That, calmed, once more we learn to look above—

Above to him, whose Son said, "Rest awhile"
To wearied men, for whom life's sin and strain
Had proved too much, not knowing in their pain
That man to God his love would reconcile.

But as he talked with them, their hearts grew light;
With such a One beside them who could fear?
Refreshed, and eager all his words to hear,
They found new strength for faith's enduring fight.

Such strength we seek, O God, as now we greet
These happy holidays, these joyous times,
When o'er our sun-splashed land ring Christmas chimes
That bring us, worshipping, to Jesus' feet.

—C. G. Taylor.



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TEXT FOR THE WEEK.

*Jesus Christ is always the same,
yesterday, to-day, and for ever.—
Heb. 13: 8 (Phillips).*

THOUGHT STIMULUS.

*Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

—Alfred Tennyson.

In the Sanctuary

THE CHILDREN'S TALK.

One of the most important people I know (especi-
ally just now) is the postman. Sometimes his
bag looks heavy with the big mails he has to de-
liver, and I wonder if he likes Christmas quite as
much as you and I do when he brings us letters
and parcels?

You know, the postman ought to be very proud
of his ancestry. How old his job is! Long ago
the Bible tells us that the posts rode on mules
and camels, and they do it still in Bible lands.

News is sometimes sent in far countries and
among savage races by the beating of drums. We
used to have the mail coach that rumbled along
the great roads and carried the mails to town and
village and hamlet.

In America there was the pony express that
traversed the prairie, bearing the mails to the
far-away places. Buffalo Bill was a pony express
rider, and you know the exciting tales that are
told about him and his encounters with Indians.

To-day we have express mail trains, fast ships
and aeroplanes. We even have the cable and
the telegraph, as well as wireless which is the
swiftest spreader of news.

But I don't think we shall ever want to do with-
out the postman. He is better than the wireless.
Everybody gets the wireless news. But some days
I want to get news that nobody else has anything
to do with! I want to get a letter with my own
name on it, all to myself.

The angels were God's postmen when they came
to the shepherds and said, "Behold, I bring you
good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all
people. For unto you is born this day in the
city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

But no messenger ever came to the homes of
men like Jesus Christ. He came with news of
God's great love, the love that forgives our sin,
the love that is hurt when we do wrong, the love
that is glad when we do well.

And God's love is love with your name on it.
It's in a love-letter, and Jesus brings it, and what
a lot it says when it says this, "The Father himself
loveth you."

You can't be bad after that!

You can only be good!

When you get a letter you will be expected to
send a reply. I think a reply like this would be
very welcome—

"Art thou my Father? Let me be
A meek, obedient child to thee,
And try in word and deed and thought
To serve and please thee as I ought.
Art thou my Father? I'll depend
Upon the care of such a Friend,
And only wish to do and be
Whatever seemeth good to thee."

—(Abridged from "The Postman" by John Mac-
Beath in *The Christian Advocate*.)

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Taking a Holiday?

EDITORIAL

So you're going away for a holiday? Good. You need it. By the time you have journeyed to your destination and run the gauntlet of the thronging crowds, you'll need it even more! It will probably seem to you as if half Australia is on holiday, but there are some wistful stay-at-homes whose only consolation lies in thoughts of their day yet to come. Some may argue (and with justice) that we Australians are rather too ready to down tools and take holidays—and not always with official sanction, if figures for absenteeism from work, plus those for attendance at week-day sporting fixtures, are any guide. But the real worker, who scorns the stalling tactics of the go-slow man, finds a relish in his holidays the other never does. Work well done has earned him his vacation. He finds a satisfaction in his holiday

FROM ROUTINE

For a few weeks the pattern of his life is altered. No alarm clock startles his day into wakefulness with its piercing clang; there is no clock to be punched or time-sheet to be filled in; no lawns to be mowed or odd-jobs to be done for a wife who surprisingly finds her hands coming smooth again, with no meals to be prepared, and no dishes or clothes to be washed. At first they both feel a little uneasy to be tramping the hills or walking the pier at times when these routine chores would be done, but they soon learn to relish the rare delight of doing something different. Yet, curious folk—but so much like us all—they have barely crossed the threshold of home again before they have slipped back into the old routine with a satisfied sigh that says: "This is the best part of a holiday!"

Of course, routine is valuable. Without it there would be chaos in business, society, and even in the church. The routine performance of the less important functions in life can free the mind for more creative tasks. The tragedy is that so often the routine becomes the only exercise of minds that never venture down unbeaten paths. Nowhere is this more a tragedy than in the Christian church, where I believe we all need an extended holiday from all but absolutely necessary routine. Ministers need to be freed—in some cases, I suspect, forcibly freed—from cluttering up their days with unproductive and unnecessary pieces of organisation. They must make room in their reading for books other than those which reflect their own convictions. It is a flabby mind which does not read the books which may rouse strong dissent, while yet provoking really creative thought. All churchmen must be alive both to the urgent need of evangelism, and the fact that time-honored methods do not automatically guarantee success to-day. Tent missions and visitation evangelism, for example, both certainly have their values, but they do not exhaust the scope of evangelism. Nor were they born in routine minds. There is need again for the daring improvisations of faith to meet such challenges as our pagan society and divided Christendom, and to bridge such gulfs as yawn between the church and worker to-day. A famous actress once forgot her lines in a vital part of a play; she rose to the challenge with such brilliant improvisation that even the playwright acknowledged her genius. Frankly, I think it would do us all good to forget our lines sometimes, to seek in stronger faith the mind of him who said: "Ye have heard that it hath been said . . . but I say unto you!" (Matt. 5). Routine had its place in the life of our Lord, who was regularly found in the synagogue services; but he did not talk like the scribes, nor were his deeds always conventional. He struck new patterns—and paid for them with his life. *But he breathed life into religion.* So must we.

There is one all-too-common attitude to holidays that demands some thought here. Some folk think their vacation means an escape

FROM RESPONSIBILITY

In some ways, it does mean that. Those on whom much depends in business, home, or public leadership rejoice in the temporary lightening of the load. But what madness is it that possesses a man when, with "one last quick one for the road" and a final triumphant bang of the front door, he leaps into his car, and at a speed he would not normally risk, starts blithely on his way? The heavy holiday death toll on the roads is a grim reminder of what happens when a man throws responsibility to the winds too suddenly.

Obviously, even on holidays there are some responsibilities we can never leave behind, though no one is more tedious company on vacation than the man who can't forget—and won't let you forget!—that at home he is a lawyer, a doctor, or a minister. I'm inclined to think we should all feel sorry for any person who can't remember ever having done an undignified thing while on holidays! But fun is one thing; the forsaking of principles is another. No Christian on holiday can accept the idea that restraints no longer matter; that it's having a good time which is all important. Standards cannot be lowered with the specious plea that no one knows us for what we are. "The love of Christ constraineth us" (2 Cor. 5: 14) at all times, and he knows. No holiday from his standards will leave us unsoiled. He demands the best of us, wherever we are.

I remember being puzzled as a young preacher by the attitude of some Christian folk who came to my bayside holiday suburb for their annual vacation, but never appeared at any of the church services during their stay. They were active church workers for the rest of the year in their own suburb, but their claim was that, for them, a holiday included a rest from church. I am still surprised and disappointed to find that other Christian people never go near a church when they're on vacation. Quite apart from the encouragement that their presence would give to the regular worshippers in a holiday town, surely this is a time when worship could be richer than ever to the refreshed soul and mind? There can be no holiday from such responsibilities.

I close on a positive note. We go on holiday

FOR RE-CREATION

There is purpose in our resting. We know that soon we shall return to the routine responsibilities and the challenges that come with them. For those tasks we seek renewal of body, mind and spirit. In the beauty of God's creation and in ways that suit us best we look for such re-creation, for "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3: 19). For the Christian such spiritual refreshment is even more vitally necessary than fresh air and mental change, and that holiday is incomplete which does not bring God nearer and his will for us clearer. Bible or Testament is an essential part of our luggage. New truths reveal themselves to rested minds. I have never forgotten the thrill of one afternoon spent on a mountain lookout, reading through the Moffatt New Testament. The Book had never seemed more alive; I felt myself in a twofold sense among the mountain tops. Prayer rose instinctively and fellowship was real. From that experience I came back to the city, renewed, ready for the mission effort which awaited me.

I could wish you all no finer experience than that. Enjoy your holiday, find re-creation, and return eager for the service of God. For a maximum effort awaits us all in our World Convention year.

JAMES MACKAY, in *The Christian World*, writes a refreshing study on

Jesus on Holiday

And he saith unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile. For there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.—Mark 6:31.

If you turn to your New Testament, you will find that our Lord placed a very high value on holidays. Ten times at least during his public ministry of two and a half years he felt the need of getting away from his daily tasks for change and renewal. He went into the land of Judea . . . into the inland of Galilee . . . across the lake . . . into Phoenicia (a foreign holiday) . . . to Magadan . . . to Caesarea Philippi . . . to Bethany beyond Jordan . . . to Ephraim. It is a help to us, struggling with our own difficulties, and often weary with the weight of our burdens, to know that he, too, felt the strain of life, and could not support it without rest and change. True, he seldom succeeded in getting a real rest, for, wherever he went, the crowds followed him. But we know he felt a great need for rest and relaxation and that he tried hard to get them.

We seldom realise the conditions under which Jesus carried on his gracious work. George Adam Smith reminds us in his "Historical Geography of the Holy Land" that "the greater part of our Lord's ministry was accomplished at what may be truly called the bottom of a trench, 680 feet below the level of the sea." As you descend from the hills of Galilee to the place where Capernaum stood "you feel you are passing from the climate and scenery of Southern Europe to the climate and scenery of the barer tropics. The sea-winds, which freshen all Galilee and high Hauran beyond, blow over this basin, and the sun beats into it with unmitigated ardour. The atmosphere, for the most part, hangs still and heavy."

There, in the fetid atmosphere of a city with scarcely any sanitation, and with tanneries and decaying fish to add to the heaviness of the air, our Lord did the greater part of his lovely service. There the crowds hung round him day and night, so that he could not even get his meals for them. There the sick, the lame, the blind, the lepers, the mentally deranged, appealed for his help. There day after day he gave his strength in a thousand ways, and virtue went out of him until he was exhausted. When next you feel the burden of your labour in a stuffy office or a hot kitchen, will you remember how he laboured in that still and heavy atmosphere, 680 feet below the level of the sea, with the sun beating down upon him with "unmitigated ardour." And he had been born and brought up among the hills!

Think of him down there, weary with the heat, the flies, the fetid air created by the crowds, longing for a glimpse of snowy Hermon or the uplands near Nazareth with their sea-cooled breezes. He did not work in Capernaum from choice, but from necessity. There the need and the opportunity were greatest; and so there he had to be. But times came when he could go on no longer, and especially when his disciples could go on no longer; and then, for the sake of his very ministry to the people, he had to get away from the people.

Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place

and rest awhile. I feel He emphasised that word "desert." If Jesus were here to-day I doubt whether he would spend his holidays at any of our popular resorts. He loved the quiet places, where he could be alone with Nature, with God, and with the few people who really loved and understood him. I think he would have smiled at the way in which so many people in this country spend their holidays. I spent thirteen years in one of the most popular holiday resorts in England, and every hour of every day, when August was at its very hottest, you would find Woolworth's stores crowded with people. They did on holiday exactly what they did at home. That was not our Lord's idea of a holiday. He hungered for the quiet lovely places among the hills, where

Among the flowers and grasses,
Only the mightier movement sounds and
 passes,
Only winds and rivers,
Life and death.

We feel that he knew this desert place to which he invited them, that he had been there before, that he had his favorite places to which he went to have his soul restored by

The silence that is in the starry sky,
The sleep that is among the lonely hills.

I think all our holidays nowadays are too noisy and crowded. Of course we need color, change, amusement, excitement. Yes; but we need silence, the silence in which the voice of the eternal can whisper to us, even more. If we do not get that on our holiday we shall miss the renewal a real holiday should give. I feel that our Lord is saying to us all in the midst of the strain and noisiness of these years, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert, a quiet place, and rest awhile. Come away from the crowd. Come away from the excitement. Come where you can feel the mightier movement, the contact of big things. Come where, in the quietness, you can hear, as through the whispering leaves of Eden, a deeper whisper, the whisper of eternal joy and love. Excitement may make us forget our fears and troubles for a little while, but silence and worship will heal and restore our souls. Come ye yourself apart. And you can do that even if you have to spend your holidays at home. For remember the word is Come, not Go. He calls us to come with him, and where he is there is peace and renewal.

I am sure Jesus never killed time on his holiday. Every moment was filled with interest. Alexander Whyte thought they had a Summer School of Theology up in the hill country of Galilee; but that was because he liked theology. I think their fellowship together on holiday would be much more human than that. What a joy it must have been to share his enjoyment with Nature. What flashes of true and simple poetry must have come from the mind that saw the lilies to be more beautiful than Solomon in all his glory. There would be plenty of holiday humour among the little band, when they were able to relax, and they would talk about all sorts of subjects. But best of all was, he was with them. Talking with Jesus, going for walks with Jesus, having meals with Jesus, seeing the dawn, the sunset, and the stars coming out at night with Jesus, sharing in family worship conducted by Jesus! How wonderful it must have been. A holiday in heaven.

Always for Jesus a holiday was a time of

renewal, of replenishing exhausted resources, of gathering fresh strength and wisdom for the work that lay ahead. He had something real to do, and his holiday was always a preparation for that. So he never did anything on his holiday that would unfit him for the service he had to render to God and man when it was over. All the time he used his holiday so as to gain from it the maximum amount of benefit for the work ahead.

But our Lord's greatest recreation was his fellowship with the heavenly Father. On the very holiday to which our text belongs he spent a night alone on the mountain-side in prayer. Prayer was life, strength and joy to him. It can be the same to all of us. Few people realise how much difference prayer makes to mental and even physical health. I do not mean that if you pray for health you will get it; that is a different matter; I mean that prayer is a healthy thing in itself. It is like being in the sunshine. It gives you health of mind and body. Now, when we are engaged in the busy rush of everyday life, it may be that our prayer time is sadly curtailed or sometimes even forgotten. And so we lose our poise, and become irritable, depressed, divided in mind, or even mentally ill. But when our holiday comes, we are free, we can give time to prayer. And if we do we shall find re-creation.

News of British Churches

The church at Melbourne-rd., Leicester, with which the late John Wycliffe Black was associated for so many years, held its 56th anniversary in October. The occasion brought together two "old boys" of church and Sunday school, who in successive years have been honored by the churches. Forty years ago F. S. King and G. J. Hammond were members of the S.S. staff, first as teachers and then as departmental superintendents, besides being active in other church activities. Mr. King entered business, receiving high honor in the Master Printers' Federation. Mr. Hammond entered the ministry and has served the churches in many parts of the country. Last year Mr. King became president of Conference, and is to be followed next August by Mr. Hammond. The president of Conference was in the chair at the anniversary public meeting, Mr. Hammond being the guest preacher for the week-end.

The Ministers' Annual Convention was held in November at Barnes Close, a conference centre near Birmingham. Twenty-five men and women, ministers and organisers, met for five days to study *The Work of the Holy Spirit*. Lectures were given by J. R. Jenkins, R. Hallows, D. Black, S. Oakden and N. Barr.

A New Church has been Opened at Ilford, London. Mr. W. Lister conducted the services during the week-end. Mr. Lister is to visit Australia for several months in 1952. He expects to sail in February. Arnold Caldicott, who has been visiting this country and serving the churches in the Newcastle district, is returning to Australia.

The Death has taken place of Mr. Robert Wilson Black, the last of a family whose name is written deeply in the history of British churches of Christ. The church at Twynholm, London, was formerly in the Association of churches, but withdrew some years ago. Mr. Black has been one of the prime movers in the effort to bring Baptists and churches of Christ into closer fellowship.—G. J. Hammond.

What Are You Planning?

Travelling?

The author of "Minister's Musings" indulges in a pre-travel reverie.

Down come the old battered suit-cases from the top of the bathroom cupboard! Phew! amazing where the dust comes from! And that sand in the corner of the big case—how did that get there? As I brush them out, those few grains take me back to the golden sands of our last holiday. The "stickers" on the cases take me back even further—the things we did in that place, the happiness we had in another. No, I won't like to part with these old cases, even if we do need new ones. You only have to look at these labels to be travelling once again—and much more economically! I remember waiting once for my luggage after one train trip, and at last saw it nestling very humbly



alongside a case liberally bespattered with the labels of the world's hotels. For a fleeting moment I was envious; and then I thought, My battered old cases at least tell the story of where I have been. Whenever I'm tempted to envy folk who seem to have travelled further than I in spiritual discoveries, I check up to see how far and in what ways my own soul and mind have travelled. And as for the future, I know there are no exclusive resorts for the soul, no paths that others have trod that I, too, might not know, if only I am willing to pay the full price of following Christ our Leader.

These cases have been our companions on many ways. They have stood snugly in the luggage compartment of a 'plane while I, all unmindful of the passing scene, have been reaching out weakly for the sal volatile from a sympathetic air-hostess. How I have envied those stolid cases at such moments! But when the air has treated me kindly, I have been able to appreciate the benefits of 'plane travel. It's a refreshing change of perspective to look down on a world dwarfed into temporary insignificance. But, after all, the best part of the trip is in dropping down (gently, of course!) to that same hurrying world where we belong. Jesus loved such heights as he knew in the hills of Judea and Galilee, but for him the world was never dwarfed into insignificance. The world was never more surely on his heart than then.

Travelling on sea and land has its own message to minds and hearts starved both of beauty and of God. There have been many times when it has been good to put these cases down and breathe in the healing wonder of God's green earth or star-lit sky.

Ah, it's good to be thinking of travelling again. For aren't we all travellers at heart? "We look for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Camping?

V. C. Stafford, Director, Board of Christian Education, commends this way to spend a holiday.

In a coast to coast flight across the continent during summer vacation days, you could be in touch with nearly 2000 young people assembled

in camps conducted by our youth departments over Christmas and into the New Year.

Taking off from Western Australia you'd leave behind you Waterman's Bay, ten miles from Perth. Here where the waves of the Indian Ocean thunder into surf, young people of that State will gather in the Youth Department's permanent camp home.

In South Australia the annual summer school goes into session at Tanunda. Camp Waterman in the Dandenongs and the camp site at Hall's Gap in the Grampians will be centres of activity for Victorian youth. District camps will be conducted in the Murray and Goulburn valleys.

New South Wales Youth Department recently acquired a property at Lake Illawarra, fifteen miles from Wollongong, which is to be developed as a training centre.

If you continue the journey north to Queensland, you will find young people of that State at Caloundra Bay and in the West Moreton district.

Cross the Bass Strait and touch down at Hobart. At Dover Tasmanians will be sharing in camp experiences.

What is camping? What will be happening at these camps? Camping is part of the programme of Christian education. Its goals are:

1. To provide group experiences in Christian living; to learn how to live together happily and well.
2. To provide increased knowledge of the Bible and its meaning for life.
3. To lead individuals to make personal commitment to Christ.
4. To direct each individual's camp experience so that he may make a more effective contribution to his home, church and community.
5. To discover persons possessing potential leadership qualities, to give them leadership training and enlist them in definite forms of Christian service.

Camping relates itself definitely to the life of the local congregation and the ongoing of brotherhood enterprises.

It involves many hours and much planning: study textbooks, selection of personnel, arrangements for accommodation, transport, meals, discussion groups, worship sessions, recreational and fun hours.

Many of our present church leaders came through camps with a heightened appreciation of the Christian faith and fellowship, and speak in high praise of this medium of evangelism and education.

Reading?

J. Ernest Brooke, of Lygon-st., Vic., gives us a peep at his holiday luggage.

"Reading on holiday?" asks someone with raised eyebrows. "Can't you leave it alone, even then?" A holiday should be a complete change. One who reads voraciously throughout the year, seizing every available moment for it, should firmly close his books and resolutely turn his back upon them for the whole period of his vacation.

Utterly unconvinced, I shall, as usual, pack my extra case with chosen volumes.

Reading, to me, is not a task, but one of the greatest of my pleasures. Surely on holiday one can indulge one's honorable pleasures.

As far as the "complete change" is concerned, it will be a complete change, instead of snatching half-hour or ten-minute periods here and there, to settle down in a more leisurely way to read for longer periods.

"Well, if you must read, of course it will be of a much lighter character." No! My holiday reading is as carefully planned as my

reading at home. I think I can look back and trace my greatest development of thought, to my annual periods of holiday reading.

Apart from that, I can think of some very good reasons for reading on holidays. It is a time for good company, and in what a glorious society does he move who can single out for converse, or for counsel, the master-minds of the world, who can talk with them at leisure, and when his brain is weary, fold them up in silence.

Then what a ministry books can exercise, as a soothing and elevating power amid the turmoil and fever of modern life. To anchor oneself to a book, also, is to hold oneself to a period of stillness and quietness, so necessary to the rhythm of activity and repose of a true holiday.

At the same time I would concede that reading should not keep one from the other enjoyments of holidays. One must be prepared, quite happily, to lay it aside, to enter into outings, games and conversation.

Foremost in my holiday reading I concentrate on one book of the Bible, usually one which will be a staple part of the next year's Sunday morning lessons. This year it will be Mark's Gospel, and I am taking the Moffatt New Testament Commentary, by Branscomb, and J. D. Jones' Devotional Commentary, not to look for sermons, merely to soak mind and spirit in the Gospel.

Next comes Devotional reading. This year my meditation will be on 1 Corinthians 13. I shall, of course, re-read Henry Drummond's classic *Greatest Thing in the World* before leaving, then I will take with me Moffat Gantrey's *Love is Lord* and Percy Ainsworth's *Hymn of Love*.

I see no reason to exclude theology; in the quietness of holiday one can better grapple with its great ideas. So in goes the book I am on at present, Farmer's *The World and God*.

During holidays I always like to read a couple of books on preaching. The latest Warrack lectures, *If Any Man Minister*, by E. D. Jarvis, G. H. Morrison's successor, promises to be good. An older book on preaching, *For Christ and the Kingdom*, by W. M. MacGregor, will be re-read.

History? I am still reading Latourette's *History of the Expansion of Christianity*, so will take a volume of that.

For poetry, Robert Browning shall be my companion, with John A. Hutton also invited to share with me his understanding of the poet.

Biography is represented in my choice by *Private View of a Public Man*, the life of Leyton Richards, at one time minister of the Independent Church, Melbourne.

With a book of travel, one can not only see the district one goes to, but can also have a free trip anywhere in the world. This year I am going with H. V. Morton *In Search of London*.

As for a novel, happily, on the very day I received the editor's request for this article, a kind friend presented to my wife and me, Sholem Asch's novel on the life of Paul The Apostle.

So to "eat paper and drink ink" in a rich feast of "the dainties that are bred in books!"



HERE AND THERE

A. J. Fisher has announced to Nailsworth church, S.A., his acceptance of a call to Lake-st., W.A.

We are happy to learn that H. G. Norris, who for health reasons, has resigned from Unley church, S.A., after seven years' helpful ministry, is hopeful that a few months' rest will fit him for further service with the churches. Included in his twenty-three years' service for the brotherhood was a highly-valued contribution as chaplain during World War II.

Each preacher in the Commonwealth and New Zealand, with many others elsewhere, has received a greeting from the President of the World Convention. It is suggested that the greeting be conveyed to church members, with a request for early registration.

Friends will be interested to learn that the son of Ira A. Paternoster, preacher of North Sydney church, has been appointed to a secretarial position among the American churches, with headquarters at the national office in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ira Paternoster, jr., went to U.S.A. twenty years ago for studies in Kentucky, and has since served a number of churches in Ohio. He will now be associated with Willard M. Wickizer, who visited Australia earlier this year, and will be largely devoted to home and foreign mission interests, as well as work in colleges and universities, in both U.S.A. and Canada.

J. Manallack, preacher of Berri and Winkie churches, S.A., reports a successful visitation evangelism campaign. T. T. Robinson, preacher of Cowandilla church, held two instruction classes for visitors on Nov. 24 and 25, and visitation commenced on Tuesday night, Nov. 27, after tea prepared by church ladies under Mrs. A. Harris. For three nights ten visitors went to selected prospects, while a group met at the church in prayer. Altogether 33 visits were made—9 signed cards, 7 others seemed near decision, and others affirmed they would come back into fellowship. Visitors were delighted with their welcome and the opportunity of witness. At a crowded meeting of 150 on Membership Sunday, Dec. 2, eleven owned Christ as Lord and Saviour. Others are confidently expected, and the church thanks God for his wonderful blessings, and commends this way of evangelism to others.

After five years' repeated applications to State Housing Commission, the church at South Perth, W.A., has received a permit to erect a "new hall" to be built from "uncontrolled" material. Despite this handicap it is hoped to have the building erected early in 1952. Building fund "super-sale" realised £165, together with £100 cheque from former South Perth pioneer. Bible school anniversary was a credit to K. Ballantine and staff. Ten scholars made decision at anniversary services, and four later. A mother of one scholar has been baptised and received in with her daughter. Ladies' Fellowship talent social raised £40. Men's Fellowship have added two rooms and laundry to manse, and are now painting house of a widowed sister, who will donate the cost to building fund. Monthly youth teas, held in co-operation with the youth of Victoria Park church, and weekly open-air witness prior to gospel service, are features of encouraging work. Ivan Nixon is preacher.

The Austral printing department will not be open for business during the fortnight of the Christmas holidays. Since the office staff will observe the same holiday period, will all concerned please arrange their business accordingly. Agents, subscribers and reporters are reminded

that there will be no issue of the *Christian* on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

The concluding service of the tent mission conducted by Lloyd Jones at Maidstone, Vic., was attended by 150 on Sunday evening, Dec. 16. The thankoffering amounted to £165. The decisions for the mission totalled 8.



Social Service Notes and Comments

Will. H. Clay.

Christmas.

There is little need to advertise the social side of Christmas, except that we all should be reminded of our relationships to one another and the oneness of the human family. What should be the normal attitude of men to one another is rather the exceptional. For the time being the barriers are down, and even if we cannot fraternise, we can draw closer to one another. Half the world is starving; that means that a merry Christmas is impossible to nearly a billion of this world's inhabitants. World organisations are scarcely touching the fringe of the problem.

War and Peace.

A recent discussion on war and peace, held in the Lygon-st. church following upon a dinner provided by the Social Service Committee, was attended by about 60 men and women. S. Neighbour introduced the subject and E. L. Williams followed. Both emphasised what, in their opinion, was the teaching of the scriptures and the attitude of the Christian towards war. The committee agreed to arrange another meeting to consider the question if a speaker taking opposite views could be found.

The Will. H. Clay Nursing Home.

Up to the present time only a limited number of patients could be admitted, due to staff shortage. A night and day staff was required, and the committee desires to hear from both trained and untrained Christian women willing to undertake some form of service in the Home. The Home is winning the admiration of a host of friends, and patients are full of praise for the kindness and attention given them by the staff.

Women's Day at Oakleigh.

The annual rally conducted by the women of the churches was held on Saturday, Dec. 8. Unfortunately the rain interfered somewhat with the attendance, but it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the women. About 200 men and women gathered in the building. The women had worked during the year to reach their self-appointed aim of £2000, and Mrs. Ward, the president of the Auxiliary, referred to the joy of anticipation that had existed amongst the women and the splendid enthusiasm that increased as the day of realisation came. Mrs. Withers, the Women's conference president, in very appropriate terms, complimented the auxiliary and women of the churches, and called the roll. Each church, through its representative, handed in its offering, and as the amount was stated, applause was spontaneous. Some of the larger churches had topped the century, and smaller ones did exceptionally well. The staff and guests of the Home gave £19/6/-, and stalls upon which were shown articles of household and domestic requirements with toys for Christmas, conducted by the Auxiliary and Miss Brownrigg yielded £65 and £135 respectively. A record total of £1800 was reached. This is to be added to the sum already provided by the women to meet the cost of the Staff Home. Mr. F. N. Lee, the conference president, expressed his amazement at what he had seen and heard, and paid the women the highest compliment. The Director of Social Service, Will. H. Clay, closed the meeting with words of praise and encouragement, and called on all to join in the singing of the doxology.

Missionary News

"THANKS BE TO GOD."

Last week in our notes we outlined some experiences in village camps. This week Bruce V. Coventry tells of some of the tangible results.

It was early Sunday afternoon and our service at Bhoose was running very late, as we had already visited other nearby villages for an early morning communion service. On our return from the other villages our small group gathered at the side of a pool of water in the nearby stream to witness the baptism of a young woman, a daughter of the leading Christian there, and one who had just returned from our hospital at Dhond, where she had been receiving treatment for T.B. for the last two months. She is a fine young woman, and we are sure that she is going to give an effective witness for her Master.

The following are some of the results of the camp. Well over 2000 people have heard the message preached during these last two and a half weeks.

Several received regular instruction in the matter of reading and writing, so that with some more help they will be able to read and write independently.

Quite a number received instruction in religious matters with the aid of flannelgraphs.

At least one village, where in the living memory of the inhabitants no preacher had ever been before, was visited. This is a village in a new area to us, recently taken over from the American Marathi Mission.

Some regular teaching to quite a good group of our Christian women at Dhorja.

Colored pictures from the projected Bible attracted audiences of from 200-400.

Quite a number of portions of scripture were sold, and a number of tracts distributed.

Mrs. Thomas was able to treat many people suffering from various ailments.

The way of salvation was explained personally to quite a number of people.

Many invitations were received from village people to visit them again, while from villages where we have had no previous contact because of being out of our area, invitations came to visit them.

Nine people put on Christ through the waters of baptism, and quite a number of others said that they would like to have more instruction, preparatory to being baptised.

Our workers were stimulated, and have come home, though tired, with a fresh desire to get out on the all important task of soul winning.

All this means that we must simply do more than we are doing by way of keeping regular contact with a greater number of villages. This matter weighs very heavily with us right now, for we have not the preachers to be able to cope with this added task, nor have I the funds in my budget to pay the added workers that we require. Unless we can get these workers, it means that we are going to have to call a halt to our evangelistic work and say, Well, we have all the Christians that we can afford to have, because we have no funds to care for the spiritual needs of more. There is no doubt about it but that old barriers that once existed are fast breaking down. At Pisori, where a few years ago the leaders refused to allow anyone to listen to the preached word to-day they not only allow people to listen, but they listen themselves, and are themselves considering making their stand for Christ.

Inter-Church Aid

Over 70 Anglican, Protestant, Orthodox and Old Catholic Church leaders, representing twenty different nations—ranging from Finland to Spain, from Britain to Greece and Yugoslavia, and from the United States to Australia and New Zealand—participated in the Second Annual Inter-Church Aid Consultation of the W.C.C. in Geneva, October 9-11.

Surveying the total inter-church aid picture in Europe, members of the Consultation were in accord that the post-war "emergency period" has now passed, but that four major continuing and still-unmet areas of need remain to challenge the resourcefulness of the Christian churches of the world at the present time.

These four regions of need were listed as:

(1) *The continuing urgent challenge of the refugee problem.* There are four main aspects of work which the W.C.C. must still perform on behalf of refugees: finishing the job of emigration assistance to D.P.'s and Volksdeutsche refugees (there are from seven to nine millions of these "stateless" East Europeans in West Germany); providing social and welfare care for some 60,000 D.P.'s unable to emigrate; supporting the spiritual ministry of at least 120 Orthodox priests and Protestant pastors of refugee groups; plus dealing with six refugee "danger-spots," where no national indigenous church is able to meet the challenge of the refugee situation.

So termed because of the unrest of the unhappy refugees located at these points, these "danger-spots" are in Trieste, Greece, Palestine, Turkey, Samar (Philippines) and Shanghai. In each of these locations, refugees have only voluntary agencies like the W.C.C. to which they can turn for aid, since the International Refugee Organisation has now ceased aid for all refugees except displaced persons now in process of emigration. Especially singled out as a challenge for Christian action was the problem of 850,000 Arab refugees in Palestine.

(2) *Strategic support for the work and witness of minority Protestant Churches in predominantly Roman Catholic lands*—Austria, Belgium, France, Portugal and Spain. Needs in this area are not new, but have existed for many decades. Aid to such minority churches is a responsibility which will continue to rest with the W.C.C. for many years to come.

(3) *Still unmet requirements for gifts of food and clothing, especially for refugees and hard-pressed European church leaders.*

In the field of contributed goods, the Consultation learned that less than 20 per cent. of requirements of food and clothing have been received in Europe so far this year. Best expectations voiced were that probably not more than 50 per cent. of the total minimum needs of £2,000,000 worth of food and clothing for 700,000 destitute Europeans could be met by March, 1952. The Consultation underlined the urgency of such needs, especially for refugees throughout Europe and the Middle East, as well as for church workers and institutions in East Germany, Yugoslavia and Greece.

(4) *Fourth area of unmet needs lies in the work of restoring war-damaged church buildings, especially in Greece, plus assistance in establishing adequate worship centres for minority Protestant Churches in Western Europe and Old Catholic and Orthodox refugee groups.*

The Consultation affirmed that inter-church aid projects in exchanges of fraternal workers, health, scholarships, work-camps, laymen's work and ecumenical loans are of strategic value to the life and work of the churches and must, if possible, be expanded.—Ecumenical Press Service, 19/10/51. (Contributed by R. W. Graham for the Federal Committee for the Promotion of Christian Union.)

Minister's Musings

SUNDAY.—I felt tired and depressed from the start to-day, and preached to myself as much as to anyone else on my morning text, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance and my God" (Psalm 42: 11). These words have never lost their challenge for me since one Sunday evening during a student ministry. After the service that night "a horror of great darkness swept over me." I forget now the reasons (if any) that had plunged me into such deep depression, but I have never forgotten the moment in my journey back to College when these words of the Psalmist flashed into my mind. That drab railway carriage was transfigured into the setting of a living encounter with God, whose impact is still potent in my life—so potent, indeed, that as I preached my spirits soared again with the final ringing challenge of the Psalmist. Afterwards I discovered that some others, who, like myself, have been keenly feeling the pre-Christmas pressure, were helped by the reminder that, at the first Christmas it was people who walked in darkness who saw a great light. (P.S.—I assured Murray Bell, who is to be married next Saturday, that the text was not chosen with any thought of personal application to him!)

MONDAY.—Talk about one's chickens coming home to roost! In last night's youth service I incidentally referred to the growing concern of sociologists and others over the increased number of cases of physical violence on the part of organised adolescent gangs. At the tea-table to-night five-year-old Laurel suddenly announced: "Grant Adams is really my boy-friend!" "Oh," said I, naturally interested, as a father, in such revelations, especially when the boy concerned is the six-year-old son of one of my officers, "Why is that?" "Well, he's such a good basher," she replied—and in her voice was all the devotion that cavemen must once have received from their women-folk. That really startled me. But she proceeded, like a true minister's daughter, to illustrate her point, "He always bashes anyone who tries to stop him going into the school-yard—and he bashes anyone who tries to stop me, too!" Ah, there's a gleam of hope—the knight-errant shining through the caveman! But what would Freud and his like have to say about this infantile veneration for violence? Should Neil Adams and I have our offspring psychoanalysed, or simply have a good laugh over the story, as the children themselves certainly would if they ever heard the story in later years? But, seriously, there are some comic strips in our daily papers and some films which are constantly exalting a dangerous example of violence to immature and childish minds. A clean-up is long overdue. Toy reproductions of war weapons do not help, either. There is grim significance in an American story of a lad of three who, when gently told that his grandfather was dead, wanted to know: "Who shot him?"

TUESDAY.—The Lake family and Rita sailed for India to-night. Half the church seemed to be at Port Melbourne to see them off, and Tom was kept busy testing his new-found strength, catching the streamers that were thrown. They are planning to be in "Our India" for Christmas, and I haven't any doubt that there are some extra gifts and delicacies in their luggage for the missionaries. A visit to the Skillicorn family at our British mission is also on their schedule, as well as the World Youth Conference at Travancore, so they will certainly be kept busy. We sent through them Christmas greetings to all our missionaries who continue to do such magnificent service for the Master.

WEDNESDAY.—There has been some stimulating discussion in *The British Weekly* lately about the training of ministers to deal with the pagan environment in which we must work to-day. (Just how pagan that environment is, Rowntree and Lavers' book, *English Life and Leisure*, shows all too starkly. I have read only a few chapters as yet, but can understand the stir that its publication made in England. It leaves the Christian church with no illusions about the task it faces.) Shaun Herron, editor of *The British Weekly*, writes: "It is no longer enough to train our men merely for 'the ministry.' If we are to crack the crust around twentieth-century man's spirit we must first find the range and lay our sights on the target: we must train our men for a, and not simply for the, ministry. We must train men specifically for work among countrymen . . . or among a paganised proletariat. . . . All this involves issues that cannot be settled in theological colleges. Our colleges train men for the job the church is doing, not for the job it ought to be doing." This is, on the whole, a provocative and interesting article, and he certainly has a case. But the "general practitioner" still has a ministry to do, however many specialists we train. And it is well to remember what G. K. Chesterton once observed after acting as a jurymen: that when our civilisation "wants a library to be catalogued, or a solar system discovered, or any trifle of that kind, it uses up its specialists. But when it wishes anything done that is really serious, it collects twelve of the ordinary men standing round. The same thing was done, if I remember right, by the Founder of Christianity."

THURSDAY.—I came home chuckling after my round of visits this afternoon. "You'll enjoy this," I told Alison. "I called to see Mrs. Eaton, and we were talking about young Evelyn, who hasn't been feeling well, and was home from school. You know how Evelyn always sits with her parents in the early part of the morning service, and then, during the hymn before the sermon, goes out with the other kiddies for their Junior Endeavor meeting? Well, it seems that one Sunday at lunch, about four years ago, the Eatons were discussing some point that had been raised in the sermon. As Evelyn listened, a great light dawned. 'Oh,' she said, 'is that what he does! I often wondered what he sat on the platform for!'" Alison joined me in the laugh, and then added (but not without a twinkle still!): "I've wondered the same thing myself sometimes after listening to your sermon!" I'm wondering if any other Junior Endeavorers have been puzzled by the same aspect of our "mutual ministry."

FRIDAY.—One of the less enjoyable features of this end-of-the-year season is the number of speech nights and other functions involving much talking. I wish a ruthless ban could be put on that fulsome flattery with which some chairmen introduce their guest speakers. There can be few speakers who don't inwardly writhe under such treatment—and the gap between the praise and their performance soon becomes only too woefully apparent. One to-night reminded me of another's criticism on a similar occasion: "The right honorable gentleman is indebted to his imagination for his facts and to his memory for his jokes."

SATURDAY.—Our mantle-shelves are beginning to look quite gay with the Christmas cards which have come this week. With some came personal notes of appreciation from some of our church folk. They brought real Christmas warmth to us both, and made us think of others to whom we owed just such words of thanks. If Christmas stimulated more of us to send many such notes it would be an even gladder time for us all.

INTERSTATE C H U R C H N E W S

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

Discipleship

Mrs. Jones, Stawell, Vic.
Lynette Jones, Stawell, Vic.
John Pattison, Hamilton, Vic.
Maureen Elsegood, Wembley, W.A.
Leona Miles, Wembley, W.A.
Lesley Stevens, Wembley, W.A.
Maxine Vincent, Wembley, W.A.
Graham Vincent, Wembley, W.A.
Don Parker, Wembley, W.A.
Mrs. D. Forde, Chatswood, N.S.W.
Margaret Donnelly, Geelong, Vic.
Barbara Thomas, Fairfield, Vic.
Valerie Bannen, Fairfield, Vic.
Christine Roberts, Fairfield, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge, York-st., Ballarat, Vic.
Barry McGregor, York-st., Ballarat, Vic.
Jean Irvine, Fullarton, S.A.
Kathleen Holton, Fullarton, S.A.
Rosemary Holton, Fullarton, S.A.
Kelvin Overland, Fullarton, S.A.
Judith Overland, Fullarton, S.A.
Enid Overland, Fullarton, S.A.
Leonard Chipperfield, Balwyn, Vic.
Kevin Roberts, Balwyn, Vic.
Miss C. Newman, Northcote, Vic.
Miss M. Ferguson, Northcote, Vic.
G. Hancock, Northcote, Vic.
W. Hancock, Northcote, Vic.
A. Hancock, Northcote, Vic.
Margaret James, Collingwood, Vic.
Jan Steensel, Collingwood, Vic.

Membership

Dorothy Wishart, Wembley, W.A.
Margaret Britton, Wembley, W.A.
Barbara Thomas, Fairfield, Vic.
Christine Roberts, Fairfield, Vic.
Valerie Bannen, Fairfield, Vic.
Margaret Brown, Wagga, N.S.W.
Mrs. Morton, Carnegie, Vic.
Les Gooch, Frankston-Moorooduc, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. G. Quantrelle, Gardiner, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Taylor, Gardiner, Vic.
Anthony Taylor, Gardiner, Vic.
Miss I. Cavanagh, Gardiner, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. Kelley, Stawell, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. Norm Humphries, Hamilton, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Cox, Taree, N.S.W.
E. Saxby, Taree, N.S.W.
Eleanor Mogridge, Wembley, W.A.
Brian Bradshaw, Chatswood, N.S.W.
Mr. and Mrs. Hanks, South Perth, W.A.
Mr. and Mrs. Dunwoodie, South Perth, W.A.
Mr. and Mrs. T. Elliott, South Perth, W.A.

Fallen Asleep

Mrs. Redhead, Hamilton, Vic.
R. Harper, Chatswood, N.S.W.
Mrs. V. Noske, Chatswood, N.S.W.
D. Hainsworth (Snr.), Essendon, Vic.
Valda Bursill, Maryborough, Vic.
Lawrence Alderson, Bet Bet, Vic.
Mrs. Travers, Maryborough-Bet Bet, Vic.
Mrs. A. Dahl, Hampton, Vic.

Marriage

Iris Finlay to John Wesley, South Perth, W.A.
Gwen Scott to Alan Gordon, Northcote, Vic.
Miss Yow to Stan James, Collingwood, Vic.
Shirley Barker to Peter Jackson, Chatswood, N.S.W.
Norma Larsen to Norman Ough, Essendon, Vic.

New South Wales

Taree.—Men's Christian Association concluded a successful year by entertaining ladies on Dec. 4. President, C. A. Norling, compered proceedings. On Dec. 5, Ladies' Aid had their final meeting for year. Elder Edwin Saxby and John McLeod are ill.

Broken Hill.—Mr. Gibb and Mr. McCormick exchanged pulpits on evening of Nov. 23. M. Rough and Mrs. Hosking have been welcomed back after illness. L. Warren is seriously ill. Wolfram-st. held their school kindergarten Christmas tree on Dec. 1. Supt. Mrs. T. Garner and teachers and helpers of both schools made beautiful gifts for children. Railway Town school Christmas tree was held on Dec. 7. Y.P.C.E. visited Old Folks' Home and sang Christmas hymns and carols. Mr. McCormick showed films. J.C.E. social and Ladies' Guild break-up were happy functions. B.S. picnic was held at Penrose Park.

Mosman.—On Nov. 17 Ladies' Aid held break-up social. £105 was handed to officers of church for new carpets. On Nov. 25, at B.S. anniversary, afternoon service main items were by kindergarten and A. G. Elliott gave message. In evening Mr. Burns gave message. On Nov. 27, at B.S. concert, prizes were presented by J. Hunter, of Y.P. Dept. On Dec. 2, at Men's Fellowship meeting, Mr. Burns spoke. On Dec. 7, Young People's Club held break-up party. Messages at Sunday services have been given by L. Donaldson and L. Stimson in absence of Mr. Burns on presidential visits. On Dec. 9 Mr. Corlett, of Belmore, gave gospel message.

Chatswood.—Both services were addressed by R. V. Amos on Nov. 18. C. R. Graham showed colored movies of recent trip overseas at C.Y.F. At morning service on Nov. 25, E. W. Roffey, of Lane Cove, spoke. Over 40 attended Enmore Mission on Nov. 28, when C. G. Taylor was speaker. On Dec. 2 Mrs. R. Perkins was a welcome visitor. On Dec. 4 Dorcas Class and Mission Band held a well-attended Christmas meeting, with over 50 being present.

South Australia

Tumby Bay.—B.S. anniversary was held on Nov. 11, when Mr. Stirling was guest speaker. Afternoon and evening meetings were well attended, many visitors being present. On Nov. 12 prize-giving was held, and on Nov. 15 annual teachers' meeting. Several new scholars have been added to roll. All other activities continue to be well attended. On Nov. 25 Mr. Whitmore and other church members attended Pt. Lincoln B.S. anniversary.

Fullarton.—On Dec. 8, Boys' and Girls' Clubs

held a break-up night, when boys gave display of gymnasium work and the girls did figure marching. Handwork done during year was on display, and girls presented tableaux of the nativity. Many parents and friends attended. Supper closed the time of fellowship.

Mile End.—Church work is continuing with good heart. There have been 21 decisions since last May. Youth auxiliaries' annual demonstration with each taking part was well attended and was a credit to Youth Council. Olive Moore has returned from trip abroad. Monthly friendly hour was held on Dec. 9 with Christmas dominating the singing. At W.M.B. annual luncheon, Mrs. Verco was guest speaker. Men's Bible Class enjoyed meeting with Unley Men's Bible Class. Y.P.S.C.E. had interesting talk from Miss M. Bartlett, recently returned from Solomon Islands.

Victoria

Hamilton.—F. Lee, conference president, addressed a tea meeting prior to business meeting, and spoke morning and afternoon at children's anniversary. Active roll is 108. Averages for twelve months were—11 a.m., 71; 7 p.m., 62; breaking bread, 77; Bible school, 69; offering £15. Church made thankoffering to home missions of £40, in recognition of help given over last 19 years. Help of all auxiliaries is gratefully acknowledged. Many appreciate church broadcast services. R. Goudie, T. Davey and K. Langdon have taken services during Mr. Jackel's absence at Bentleigh.

Stawell.—Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham continue to give faithful service. Mrs. Jackson and Miss Campbell have been in hospital. Visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. H. Bolwell, of Mentone. C.E. Society and prayer circle are progressing well.

Geelong.—On Dec. 1 kindergarten Christmas tree was enjoyed by all kinders, Cradle Roll babies and parents. On Dec. 2, S.S. participated in "Sunday School of the Air," when message was given by Don Drayton (supt.). Sympathy is extended to Mrs. A. Carr in the home-call of her father. On Dec. 9 morning meeting was addressed by Reg. Wright (Manifold Heights Baptist), and Mr. Anderson brought gospel message. Many visitors were present at all services.

Coburg.—On Dec. 1 kinders had enjoyable party at Lake Reserve. About 50 enjoyed friendship lunch provided on Dec. 5 by Ladies' Guild for ladies of church. Y.W.F. has been formed with Mrs. Cromarty as president, Mrs. Hart, secretary, Mrs. Pearce, treasurer. Boys' gym held parents' night at their break-up. Mr. Myerscough and Mr. Pearson give supervision to this club. Kappas gained second place in an inter-club competition covering all phases of club activities. Temple day offering reached £276/17/-. Through temple day, sale of works, and talent efforts almost £500 has been raised during 1951 over and above weekly offerings and brotherhood funds, in preparation for re-building.

Essendon.—Addresses were given by Mr. Thompson (North Essendon) and D. Ploog (North Essendon). Temple day was held on Nov. 24, when gifts amounted to £160. Evening speaker on Nov. 25 was Mr. Longford. Mr. McIlhagger spoke at both services on Dec. 2 and 9, and soloist on Dec. 9 was C. Ferguson. Christmas treat for Cradle Roll and kinder children was held on Dec. 8. Mr. Woodward, from Sydney, is having fellowship with church for 12 months.

Doncaster.—The fete held on Oct. 27 raised £91. Special offerings were: Hospital Sunday, £54/10/3; home missions, £50. June Petty was presented with a silver teapot by Thos. Petty on behalf of church on occasion of her marriage to W. Hacker. Men's Fellowship concluded year with a record gathering, when Fred Lewis, ex-Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game, showed

pictures of Australian interest. Chairman of the Fellowship is Russel J. Tully, and secretary Gordon Crouch. B.S. picnic was held at Mordialloc on Dec. 8. Attendances at services continue to be good, and messages of F. B. Burt are interesting.

Northcote.—On Dec. 9, both services were well attended and addressed by W. G. Graham. All auxiliaries have had their Christmas break-up. Women's Auxiliary effort for Social Service

IN MEMORIAM.

BURNHAM (Roy Allan).—In loving memory of our darling grandson and nephew, called to higher service, Dec. 17, 1949.

We shall see him one bright morning,
When we cross the great divide;
We shall see his clear face smiling,
Not changed, but glorified.

—Inserted by Grandma, Grandpa Burnham, Uncle Dick, Aunt Eileen and cousin Alan.

BURNHAM (Roy Allan).—In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, called to higher service, Dec. 17, 1949.

Gone is the face we loved so dear,
Silent the voice we long to hear,
A beautiful memory, a smiling face,
A broken link we can never replace.

—Aunt Jean, Uncle Bill, Howard, Billy, Joan and Evan.

TONKES.—In treasured memory of our dear sister, Elizabeth Jane, who fell asleep on Dec. 18, 1950.

God saw the road was weary,
The hill so hard to climb,
So he gently closed her weary eyes
And whispered, "Peace be thine."

—Inserted by her loving sister Mary, and brother-in-law George.

COOK.—In loving memory of my dear husband and our dear father, James, late of Bendigo, who passed away on Dec. 18, 1938. Till we meet again.

—Inserted by his loving wife and family.

COLE.—In loving memory of our dearest mother, Catherine, who passed to rest, Dec. 22, 1948. "Home at last."

—Inserted by her loving daughter, Louisa, and son-in-law, Allan.

BIRTH.

PARSONS (nee Rogers).—At Queen Victoria, on Dec. 5, to Joyce and Roy—a son, Peter Roy. Both well.

CHRISTMAS.

"They presented unto him gifts; gold and frankincense . . ."

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to last the year round. Give a year's
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262 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

temple day brought total of £271. Miss L. Brownrigg worked well during year and on the day, raising £135.

Carnegie.—Annual fair was held on Nov. 30. £88 was raised toward manse fund. E. L. Williams continues to give excellent messages. Men's Society enjoyed talk by Mr. Thomson, from Australian Institute of Archaeology on Nov. 16. Several members are still sick.

North Williamstown.—Temple day offering reached aim of £200. Church is grateful to Footscray group who gave concert to raise funds for new furniture in hall. Ladies' and Men's Auxiliaries combined to give Christmas treat for children. Explorers assisted by K.S.P. held a banquet celebrating second successive year as all-round champions. Messrs. Foster and Newham attended. Basketball girls held premiership social. Miss Joan Neville is now kindergarten superintendent succeeding Mrs. Peterson who has gone to Springvale.

Maryborough.—Mr. Greenwood was given a small memento at farewell social hour after service on Nov. 25. Farewell social was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson on Dec. 4, when church, Ladies' Aid and girls' choir made presentations. Shower tea was given Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wright. Mrs. Banks is in hospital. Kinders' Christmas tree was held on Dec. 8. Messrs. Living, Wellington and Drake are sharing work at Maryborough and Bet Bet while churches are without minister.

Warragul.—Quarterly cottage meetings have been commenced at Bunyip and interest is growing. On Dec. 5 C.E. held meeting in home of Mrs. E. J. Waters. B.S. teachers are conducting competition in a drive for new scholars which has brought in 20 new scholars and 7 names for cradle roll in past two months. On morning of Dec. 2 conference president, Mr. Lee, gave address, and in evening H.M. secretary, B. J. Combridge, spoke. On Dec. 12 C.E. Christmas meeting was held in home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Murnane. Church extends sympathy to Mrs. Francis and Mrs. A. McDonald in loss of a loved one.

Bet Bet.—S.S. anniversary on Nov. 11 was well attended. Dunolly S.S. assisted with singing and W. Greenwood addressed meeting. M. Roberts has concluded his ministry with church. Speakers over past four weeks were Messrs. Living, Drake, and Wellington, from Maryborough. A. Sewell was able to attend meeting after long illness. Mrs. Gemmell has not been well for several months.

Chelsea.—Week of "inner mission" meetings has been a help to members, at which speakers were F. Lee, E. L. Williams, B. J. Combridge and A. R. Pigdon. Ladies' Guild raised £60 at a sale of work for church funds. Mrs. F. Neill has returned home after illness. Preacher's training class for church membership has helped some young people to make their decision.

Gardiner.—F. A. Youens continues to give excellent messages. All meetings are having increased attendances. Youth Fellowship held in private homes after evening meetings is popular. Kindergarten children had Christmas party on Dec. 8. Being built as far as possible with volunteer labor, manse is well advanced. Efforts in aid of manse include: Manse market by Young Women's Fellowship, concert by Good Companions, pictures of Africa, etc., by K.S.P. and Explorers' and combined concert and social by Men's Fellowship. S. M. Gilmour spoke at last meeting of Men's Fellowship, giving details of recent trip abroad. F. A. Youens spoke at 3rd Degree K.S.P. quarterly meeting, when vice Wilkie Thomson was indisposed. Mrs. McCann was speaker at W.M.B. final meeting of year. Mr. Youens has been kept busy in sick visiting in recent weeks. Cricket club is having a successful season.

Hampton.—B.S. made record contribution of £25 for Dhond Hospital. Recently C.M.S. con-

ducted gospel service. Ladies' Auxiliary contributed £140 to manse fund and £70 to Clay Nursing Home. H.M. offering reached £25. Girls' physical culture demonstration was a great success. Maidstone mission was visited on Dec. 13. Mrs. Wood, after operation, is making good progress. Mr. and Mrs. Quenault have celebrated their golden wedding.

Frankston-Moorooduc.—19th anniversary of church at Frankston began on Wednesday, Dec. 5, with a fellowship gathering. Miss Frances Cowper provided musical programme. On Dec. 9 Dr. G. H. Oldfield was speaker at communion service, and chapel was filled to capacity. Thankoffering was £39. Many visitors have been welcomed at recent meetings. Les Gooch is now C.F.A. agent in place of Noel Jackson who retired recently after useful service in this work. Meetings at Moorooduc are well maintained.

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noon meetings also on Sundays (Dec. 23 and
30), Boxing Day (Dec. 26), Missionary Day
(Dec. 29) and New Year's Day (Jan. 1).

Chairman, Mr. J. Oswald Sanders.

Deputy Chairman, Mr. E. A. Coombe, and
Mr. Leonard E. Buck.

Speakers:

Canon Marcus Loane, M.A., Vice-Principal Moore
Theological College.

E. E. Potter, L.Th., Principal Qld. Bible Institute.

Bishop A. Stanway, M.A., of Tanganyika, Africa.

J. Beatty, B.A., Minister Canterbury Presbyterian
Church.

Colin Duncan, M.A., Vice-Principal of Ridley
College.

R. V. Merritt, B.D.Sc., Vice-Principal of Mel-
bourne Bible Institute.

E. H. Watson, Minister of Aberdeen Baptist
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J. Oswald Sanders, Home Director, China In-
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Collingwood.—At social evening on Nov. 27. to farewell Miss Sires and Mr. Titter, tokens of gratitude for services during year were presented by church, Sunday school, Y.P.S.C.E. and cricket club. B. and F. Bible Society showed film at gospel service on Dec. 2.

Obituary

Albert Arthur Harris.

Albert Arthur Harris received the home-call on Nov. 10 at the age of 42. During his illness of several months, he was a patient sufferer and always commended the faith. Baptised by F. A. Youens at Dandenong when 12 years old, he has lived a consistently good life both in service for his Master and fellow-men. He was an officer of the church and a teacher in the Bible school at Dandenong for several years until transfer to Ivanhoe in 1939. Here he served as an officer of the church, also as a teacher in the Bible school. He was instrumental in commencing the Bible school at North Ivanhoe in 1949. He was highly respected both in the church and community and among his workmates. Evidence of this was the large number attending the funeral service at the Ivanhoe church and graveside at Heidelberg cemetery. Loving sympathy is extended to his wife, two children and all the relatives.—W. T. Atkin.

Miss Ella Paulina Robinson.

On Nov. 23, after a long illness, Miss Ella Robinson, a member of the church at Lismore N.S.W., for many years, received the home-call. Born at Bungawalbyn on March 10, 1884, she was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Robinson, foundation members of the old cause there. Joining the church early in life, Miss Robinson was a tireless worker with a special affection for young people. Her influence over the lives of Endeavorers over the years remains till this day. For some years she helped at Ashwood House, Pendle Hill, but failing health made her return to Lismore necessary. The Lismore Temple was filled for the funeral service on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 25, the writer conducting this and also the service at the graveside. Of the family, two sisters, Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Oakes, and five brothers remain. These we commend to the sustaining grace of God which is ever sufficient.—F.B.S.

Mrs. Ellen A. Redman.

On Dec 1 the church at Colonel Light Gardens, S.A., lost its oldest member. Mrs. Redman was over 91 years of age and joined the church at Norwood when she was only 12. Much of her life was spent in Western Australia, and there her husband Robert Redman passed away. Returning to S.A. in 1926, our sister has been in membership with the churches at Norwood, Glenelg and Colonel Light Gardens. Her two remaining sons, Ernest and Oliver, have held high positions of trust in this State as well as being associated with the churches. To these we extend our loving sympathy, for they have had a wonderful mother who during the period of 80 years, has held membership with the churches. On account of the illness of Ernest Redman, the service was held at the home at Torrens Park on Dec. 3, and a private service at the Payneham cemetery followed.—H. P. Manning.



The Australian Student Christian Movement is seeking to extend to Asian students in our schools and universities friendship and hospitality based on our fundamental belief in Christ "in whom there is no East or West." The majority of the students are non-Christian, although many have been educated in Christian schools. Friends who would like to help in the entertaining or with the accommodation problems of these students by showing them what an Australian Christian home is like, are asked to contact

Jean M. Waller, Overseas Students' Committee, 182 Collins-st., Melbourne.

Influenza contracted by E. C. Hinrichsen in the closing stages of the Kalgoolie mission developed into pneumonia during the long car journey east to South Australia. When he and song-leader P. E. Perry reached Port Augusta, Mr. Hinrichsen entered hospital for treatment. He made a rapid recovery, but commencement of the Strathalbyn mission had to be postponed.

Randall T. Pittman, B.A., Dip.Ed., of the Federal College of the Bible faculty, returned to Melbourne on Dec. 14 after a ten-day holiday visit to Western Australia. Despite the almost incognito nature of his visit, he was entertained by former students and friends in the delightful surroundings of King's Park, Perth, and also dined with the Premier of the State.

Agents and Reporters

Please note this is the last issue for the year. *The Australian Christian* will not be published for two weeks (December 25 and January 1). The first number for 1952 will be January 8, and this will feature the work of the aborigines' missions. Owing to holidays, it has been necessary to close the Aborigines Number before the Christmas vacation. Reporters are asked to hold news for two weeks, sending same for issue of January 14.

NEWS FROM THE BRITISH MISSION, INDIA.

Keith Skillicorn writes from Bhandaria, India: "This place is a hive of activity; daily women's meetings, nightly children's meetings, nightly prayer meetings, all well-attended. There is a constant stream of sick folk coming for treatment, and Ruth and Dorrie (Christie) are kept busy. To-day ten Jamauti people expressed the desire to become Christians. They will receive careful instruction. There are dozens in Sarguja almost ready for baptism. One bright girl's parents had no money to send her to boarding school at Daltonganj. I heard to-day that Mr. and Mrs. Christie have been spending over twenty rupees per week from their own money on her keep and education. Her name is Salome. Christies cannot afford to send her for higher education. She would make a fine Bible-woman if sent to theological college. We have many fine young people ready for high school teacher-training, but no money. Ruth and Robert have had a touch of asthma, otherwise all well. We rely on the prayers of the brethren in Australia."



Wembley church, W.A., celebrated its twelfth anniversary on Nov. 17 and 18. Local folk have responded to house-to-house canvass reflected in increased morning and evening attendances, and twelve confessions during recent eight-Sunday gospel campaign, conducted by preacher, J. Bond. Reports presented to church business meeting on Nov. 30 showed progress in all departments, with increased giving to both local and brotherhood work. Interest is being well maintained at mid-week meetings.



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Holiday shack, Sorrento, accommodate four, water, electric light, £2/10/- per week. Vacant April 16, 1952-May 16, 1952, May 27 onwards (not vacant Easter).—Claude Gadge, 49 Springfield-rd., Blackburn. WX5494.

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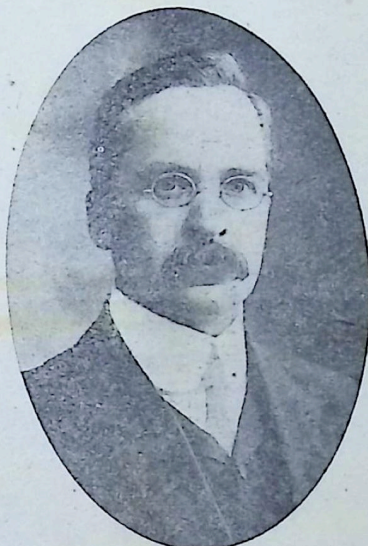
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Fifty Years Ago

Excerpts from "The Australian Christian" of
DECEMBER 19, 1901.

Editor: A. B. Maston.

Congratulations to the Austral on its Tenth Birthday—The good done by the publications of the Austral during these ten years cannot be tabulated, but neither can it be estimated. Let anyone who doubts this try to imagine what the churches would be if the Christian suddenly ceased to run, to say nothing of tracts, almanacs, books, and miscellaneous publications. But what would the Austral be without its brave manager, A. B. Maston, whose organising abilities, business-like methods and tireless energy are quite remarkable, when viewed in connection with his training and gifts as a preacher, and the pathetic circumstances too well known to need mentioning. May the



G. P. Pittman.

Lord spare us this valued life. The least the churches can do to lessen the worries of the manager is to be prompt in payment of subscriptions. A long and prosperous career to the Austral! (Percy Pittman.)

Good News from Japan.—Japan missionaries are rejoicing over an extraordinary revival in that country. For the last few years the progress has been somewhat slow. A special mission commencing on May 12 lasted 50 days and over 5000 gave in their names as desirous of becoming Christians. The C.M.S. Japan Quarterly says that this mission "started a wave of evangelistic work all over the country, the like of which has never been seen in Japan before, and which we believe God will use to gather in tens of thousands into his church and kingdom." E. S. Booth, missionary of Yokohama, writes: "Wonderful things are being done daily. Missionaries meet one another and say, 'It is wonderful, wonderful; I cannot understand it. Thank God, we don't have to understand it. Our eyes have seen and our ears have heard.'" (Editorial Notes.)

Churches and Preachers.—A brother whom we highly esteem and love in the Lord, writes to us complaining of how the churches treat their preachers. Certainly, this brother has dropped across some odd lots, because we have been in this country now for twenty-two years, and we have seen but little of this kind of thing. It is true that there may be some of our churches

who don't know how to treat their preachers, and it is barely possible that some of our preachers don't know how to treat their churches, but we don't feel inclined to condemn all the churches and preachers on that account. (A. B. Maston.)

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Both family life and the life of the church would benefit greatly if "The Book of Family Worship" could be introduced into every one of our homes. I heartily commend this book, and sincerely pray that it might find a place in our hearts and homes during 1952.

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Hymns in Daily Life

*A series of stories, based upon personal and
selected incidents relating to hymns or par-
ticular verses. With a brief biographical note
and reference to hymnbook sources.—A.J.F.*

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT.

(Joseph Mohr. Austrian minister (1792-1848).
Several translations exist, with various titles.

Churches of Christ Hymnbook No. 74.

De Beaufort was a young Dutch Christian
student, in the underground resistance move-
ment in Amsterdam. Arrested in 1942, he was
examined and tortured 36 times without betray-
ing his friends. In solitary confinement, he
wrote his prison experiences which included one
Christmas Eve. A young lad called Dirk
was put in the cell with him and he read
Luke's Christmas story. "Speak up!" shouted
a voice from the next cell. "Read for us
all," said another, and other voices called,
"Yes, for all!" Standing on his stool near
the cell grating he read in the semi-darkness,
then spoke simply about the passage and the
meaning of Christmas. Then he began, "Our
Father . . ." Dirk took it up. From other
cell doors the murmur of the unseen congrega-
tion joined. "Then," he wrote, in his account,
"it was quiet and even the drunken guards were
still. As I got down from my stool a hoarse
voice from another cell began to sing 'Silent
Night, Holy Night.' Then, gradually, other
voices joined, softly at first, and then with a
mighty swell, and all in that prison belonged
together."

It was London. Christmas Eve, 1940. A 'bus,
shattered by a hit-and-run raider! Explosions!
Fires! Bomb-damaged buildings! Workmen
were drilling, for damaged pipes must be re-
paired. The noise was shattering.

Then quietness, for the repair was finished.
The workers stood in a group and as one started
to sing the others took it up.

Silent night, holy night.

They finished, and went on to the words,

God rest you merry, gentlemen,

Let nothing you dismay.

As they went away, silence fell upon the shat-
tered street.

We camped beside the ocean, Christmas night,
And spread our blankets in the camp-fire's
glow;

Some sang the hours away but some were quiet,
Thinking of other yule-tides long ago—

Before the war.

Then, as we talked, the night's sweet star-
kissed face

Was softened by the voices of some choir,
Whose hymn of peace seemed strangely out
of place

To those few soldiers grouped around a fire
Beneath the trees.

We lay enthralled by that haunting hymn;
The sea, too, listened, and the rich warm
earth.

For twenty centuries had failed to dim
That well-loved story of the Infant's birth
In Bethlehem.

And then it ceased. Again a hush caressed
The whispering trees and wavelets by the
shore;

The quiet stars looked on the sea's calm
breast

As they had watched two thousand years before
One silent night.

—Sig. J. P. Gleeson, VX127597, in

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