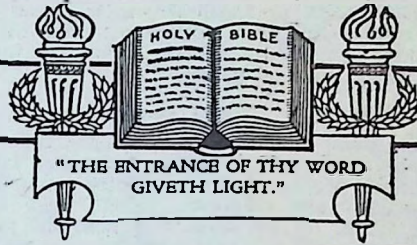


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Post-War Reconstruction.

IT was an ordinary workman who the other day, while lamenting the dreadful present position of the world, expressed to us the confident hope that a brighter day would dawn, a new and better era being sure to follow the world conflict.

Much thought is being given to the new social order which will or should follow the war. There are those, even in high places, who believe that it is premature to discuss the new order which should follow the cessation of hostilities, and who declare that our one aim, or ambition, is to defeat Hitler. Others take the wider view that we must not only win the war, but win the peace, and that it would be folly to wait till the war is over before we attempt to formulate plans for the future. That there will be great social, economic and political changes seems certain as the day.

Recently the London "Times," with our own nation in mind, declared: "The nation will not emerge from the conflict as it went into it; and all sections of the community, particularly those who can contribute most, must work together for a better order. Unemployment of the chronic debilitating kind must go; so must cruel poverty; so must the slums. A national reconstruction, to which men of all parties are looking forward, should provide a motive great enough to preserve an essential national unity over all secular differences."

Even the conditions of peace are highly debatable. No wonder that the reconstruction after the war should be more so. Recently President Roosevelt stated that the following five objectives must be realised before a permanent peace could be assured: "Freedom from fear, which could be brought about by disarmament; freedom of information; freedom of religion; freedom of expression; and freedom from want by the removal of cultural and commercial barriers between nations."

In this issue we print a short article by Jas. W. Lewis, preacher of Mildura church, stating more extensively the aims of the National and Social Reconstruction Movement in Sunraysia District, to which brief reference was recently made in our columns. "The Movement Towards a Christian Social Order" to which Mr. Lewis refers is elaborated by a manifesto issued by the Inter-Church Council of the Movement, of which Mr. J. T. Lawton is secretary. The objectives of the Movement are said to be: "(a) The development throughout the church and the community of the religious social conscience, whereby the Christian principle of social well-being which is based on the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, as revealed by Jesus Christ, shall be applied to every aspect of life. (b) The initiation and development of a programme of education for a social order and a citizenship true to the ideals of the kingdom of God." Evils which need correction are indicated.

"The Bishops' Statement" mentioned by Mr. Lewis is that on social justice issued by "the Episcopal Committee for Catholic Action on behalf of the Australian Hierarchy." The following sentence illustrates the point of view. "We are faced with a well defined tendency to submerge the human personality in mass movements of various kinds, and it is, therefore, important to recall some fundamental notions concerning human rights. Man has a right to live, and this right operates from the moment of his conception." Many details follow.

There should be no difficulty in our agreeing with the principles enunciated in the foregoing. Yet there may be much difference even amongst loyal Christians in the application of the principles to some questions. But there is so much that is now out of harmony with Christian principles that there should be a vast field of social adjustment and amelioration of conditions in which agreement should be reached before believers range themselves on opposite sides.

Christian Citizenship: The Example of Jesus.

A recent article by Dr. G. R. S. Reid in the "Messenger" on the above subject contains some very helpful material. We quote a portion of it: "There was much in the social and political system of that time which was objectionable and unjust. The Jews under the Romans were a subject race, with little liberty under a military tyranny like that of Germany or Russia to-day. Yet Jesus led no revolt or rebellion. He never attempted to play the part of an agitator or revolutionary though there was plenty of smouldering discontent to which he might have appealed. He refused to become a political leader and showed no sympathy with the extreme party of Jewish nationalists known as the Zealots. He stood for moral and spiritual ideals, and many of his fanatical contemporaries were disappointed. The kingdom he came to establish was a kingdom of character—one of truth, righteousness and peace—and for these principles he suffered and laid down his life. . . .

"Jesus was the Friend of the common people and placed high value on the worth of each individual. He was a true democrat and without his help and guidance democracy will never realise its best aspirations of mutual love, service and co-operation. He was fearless in denouncing self-interest, self-advertisement and self-complacency. He made no truce with greed, oppression or hypocrisy. Yet he would have nothing to do with violent upheavals or revolutionary methods. He trusted rather to the personal practical application of Christian principles and the gradual pressure of the social influence of Christian men and women. He longed to save the nation from false leaders and wrong tendencies. We can-

not doubt that to-day he would have lifted up his voice against all dishonest practices in trade and commerce as well as public and civic life. He would have made his protest against exorbitant profiteering and condemned selfish wealth and exploitation of the poor. He would have urged the removal of those temptations to drink and gambling and other evils which sap our national strength, enslave weak men and women, threaten our growing youth and endanger the future well-being of the Commonwealth. We need more leaders after the mind of Jesus Christ to seek the highest moral and spiritual welfare of the nation, men of honor, intelligence, experience and unselfish spirit, with fearless courage to maintain Christian standards in public affairs. We need Christian citizens to produce and support such leaders who will seek to follow Christ in their own lives and build up a nation which is worthy of his name—strong, clean and efficient. Civic indifference, selfish isolation and personal indolence are all condemned by the example of Christ, and we have only ourselves to blame if we allow political power to drift into the hands of unscrupulous and incapable men. We need men of statesman-like vision and faith whose ambition is to make their nation a force for truth and righteousness."

Surely we can all say Amen to that.

Protecting Aborigines.

EVERY sign of increased interest in the welfare of the aborigines on the part of the Commonwealth authorities is to be welcomed. It has been announced that vigorous action will be taken to prevent undesirable contacts with whites by the aboriginal and half-caste population of the Northern Territory. The Minister for the Interior (Senator Foll) states that the native problem had become intensified since the outbreak of war. Neither aborigines nor half-castes, he said, were permitted in the vicinity of camps or military areas. He stated that the precautionary steps included closer supervision of aboriginal reserves and compounds, more intensive police supervision to compel Europeans to respect premises in which half-castes and aborigines were residing, and the introduction of social evenings and other forms of recreation to make compound life more attractive. Ordinances were being drafted to impose more severe penalties for drug and liquor trafficking and violation of reserves.

It is interesting to note the tribute which Senator Foll paid to the missions. He is reported as saying: "The missions will give half-castes and natives sound moral training. They will teach them agriculture and technical and domestic work. Plans include growing sweet potatoes, cassava, yams, peanuts, rice, and fruit, as well as developing fishing and marine products and stockbreeding. Cotton growing and boatbuilding may also be attempted later. Besides trying to make natives self-supporting, every effort will be made to establish local markets for their produce."

Salvation by Faith.

AS an illustration of the confusion of thought in men's minds and of the need of clear scripture teaching, we cull the following extraordinary sentences from the correspondence column of a daily newspaper:—"Under the heading 'Salvation by Faith,' the President of the Methodist Conference is reported to have said, 'The church must return to the Bible, and men must return to faith.' In a tract recently published by an ex-president of the same conference, he says, 'We experience the new birth upon the exercise of faith.' That is the fundamental mistake that has made our churches impotent. As well say an infant is born through breathing air. Paul distinctly states that faith is the gift of God. It is given at the moment of spiritual birth, but is certainly not the cause. How can one dead in trespasses and sin have the living faith that saves? If it is a gift it is obvious one must qualify to receive it. The Founder of Christianity in a final review, as reported by Luke, told his disciples to go and preach crucifixion, resurrection, repentance, remission of sins. Both Paul and John Wesley taught salvation by repentance, and works meet for repentance."

No believer in Christ will be likely to discount the necessity of repentance. But salvation is conditioned also on faith. Men who are said to be dead in trespasses and sins are not incapable of hearing the message of the Gospel. Christ, who said, "He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved, but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned" knew that, when God provided the motive and evidence for faith, the man could believe or disbelieve: the responsibility is his. Christ does not tantalise people by promising them salvation if they believe, while all the time they cannot believe until a miraculous work is done in their hearts. Paul in Eph. 2: 8 does not say faith is the gift of God; the word for "faith" is feminine and the word for "that" is neuter. While faith is not the direct gift (you do not command a gift, and "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ" is a command), yet the inducements and evidence come from the Spirit of God; so that Paul could write: "No man can say, Jesus is Lord, but in (or by) the Holy Spirit."

Ira D. Sankey.

MANY tributes to the work of Ira D. Sankey—"the man who set the world a-singing"—were made on the centenary of his birth. An exceedingly appreciative article from the pen of Mr. E. Ebrard Rees appeared in "The Expository Times." At the beginning of his article Mr. Rees says that "no singer of sacred songs and solos has thrilled so many congregations and moved them emotionally to the extent that Sankey did." Some of our readers may be surprised to note its closing sentences:—"Not only did Sankey sing songs himself. He taught others to sing them. At his portable organ and with his own voice as lead he would teach a crowd as many as six or eight hymns in an evening. The next day the whole town was singing them. Thus it was that his collection of 'Songs and Solos' became a best seller. Indeed, it has remained a best seller, for no other book, apart from the Bible, has sold so many copies as Sankey's 'Songs and Solos' in all the editions. Many thousands of older Christians all over the world make some of Sankey's hymns their altar. Well they might. It is their shelter in a time of storm. What the effect of Sankey's hymns will be on the final hymnody of the church none can say, but they introduced a lighter tune into the song of the sanctuary. That will remain his contribution. A lilting chorus is a vehicle of thought even in church."

If God is really preparing us all to become that which is the very highest and best thing possible, there ought never to be a discouraged or uncheerful being in the world.—H. Bushnell.

The Propagation of Our Witness

Lyall Williams, M.A.

"**ADVERTISE** or fossilise" was a slogan recently aired in a church meeting, and if we may join in the modern craze we would say, "Propagate or perish."

The Need and Right to Propagate.

In general the need to propagate calls for no argument. Any corporate body that would live must propagate, for its life is maintained by activity and additions. While there is a need for us to live, there is a need for us to propagate. We not only *need* to live, but we have a *right* to live if we have a purpose to fulfil. Our right to propagate and live depends upon the reality, quality of our purpose, and the effectiveness with which we are fulfilling it.

The Christian Association of Washington consisting of persons of different religious denominations, led by Thomas Campbell, appealed to the clergy of that day to destroy denominationalism. The convictions and purpose of the members of the association were laid down in Thomas Campbell's "Declaration and Address" delivered and published in 1809.

The first proposition asserts the essential, intentional and constitutional unity of the church and the whole document expresses the plea and plan of the Association for Christian Union.

It is not without ground that Mr. H. E. Tickle, one of the representatives of the British Churches of Christ to the Geneva Conference, made the following statement: "The advocacy of the union of all believers is largely the justification for the separate existence of the Churches of Christ." Our plea is for unity and the truth that unites. We also offer a plan for the united church, the strength of which cannot be denied, so that while the church remains divided we have a purpose to fulfil and thus we have both a need and right to propagate our witness. When that purpose is fulfilled we shall not only be contented but glad to cease propagating and perish.

Propagation Within.

The Greek oracle of old said, "Know thyself." In the propagation of our witness nothing is more important than that we as a people should know ourselves. The knowledge of why we exist and what we plead for should not be confined to a narrow group of enthusiasts at the apex, but should be possessed and enjoyed by the widespread multitudes at the base of the pyramid. It is said that we attend to and understand the things in which we are interested. "There is no attention without interest" is a psychological principle that we will not deny, but it is also true that there is no interest in things that we do not attend to and understand. Many of our people may well be forgiven a lack of interest and enthusiasm concerning our witness if they have not been helped to know fully the movement of which they are members.

Interest and enthusiasm may be aroused by a negative and a positive approach. If, as the Stoics say, "Shame is the source of all the virtues," we may well be provoked to a virtuous enthusiasm by being impressed with the sin of a divided church. To be moved with pain, shame and horror by the contradiction of a divided church which has the temerity to plead for a united world, to see this as the scandal of Christianity will surely arouse a passion for our plea and programme for union.

On the positive side, if we can see a united church as something vital to the kingdom of God and in that perspective see the bligness of our purpose, task and contribution, we shall surely be stirred to an enthusiasm for our witness. Our people will be less inclined

to drift, less reticent to launch out in aggressive propagation and more ready to liberally support progressive ventures if they understand and are convinced of the reality of our contribution to a great purpose.

To this end a very definite place must be found in our preaching and teaching to instruct and interest our people in our witness and inspire them to think, speak and act creatively. The Bible class syllabus should provide an effective and appropriately used medium for educating our young people and making them appreciative members of our movement and loyal supporters of progressive propagation. The preparation or laying hold of suitable material for this purpose should not be overlooked. The Sunday school library generally seems to have fallen on degenerate days, but its revival as a teachers' help would serve a most necessary and useful purpose. On its shelves helpful literature concerning our witness would find a rightful place. Beyond the syllabus and teachers the distribution and sale of attractive literature would play an important role in quickening interest, keeping alive the flame and stimulating a wider propagation.

"Christian Union and Our Witness" or like subjects provide a theme for discussion in youth conferences, which can play a real part as a means of education and stimulus in the propagation of our witness.

By living in unity in spite of diversity of views, theories, interpretations and convictions we shall prove and propagate our plea. Freedom of expression in pulpit and press without fear of division will at once express our plea, convict us ourselves of its validity and commend it beyond our own ranks.

Propagation Without.

Catching the ear of the outside world, both Christian and non-Christian, is at once necessary and a challenge. How shall we secure an audience? Our historians tell us that one day Walter Scott rode into a village at the close of day and spoke to a number of school children whom he gathered about him. "Children," he said, 'hold up your left hands. Now, beginning with your thumbs, repeat what I say to you: Faith, repentance, baptism, remission of sins, gift of the Holy Spirit—that takes up all your fingers. Now again: Faith, repentance, baptism, remission of sins, gift of the Holy Spirit. Now, again; faster, altogether: Faith, repentance, baptism, remission of sins, gift of the Holy Spirit!' Thus he continued until all could repeat it in concert. The children were greatly amused, thinking him a harmless, crazy man. 'Children,' he then said, 'now run home. Don't forget what is on your fingers, and tell your parents that a man will preach the gospel to-night at the school house, as you have it on the five fingers of your hands.' Away went the children, repeating the story until it was all over the village, and long before the hour of meeting the house was thronged to hear the crazy preacher." So Walter Scott gained his audience and propagated his message. While not imitating his method, we may well catch his enthusiasm and reproduce his ingenuity.

Our voice is one with all Christian people on the great fundamentals of the Christian faith. Even if methods differ we are one in propagating the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and in our aim to win men to make him the centre of their fellowships. Our passion is the gospel of the kingdom and the name of Christ as it was of the New Testament preachers and that of all true Christians. The primary ambition of our preaching is to win men to Christ not to our cause, to establish the kingdom of God not our movement, to call men from infidelity

to fidelity, from sin to righteousness, from defeat to victory.

But in proclaiming the great evangel it is natural and necessary that we should present the truth as we clearly know it, expound our witness and win men to the plea and plan for union even as we win them for Christ and the kingdom.

As it is necessary that we should know ourselves and understand our witness, it is necessary that other Christians should know and understand the things we would propagate. The written word is important here. Literature under universal and not titles of local or sectional interest will best propagate our witness. The Christian world as a whole will not be interested in "The Witness of the Churches of Christ" or the like, but it will be interested in "The Scandal of Christianity," "Christian Union and the Kingdom of God," etc. In such an avenue, as in the channel of the spoken word, we shall most effectively propagate our witness in a positive manner designed to win the attention and sympathy of earnest seekers after truth and unity.

Conference is an important means of propagation in all fields. The Faith and Order Movement provides an opportunity for exchange of views and witness through conference. The same opportunity is given by the group studies and conferences of the Student Christian Movement in connection with our institutions of learning. Our witness must find a creditable way into these fields. An important factor, then, in the propagation of our witness is the production of men able and equipped to effectively represent us in conference in such circles of influence as will count in the thought and action towards a united church. Mere enthusiasm is not enough. Scholarship and vision are essential if we are to play our part as a people and take our proper place alongside the leaders of Christian thought and action. We must be a big people with a vision equal to the greatness of our witness, for here as in all other fields, "where there is no vision the people perish." We are impressed with our movement, not as a mass movement, but as a rationalistic, pioneer, thought movement. Our impression and contribution will not be made by reason of numbers, but by the truth, strength and quality of our witness and our presentation of it.

The spirit in which we live and propagate our witness is vital. A narrow, sectarian spirit was one of the irritants that stimulated our plea, and to us a spirit that alienates and divides is as foreign and wrong to us as any false tradition of man. Pleading and planning for truth and unity, we stand for conciliation without compromise with manifest error.

In the spirit of brotherhood we recognise and confer with those whom Thomas Campbell described as "our brethren of all denominations"; in the spirit of love we seek to make our contribution to the spirit of unity which must precede and underlie corporate union of any kind. In this spirit shall we best propagate our witness and most effectively contribute to that goal for which our Lord prayed almost with his dying breath: "That they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

OBJECTIVE.

I CANNOT reach the highest note
That cometh from the bird's full throat,
But I can still some beauty gain
By singing in a minor strain.
I cannot weave some brilliant plan
To help improve designs of man,
But I can add some daily light
By friendly mien and features bright.
I cannot cure the world's sore need
By wealthy gift, or far-flung deed,
But I can cheer and help the poor
That I find daily near my door.

—F. McDonald, Quoted in "A.C. World."

National and Social Reconstruction.

Jas. W. Lewis.

THE National and Social Reconstruction Movement which had its birth in Sunraysia District, with Mildura as its headquarters, is becoming widely known in our Commonwealth. Initiated by a group of laymen in co-operation with the ministers of Mildura, this movement has made rapid progress, and now comes out with the plan of work as prepared by the committee, which includes representatives from both Protestant and Catholic churches.

Realising that there is an urgent need for national and social reform, the committee met for several months before coming to finality as to its plan.

After much prayer and study it was resolved: (a) That national and social reconstruction is imperative.

(b) That a social order founded on Christian principles and embracing the whole population of the Commonwealth of Australia should be inaugurated.

(c) That all churches be asked to throw their full weight into the movement.

(d) That the best means to achieve the desired end was by a petition to His Excellency the Governor-General requesting a Royal Commission at which all who claim reconstruction is necessary have a right to be heard.

The petition has been prepared and has had wide distribution. We are meeting with a ready response by all who read it.

The world to-day is looking to the church to see whether the religion which she practices is the religion which was taught by our Lord Jesus Christ.

In this world of poverty amidst plenty we are all asking for something better and hoping that after the cessation of hostilities a new order will arise. In whose hands is to be the establishment of this new order? The church must answer, and we at Mildura want to answer.

We must get beyond mere sympathy and personal piety, and prove to the world, our government and all others, that salvation for the life of the world can only be effected through men and women who make the adventure of faith in God, the gospel and faith in their fellows.

The responsibility is ours as a church, and the world is waiting for our lead.

Information concerning this movement is available. We append the petition and present it to our brotherhood with the prayer that out of all the world chaos and strife we may accomplish the good which our Master began and which we believe he would have us continue.

THE PETITION.

The main points in the petition are as follow:—

1. Whereas many citizens are under-nourished and living in most undesirable surroundings, though the necessary foods and materials are and can be produced in abundance, so much so that even in certain directions they have been restricted and/or destroyed by order.

2. Whereas many citizens are unemployed and others only meagerly provided for by sustenance labor; nevertheless many public and other works are required for the good of the community.

3. Whereas machinery, invention and scientific method have released new resources of wealth and increased productiveness immensely; nevertheless many citizens have not the means to procure for themselves a fair share of the goods produced, while on the other hand wealth is being accumulated by the few who under existing circumstances have the power to control the destiny of their fellows.

Believing that one of the first responsibilities of the government is to provide the conditions necessary for the employment of every employable citizen and for the procuring of the necessities of livelihood as a right, and antici-

pating that at the end of the war the above problems will be accentuated and that then permanent provision will need to be made for repatriation and pensions,

We therefore now do humbly pray and urge Your Excellency and Councillors in the exercise of your prerogatives and powers to summon and empower a special tribunal council or commission to thoroughly enquire into the circumstances above referred to with particular reference to the following:

1. Economic system (noting particularly the problem of distribution).

2. Monetary and financial theory and practice with a view to a national and social reconstruction.

3. And whether the manifestoes of the Christian Social Order and the Bishops' Statement on Social Justice should not be the completed objective to be sought for our industrial, social, economic and financial system.

Also that the findings of the council or commission be presented to the Senate and the House of Representatives so as to be implemented by legislation, and if necessary be expedited by Orders in Council.

The Parable of the Well.

THERE was once an underground tank which was well constructed, with strong walls and bottom, but whose exterior was not very prepossessing. It was covered with old, dilapidated boards, upon which the weather had worked its will. One day there came an unwary cat upon pleasure bent. It slipped through one of the holes, with a cry of fear, and a hollow splash announced its fate. Later, other cats, rats, mice, sparrows and snakes shared a similar fate. Attached to the well was a creaking old hand pump.

When passing that way one day the owner paused to consider the weathered and creaking old pump and the broken boards. After some thought he turned on his heel with the remark, "Yes, I will do it!" He set himself the task of painting the pump.

After giving it three coats he stood back and surveyed his handiwork. He then proceeded to renovate the top of the well, replacing old boards, and finally painting the whole. His work was finished and he regarded it with satisfaction. Knowing that the walls and floor of the tank were sound, the owner did not bother to look within; but what of the water? It was putrid! He had need to have taken something out, as well as to have put something on that underground tank.

Now hear ye the parable of the well and the painted pump. Look around you and you will see many people and organisations who are intent upon painting the outside instead of purifying the interior.

Too many individuals and churches are busy "painting the pump" and neglecting to remove the worldliness (the rats, cats, and mice of the parable), which is putrifying them from within. Such wells must be cleansed and refilled with the crystal-pure water of life. Do not neglect thy life! Cleanse it of neglected sins! Every detail of spiritual life should be attended to, but if anything has to be neglected, do not let it be the water of thy life.—"The Signal."

PRAYER.

"Be our strength in hours of weakness.

In our wanderings be our Guide;

Through endeavor, failure, danger,

Father, be thou at our side.

Let our path be bright or dreary;

Storm or sunshine be our share;

May our souls in hope unwearied

Make thy work our ceaseless prayer." Amen.

The Home Circle.

Conducted by J. C. F. Pittman.

LIFE.

LIFE is a leaf of paper white
Whereon each one of us may write
His word or two, and then comes night.

Greatly begin! though thou hast time
But for a line, be that sublime—
Not failure, but low aim, is crime.

—Lowell.

THE STORY OF A COAT.

"A SOMEWHAT humorous little story," says Dr. Norwood, "is told of a boy who bought a sealskin to make a coat, and then went round asking neighbors how it ought to be made. Now, most could only think of a coat which would fit themselves, so the short neighbour told him to make it short; the fat one said it should be roomy; a man with long arms urged him to make the sleeves long; whilst one with short arms warned him that was the way to spoil it. One said the fur should be inside, and another that it should be outside; while a stout man cautioned him to make ventilation holes in the coat. Thus loaded with advice, the boy produced a wonderful garment. It only reached to his hips, it was wide enough for two, one sleeve was long and the other short. The fur was turned inside at the front and outside at the back, and the coat ventilated with holes back and front. He wore it once only. He had forgotten to ask the tailor, who, of all men, knew the hundreds of kinds of coats suitable for hundreds of kinds of men. When I hear people grumbling about the world, and saying it ought to be like this or that, I think, they have forgotten the hundreds of things there are in it, and can only see the two or three that apply to themselves."

The Family Altar.

TOPIC.—GOD'S FINAL WORD.

Monday, December 16.

IT shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.—Gen. 3: 15.

The first promise of a Saviour was thus given. He is to be the enemy of Satan, and to bruise his head. It was a brief, obscure, enigmatical promise, yet it was their gospel. So these antediluvian saints accepted the promise, and looked forward to the coming of the Saviour.

Reading—Genesis 3: 14-24.

Tuesday, December 17.

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.—Matt. 3: 17.

Jesus claimed to be the Christ, the Son of the living God. This stupendous assertion is well substantiated by Almighty God, who upon this occasion gives his first unqualified support to Jesus' claim.

Reading—Matthew 3: 13-17.

Wednesday, December 18.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son.—John 3: 16.

Surely this is the premier text! No wonder Luther calls it "the Bible in miniature." Everything ends here, for Jesus is "God's final Word."

Reading—John 3: 14-18.

Thursday, December 19.

But afterward ("last of all," A.V.) he sent unto them his Son.—Matt. 21: 37.

The parable of the wicked husbandman can be well understood by students of Old Testa-

MOODY AND THE DOUBTER.

DWIGHT L. MOODY always had a quiet but telling way with those who endeavored to get the better of him on religious matters. One day a man said to him:

"Moody, the doctrine you preach is most absurd; you preach that men have only to believe to change the whole course of their life. A man will not change his course by simply believing."

I said: "I think I can make you believe that in less than two minutes."

"No, you can't," he said. "I'll never believe it."

I said, "Let us make sure that we understand each other. You say a man is not affected by what he believes; it will not change his course."

"I do."

"Supposing," I said, "a man should put his head in at the door and say the house was on fire, what would you do? You would get out by the window if you believed it, wouldn't you?"

"Oh," he replied, "I didn't think of that."

"No," I said quietly, "I guess you didn't."

Belief is the foundation of all society, of commerce, and everything else.

A chairman of a municipal milk depot (writes the author of "Confessions of a Journalist") said that orders were flowing in so fast that they had to call all hands to the pump!

The well-behaved husband does not always lack a word of appreciation from his wife. "My husband is a respectable man," said a wife proudly. "He never contradicts me."

"Them Which Labor."

1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28.

Prayer Meeting Topic for December 18.

H. J. Patterson, M.A.

AND we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake" (vv. 12, 13). Sometimes we need to be reminded of texts like these lest we forget that certain men, called of God, are to be listened to, and to be held in high regard. Their task to-day is an increasingly difficult one. They need our sympathy and help.

Their Commission.

The graduate of a university receives his diploma or degree, and is thereby able to enter upon a profession or service. The servant of the Lord Jesus, who is given a place in the church, is called of God. If he is not called of God then he has no right to the seat he occupies. We believe that our men are called of God, and if so they receive a commission to preach and to teach. It was always thus. Jesus called the apostles and the seventy. Even minor offices are to be filled by men who receive their commission of God (cf. Eph. 4: 11, 12). It is he who makes some apostles and some prophets, etc., and when perhaps we are tempted to criticise and even hinder or retard the progress of the work, think of this. What if we are holding up the work of God.

Their Task.

What a gigantic task and service they are called to. A world has lost its way. Old orders seem likely to give place to new, and there is nothing stable. But such has been before, and the ministers and teachers have helped the people of God safely through. The work of "them which are over you" is not so much to rule as to admonish and guide. Any who enter into such service should read Acts 20: 17-38 and note the nature of Paul's work for God at Ephesus. He was over them, but he lived with them, sharing their sorrows and problems, yet patiently guiding them. And what he had done he bids the elders to do for the church. As one to-day views the needs of men, and the distress that has come upon the world one feels like saying, "Who is sufficient for these things?"

The Response.

None of them that are over you in the Lord can ever do a great work unless there be loyal co-operation and support from all the members. Too often we have seen the ministry of a godly man frustrated and spoiled by an unappreciative and selfish few in a congregation. Paul urges that we "esteem them exceeding highly in love for their work's sake" (R.V.). Not only "esteem" but high esteem. Not only that, but "exceeding highly." How does that compare with your estimation of your own preacher, and elders, and deacons? These men are rulers, for so the word signifies, but some will not even allow them to rule. Some of them should admonish you, but you get very annoyed should they attempt it.

This is a delicate and difficult office, and some of them that are over you may not always well discharge their duty. But if re-proved, let us take it kindly, for they are but doing the bidding of the Lord. We all need the grace of God in our hearts, and to be at peace among ourselves. We find it very hard to be told we are wrong, however kindly the truth may be put. But we must not forget our Christian relationship to them that are over us in the Lord. God keep us humble and teachable.

TOPIC FOR DECEMBER 25.—THE GIFT UNSPEAKABLE.—2 Cor. 9: 15; John 3: 14-21.

Sunday, December 22.

God . . . hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son.—Heb. 1: 2.

Jesus is God's final word. If men refuse to hear him, or harden their hearts to his gracious entreaties, or are unaffected by his stupendous sacrifice, there is nothing more to be said.

Readings—Micah 4: 1-5; Hebrews 1.

Our Young People

Conducted by Keith A. Jones.

ANNUAL WIND-UP OF EXPLORER CLUBS.

A COMPANY of 125 boys and leaders belonging to Explorer Clubs in Melbourne held their annual meeting for inter-club games and social fellowship at North Fitzroy school hall on Nov. 25. After devotions led by Mr. P. Foster, convener of the Explorer Clubs Auxiliary, the club competitions began. The friendliest spirit of rivalry was evident on all sides. Two silver cups, for juniors and seniors, were to be presented to the successful clubs. Every club did well, but it was clear that some had been practising team work and carried everything before them.

At the end of most keenly contested games the scoreboard revealed that North Fitzroy club (P. Foster, leader) had won the juniors' cup. The honors in the senior group went to Hartwell club (H. Kennedy, leader). Following supper, Mr. Keith Jones, Department secretary, congratulated all the clubs on their splendid team work during the competitions, and their effective programmes covering the year's work. A word of special thanks and congratulation was expressed to Mr. P. Foster, who as convener of the auxiliary had given first-class leadership.—Denis Grant.

GOOD COMPANIONS' FIELD DAY.

FOR many weeks the girls in the Good Companions Clubs had been anticipating keenly their annual sports day. But very windy and wet conditions prevailed on the day chosen, and a postponement became necessary. However, a later date prevented some clubs from participating. On Saturday afternoon, Nov. 30, the sports day was held at Jolimont Park. The bright sunshine fully compensated for the stormy conditions on the earlier date. Eight clubs numbering 100 girls took part in the programme, and a splendid time resulted. The shield competition put everybody "on their toes," and South Melbourne, South Yarra and Carnegie clubs fought it out to the finish. In the final count South Melbourne gained a slight lead and won the shield. Mr. F. N. Lee, chairman of the Young People's Department, congratulated South Melbourne and presented the shield.

NEW ZEALAND YOUTH ACTIVITIES.

THREE Christmas camps are in the making—Southland at Stewart Island, Canterbury at Southbridge, and Otago at Hampden. 1941 Easter camps are planned for Nelson and Westland. The latter is the rendezvous for the Dominion camp.

At the present time in Wellington a small group of our younger university men are carrying their training over into spiritual realms. With V. Stafford as convener they are studying "Christians in Society" of the Religious Book Club series. Within recent months classes were held in Wellington, Christchurch, and Auckland, assisting young men in efficiency in the public duties they are called upon to render to the church.

The Y.P. Department has recently issued a book entitled "Home Beautiful." It aims to help young people make a success of their wedded experience by putting a spiritual content into it.

"Go, teach," was the slogan of a recent Bible school teachers' Dominion convention held at Palmerston North, where G. Stirling ministers. Teachers were present from North and South Island schools. S. R. Knapp acted as convention chairman, Bren. C. Flood, D. R. Stirling and W. R. Hibbert shared in the leadership. The studies were made permanent in book form, and are now being used by teachers for a basis of staff talks as opportunity offers.—W.R.H.

Tasmanian News-letter.

W. S. Lowe, B.Com.

Wet Canteens.

MR. A. R. GARDNER, minister with the Launceston City Methodist Church, made a strong pronouncement (with which the Council of Churches has associated itself) on this subject immediately the change of policy was announced. He stated that the change did not reflect the desire of more than a small minority of the men and was a victory for the trade and a "wet" press. He said, "It is my considered judgment that this is the result of the misdeeds of a few undisciplined men on leave, and is due to vested interests and a wet press. With one exception, so far as I know, the big daily papers of the country are unsympathetic to liquor reform." The statement is of particular value, as Mr. Gardner is actively engaged in chaplaincy work.

Home Missions.

On the Sunday prior to the annual offering, the H.M. Committee arranged presentation of its aims and message to as many churches as possible by visiting speakers. Only one church in the State was omitted from this programme.

At present a two-weeks' mission is being conducted at Sandhill (Launceston suburb) by Bro. L. A. Bowes. Meetings have been fairly well attended and the church helped by splendid messages.

The committee, with a progressive programme, has appealed for "bigger than ever" giving, and offering reports to hand justify optimism, there being in one case a one-third advance on last year's first Sunday results.

An Archbishop's Protest.

The R.C. Archbishop of Hobart recently took occasion to protest in strong terms against the military authorities' policy in regularly issuing contraceptives to the A.I.F. and militia troops. His allegations have aroused a storm of criticism of the practice. The State Council of Churches commended the "courageous statement" and called on the Minister for the Army to make a full and adequate reply. The Launceston Council is also planning to take action on receipt of corroborative information.

Various.

Bro. L. A. Bowes, preacher at Collins-st., Hobart, and the State's leading temperance advocate, has been honored in his election to the vice-presidency of the State Council of Churches, of which, incidentally, another of our brethren, Bro. J. Park, has been the efficient secretary for a number of years.

The Presbytery of Tasmania at its recent gatherings expressed concern regarding the rules controlling the calling of ex-men of the Theological Hall.

The Methodist president, Mr. T. C. Rentoul, has been visiting churches in this State.

Our Book Table.

"AUSTRALIA'S TRAGIC ERROR."

THE Aborigines' Uplift Society has issued a little booklet (price 9d., posted 10d.), containing five addresses by the late Mr. N. M. Morley, first president of the society, who with fervor and ability pleaded the cause of the aborigines of Australia. The booklet serves as a fitting tribute to his memory, and should also stimulate an interest in the work which lay so near to his heart. There is much information in its five chapters, which are entitled "The Australian Aborigines; The Clash of Color; The Half-Caste Question, What Can Be Done? and Summary and Conclusion. Anything that can arouse Australia, and especially Christian people, to take a warmer interest in the welfare of the aborigines, a dispossessed and neglected people, has our commendation.

Gippsland—Land of Opportunity.

WHILE many parts of Victoria have been suffering from declining populations and depressing economic conditions, Gippsland of late has been enjoying a wave of prosperity. Population is steadily flowing into various sections of the country, and to-day Gippsland presents a rare opportunity for gospel work. The South-eastern District Conference, comprising churches at Dandenong, Berwick and Waragul, has been concerned for some time about the open doors which invite us to enter, and discussions at the recent conference led to some active investigations. Morwell, a town 95 miles from Melbourne, seems to present unusual opportunity. A number of brethren live in the town; many others live in towns round about. Plans have been set on foot for opening our work at Morwell. Bro. McRoberts, a business man in the town, and brethren associated with him, are keen to begin operations. As a result of a recent visit of brethren from the city, it has been arranged to begin meetings in a hall in Morwell on Dec. 15. Bro. E. McIlhagger will go to the town and remain there for a month, organising a tent mission, which it is planned to begin on Jan. 12. The home missionary committee is sending the mission tent and providing the equipment and advertising. Bro. I. W. Nixon, an exit student of the college, who has had experience in three missions this year, will be the missionary, with Bro. E. McIlhagger as song-leader. (While I was engaged in writing this article, a 'phone message came to say that Bro. Nixon and McIlhagger had closed an eight-days' mission at Dunolly. Great interest was aroused in the town, and there were eight decisions.) Several other students from the college will be in attendance, each from six to twelve days, to assist in the mission work. They will camp on the field—every man, from the preacher down, is planning to spend a camp holiday, and fill it with hard evangelistic work. The work is entirely voluntary. No salaries are to be paid. Every man is offering his services freely for the sake of the work. Some have promised them their food. We shall be glad to have others share in gifts toward this new work. Many brethren will want to share more largely in this home mission venture, and will supplement their recent home mission offerings by special gifts towards such a work as this. Interested brethren are requested to send gifts to the home mission secretary, Bro. W. Gale.—T. H. Scambler.

BEER AND CHICKENS.

The brewers in Great Britain have been granted permission by the government to brew this year as much beer as in 1939. This means that the same amount of sugar will be destroyed in the making of beer, while the people are not permitted to have sufficient to make jam, and to meet household requirements.

The brewing of beer also requires great quantities of grain, and we now learn that poultry-farmers in Great Britain have been instructed by the Ministry of Agriculture to kill off poultry stocks by two-thirds by the middle of autumn. That involves the slaughter of 40 million chickens—because of the shortage of food. This means a greatly reduced supply of eggs, one of the best "protective" foods, and all to enable beer to be brewed in the same enormous quantity as 1939—a record year.

The public health will suffer as less nourishing food will be available, but beer with all its residual misery and economic loss will be available in the same quantity as in 1939. Yet Great Britain is fighting for her very existence!—"The Reckabite."

Those who say they will forgive, but can't forget an injury, simply bury the hatchet, while they leave the handle out, ready for immediate use.—D. L. Moody.

Here and There.

Bro. A. B. McDiarmid, M.A., who recently returned from U.S.A., has commenced a ministry with the church at South Wellington, N.Z.

The Victorian General Doreas will hold their usual monthly meeting on Wednesday next, Dec. 18, from 10.30 a.m. till 4 p.m., in the Swanston-st. lecture hall. All sisters interested are invited to attend.

Bro. D. Boxhall, of 18 Duncan-st., Flemington, W.I., wishes us to state that he is still secretary of the church at Newmarket, Vic. Through a misunderstanding a change was inserted in error in last week's "Christian."

At Brooker, S.A., in the Ungarra district, the first service conducted by Churches of Christ was held on Nov. 25, when about 30 attended, and Bro. G. Newell spoke on "Who are These People?" For some years a Bible school has been conducted in this locality by Mrs. Breed.

Bro. A. W. Connor, who is in the last half of his eighth year as preacher at Doncaster, Vic., has resigned. The officers have invited him to finish his eighth year with them if agreeable to his own plans. Bro. Connor will give his answer shortly; his plans are not yet completed.

J. O. Methven has been appointed chaplain in the A.I.F. for the duration of the war and has resigned his appointment with Kedron church and circuit, Qld. It is possible that, later, Bro. Methven will go overseas. "Cobbers," the camp journal where he is serving, recently gave eulogistic notice to his work.

Receipts for the College of the Bible annual offering continue to mount steadily, and to Tuesday the total was £899/18/3. State totals were: Victoria, £429/11/4; S.A., £170/8/10; N.S.W., £146/15/8; Qld., £92/0/6; W.A., £40/19/10; Tas., £20/2/1. Contributions from 227 churches show a net increase of £64/13/- over 1939.

The Chinese church and teachers of the mission at Queensberry-st., Carlton, Vic., have had great encouragement in the work. On Dec. 8 there were good meetings. At close of evening service five scholars of the Bible school were baptised, and six adults, including a mother and one of her sons, made the good confession, Bro. Daniel Gow preaching.

A meeting of isolated members was held at Mr. Murnane's residence, York-st., Sale, Vic., on Dec. 8. There were 12 members present for breaking of bread; included in this number were Mr. and Mrs. McRoberts and family, from Morwell. Next meeting in Sale will be on Dec. 22 at 10.30 a.m. Any members travelling through or in the district on that date would be most welcome.

The Victorian F.M. Committee had tea with outgoing missionaries, Mr. H. R. Coventry and Miss L. Foreman, prior to the regular committee meeting on Dec. 6. Mrs. Coventry could not be present. Both Mr. and Mrs. Coventry have been members of the committee during this conference year. Several expressed good wishes for a safe journey and a continuance of the excellent service our workers have rendered in India.

In the Chinchilla circuit, Qld., good meetings were experienced at Vickery Park and Tara on Nov. 24. A visit of Bro. H. G. Payne to the circuit was greatly appreciated. The work is still making steady progress in some parts of the circuit; other centres are not so encouraging. Sunday school has been reorganised at the Mill, and one has started at Tara. The marriage of Mr. Jeffery Smith and Miss Emma Hulse was celebrated at Sixteen Mile on Nov. 27.

The church at Charters Towers, Qld., celebrated its 50th anniversary on Nov. 24. Special vocal items were rendered by Sisters Wales, Lollo and some of the senior girls. In recognition of their fifty years of loyalty and service, Sisters Mrs. E. Riley and Mrs. E. Coward, sen., were each presented with a copy of the

scriptures. Ten years ago the old chapel was removed from York-st. to Anne-st., now serving as a hall. To mark the occasion of the 50th year a banquet was held in the hall on Nov. 26, and reference was made to the many years of devoted service of Sisters Riley and Coward.

Delegations, and converts from past missions, have combined with the local people to make attendances at the Hinrichsen-Morris mission at Balwyn, Vic., the talk of the district. On many nights the curtains of the large marquee have been dropped, people standing outside and listening to the messages. On Sunday night, Dec. 8, five more made the confession, bringing the total to 35. Although it is expected that the Christmas rush will interfere, the officers wish the mission to continue until Dec. 23.

We are requested to announce that at Surrey Hills (Vic.) Presbyterian church, from Dec. 26 to 29, there is to be held a United Christian Conference: "to find the responsibility of the Christian church and citizens in the removal of such evils as poverty, disease, ignorance. It is anticipated that one result at least of this conference will be sustained and corporate action for the removal of barriers to the fulfilment of God's purpose for mankind." The full programme, and particulars of registration, may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. G. Wake, 60 Denham-st., Hawthorn, E.2.

The Victorian auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society has just completed a successful year of work. It being the centenary year, the committee suggested as an aim an advance of 10 per cent. in income. All branches in the State have reached the aim, the Melbourne auxiliary showing a gain of over 100 per cent. Over £1900 has been raised for distributing Testaments to A.I.F. troops. The trade department shows an increase of over £2580 for the year. Dr. A. Law, chairman, entertained the committee and staff and their wives on Monday and gave the above information.

W. Gale writes: "Wangaratta has just celebrated its 13th anniversary. In some respects it is the best yet, which is very encouraging to home mission supporters. The banquet was up to the splendid high standard of the past. The fellowship was excellent. Delegations were present from Shepparton, Yarrawonga and Albury. Mr. Ross Lloyd is much appreciated. He and Mrs. Lloyd have given close attention to visitation, and are everywhere well received. The banquet offering, which is used to meet interest payments and to reduce debt on chapel and manse, exceeded expectations and constituted a record. It included £30 contributed by the women's organisation. It was an uplift to be present on this occasion. Our annual offering figures are as follow: 50 churches which last year contributed £754/9/6 have this year reported £671/3/1. In many cases this does not include the offering of the second Sunday."

The chapel at Dandenong, Vic., was filled to capacity last Monday evening, when Mr. and Mrs. Coventry and family were farewelled. The chairman and secretary of the church spoke in appreciation of the work done during Mr. Coventry's brief ministry. The president of the Ministers' Fraternal spoke of the fellowship that had been enjoyed by the ministers of the town and district. Representatives of various auxiliaries made presentations to the guests of the evening, and the church presented a roll of notes. Mr. H. Clark represented the Foreign Missionary Committee in a word of greeting. Mr. Coventry and Mrs. Coventry both spoke words in appreciation of the kindness shown during their stay at Dandenong, and suitably acknowledged the gifts made to themselves and children. Musical and elocutionary items added to the enjoyment of the evening, which was terminated with a social cup of tea.

Faith Follows the Bible.

THE great faith that if the Bible is once received and fully considered by any people, the rest will follow, is well warranted and needs no further proof than this, that so it has happened. It may be that there are people amongst ourselves who are case-hardened to the very name of the Bible, over whom the Bible has little or no influence; but these are in no position to give evidence. What has happened to the Bible in their case is no more a disparagement of the Bible than it would be a disparagement of some grains of wheat to say that they had lain on the face of a rock for days and weeks and had never begun to germinate. Of course not! For the germination of seed, a soil is necessary; and for the fine consequences of the entrance of the Bible into a heart or into a community or into a whole people, it is necessary also that there be in such a heart and in such a community, and in such a people, that darkness or that sadness or that confusion which life of itself causes to descend upon us all until life has been illuminated from above.

This is a faith which has received in our own day from many a strange quarter the strongest corroboration. I am not going into the deeper and debated question as to whether man in the long run owes more on the one hand to his natural and hereditary aptitudes, or on the other hand to the force of environment or suggestion. At the present moment I should say the argument is rather in favor of the latter supposition. Certainly it is a safe thing to say that there is simply no end to the capacities which lurk in the human soul to respond to appeal and suggestion. We know now that a child belonging to one nation, if taken in its infancy into a home of another nation and there brought up as a child of that home, will grow into the likeness of the children of the nation into which it has come. There will, of course, be differences, as there are differences between children in one home; but on the whole, the bent and bias of that child will be affected, so deeply as to give its personality, by the associations, the suggestions, the atmosphere into which it has come.

Every man, every nation, every people on the earth has its own kind of theory of life; its own ideas as to what the whole thing means; as to how to deal with its own personal problems, with its own sense of shame, with its own fear of death. I say every nation has its own way of dealing with life as life meets it in the region of events, or as life wrestles with it beneath the surface in the region of hopes and fears.

Well, the Bible has its way; and it offers its way to the perplexed soul of man throughout the world. And what is it that it offers? The Bible declares that this world means God: that behind everything, working through everything, is God. And what is God? God is a holy power who through nature, through human history, through the secret business of one's private life, is offering himself. That the very meaning of all that is most characteristic in human nature, our inability to live on the mere natural plane, the waves of moral fear that pass over us, and our capacity for tears—the explanation of all those things is, that we are not merely natural, that we are related to One whom we call God and Father; and that all our swayings and agitations are caused by our indefeasible relation to this Other, even as the swayings and agitations of the sea are caused by the pulling of the moon and of the sun and of the stars!—Dr. John A. Hutton.

ADDRESSES.

C. A. Saxby (secretary Lane Cove church, N.S.W.).—38 Earl-st., Roseville.

F. C. Whittington (secretary Gardiner church, Vic.).—5 Carroll-cres., Glen Iris, S.E.6. U 2515.

News of the Churches.

TASMANIA.

West Hobart.—At an evening the sisters' sewing class presented £20 to building fund, £7 to home missions and £5 to overseas missions, the result of four months' work. A surprise visit was laid Mrs. H. Woolley on her 80th birthday. Another was made to Mrs. Tease, also in celebration of a birthday. An essay written by Lawrence Tease came first in a competition held by W.C.T.U.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Maylands.—On morning of Nov. 24 services commenced with an early prayer meeting. At 11 a.m. Bro. D. R. Hill delivered a powerful address. Bro. Bamford, evangelist, conducted gospel service. There were good meetings for the day. On Nov. 27 the girls' club held a happy break-up party in the hall, with a large number present. Attendance at mid-week prayer meetings is very encouraging. Bro. Bamford has recovered from sickness. His ministry is being blessed.

Perth.—On morning of Dec. 1 Bro. J. Olsen was welcomed into membership. Bro. A. G. Elliott gave an inspiring message on "Bethlehem Ephratah." At night Bro. E. R. Berry rendered a solo and Bro. J. Wiltshire delivered an uplifting address on "The Crime of Indecision." At a social gathering after the service good-bye was said to Bro. Gordon Ewers, who has been transferred to Carnarvon, and he was presented with a travelling case in appreciation of his services in numerous church activities.

Bunbury.—During November, meetings improved in attendance. Bro. Fewster's addresses maintain a high standard. Two young ladies have recently decided for the Lord. Bro. Chessell, Bible school superintendent, has transferred to Perth; his services will be missed. Church and Bible school made presentations to Bro. and Sister Chessell prior to their departure. On Nov. 30 Audrey Horn and Frank Norton were united in marriage. Bro. Fewster concludes a 3½ years' ministry with the church at the end of the year, and has accepted an invitation to Northam. Bro. Ray Vincent is to take up the ministry at Bunbury at end of January.

QUEENSLAND.

Brisbane (Ann-st.).—All regret the serious illness of Bro. Williams. Bro. C. R. Burdeu on morning of Dec. 1 spoke to a splendid congregation. At gospel meeting Chaplain J. O. Methven was preacher; on Dec. 8 he spoke morning and evening. Women's guild has gone into recess after a very successful year of work. Splendid work is being done by Y.P.S.C.E.

Maryborough.—At conclusion of Bro. G. R. van Eerde's farewell address on Nov. 3 there were two confessions. Meetings continue to be well attended. Bren. Alan Price, J. Ingham and A. C. Popp are conducting services whilst the church is without a preacher. On Dec. 6 a Christmas tea was held, each child attending the school receiving a Christmas gift. The church extends sympathy to Sister Mrs. A. J. Payne, Bro. J. Ingham and Sister E. Ingham in the death of their mother.

Rockhampton.—Good attendances greeted Bro. Vanham during first month of his return to labor with the church. Annual offering for College of Bible was not as large as that of 1939. Ladies' guild spent an enjoyable picnic at Botanical Gardens before going into recess till New Year. Bible school was to hold a concert and Christmas tree on Dec. 10 prior to recess. Although fairly well represented at combined weekly prayer meetings, sponsored by ministers' fraternal, officers and members are concerned at lack of support from some churches. Home mission offering was taken on Dec. 1.

Mackay.—Bro. Les. Crisp preached on the night of Dec. 1, and Bro. Ron Smith exhorted in the morning. The Stewardship Month was a success. At one meeting five deacons each gave a four-minute address on some aspect of the theme. At the final meeting all members doubled their offerings, and attendances were the best for months.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Mt. Isabella.—Recently the work was organised as a church. Bro. Bert Shires was elected secretary with a board of deacons. The church will apply for affiliation with Eyre's Peninsula conference. S.S. had a most successful anniversary. Bro. Norris was speaker and gave good messages.

Mt. Hill.—At annual business meeting all retiring officers were elected; Bro. R. W. Young, secretary; G. Woolford, treasurer. After considering the matter, the church elected Bro. Young to the eldership. He was inducted the following Sunday with a word of exhortation and prayer by the preacher, Bro. Newell.

Hindmarsh.—On Dec. 8 Bro. Wm. L. Ewers spoke to a fair congregation at morning service. At night his topic was "A Bridegroom Seeking a Bride." The choir helped with an anthem. Bren. E. Ratcliff and Walter Dillon have been on embarkation leave, and were bidden farewell last Lord's day by the church.

Unley.—At morning worship on Dec. 1, Bro. Nankivell welcomed into membership five young people from Bible school. Bro. A. C. Rankine gave the address on morning of Dec. 8. Members are invited to join prayer circle, and petition daily for blessing on special mission to be led by Bro. Scambler, from Bible College.

Ungarra.—The C.E. concluded its very successful year under guidance of Bro. Fred. Barton. Dec. 1 was C.E. day. Bro. Norris gave a consecration message at 11 a.m., and Bro. Newell spoke to a good meeting of young folk at 7 p.m. on "A Good Soldier of Jesus Christ." The whole circuit is in good spiritual health.

Forestville.—A young woman confessed Christ on Dec. 1, and was baptised the following Lord's day. On Dec. 8 Mr. R. N. Bowen spoke in morning on the work of the B. and F. Bible Society. Annual business meeting of the church was held on Nov. 27. Good reports were received from auxiliaries, and it was announced that during past year £120 had been paid off building debt.

Winkle.—C.E. consecration meeting was held on Nov. 28. Dorcas ladies' society held a social evening on Nov. 30 to raise funds for a new kitchen for Berri church. Bro. Jack Minnocks, home on embarkation leave from Second A.I.F., addressed the church on morning of Dec. 1. At evening service Bro. Patching spoke on "Rebuilding the Old Temple." Bro. Patching was morning speaker on Dec. 8.

Dulwich.—After 15 years as Bible school superintendent, Bro. Kentish has resigned. Church officers placed on record high appreciation of Bro. Kentish's long and faithful services, and prayed God's blessing on new superintendent Bro. Bridgman. At meeting held in aid of Christmas cheer, Bro. Greaves, curator Botanical Gardens, gave an illustrated address on trees and flowers; offering £2/7/- Murray Richter made good confession on Dec. 1.

Prospect.—In past few weeks inspiring meetings have been held, especially at evening services conducted by Bro. C. Schwab. On Dec. 1 beautiful hymns were sung as solos and duets. Y.P.S.C.E. and J.C.E. hold helpful meetings, all members taking active part. P.B.P. and K.S.P. clubs had a combined meeting, a large amount of groceries being brought to help the poor at Christmas. Ladies' guild is doing a good work, knitting and sewing mostly for Morialta Children's Home. A social was given for a great and willing Sunday school worker, Miss Beryl Baker, on her marriage.

Berri.—Bro. Patching exhorted the church on Nov. 30, and Bro. L. A. Chapple was gospel speaker. Bro. W. A. Hunt was morning speaker on Dec. 8. In the afternoon a church "at home" was held, visitors being present from Winkle and Moorook. One sister from Moorook made the good confession. Gospel meeting took the form of youth parade. Regret is felt at the passing of Bro. A. G. Jarvis, one of the foundation members.

Maylands.—On Dec. 1 Bro. A. Anderson in morning continued his address on the "Beatitudes." In the evening Bro. Wakeley preached and a young lady from the Bible class decided for Christ. Girls' club held annual demonstration on Nov. 26. A very fine attendance greeted the girls, who put on a fine display. Bro. Paddick, of Stirling, was speaker at all services on Dec. 8, his evening address being on "The Great Physician."

Murray Bridge.—A farewell social and field compasses were given Bro. Don. Keatch and Will Swift, of A.I.F., on Dec. 2. Annual tea and social of J.C.E. and the Young Worshipers' League took place on Dec. 7. The young man immersed on Dec. 1 was received on Dec. 8, when Bro. Noble's morning message was "Fruit-bearing." During good evening service a gospel trio was sung by Bro. Herbert Orchard and Sisters Ella Downing and Brenda Orchard.

Fullarton.—On Nov. 23 church anniversary was held. There was a good attendance at communion service. Bro. Shipway, conference president, gave a splendid address on "The Consummation of the Church." Bro. Rankine spoke at gospel service on "When Isaiah Saw God." Special singing by choir under Bro. Frank Willing was much appreciated. Services continued on Tuesday evening; chairman, Bro. Hurren. Bro. F. Collins gave a reassuring address on the church as it is to-day. A good representative gathering then retired to basket supper. Bren. J. Suttle and A. Wickham are able to attend again after being laid aside. On Dec. 8 Bro. Nankivell, of Unley, addressed morning meeting on the passion of Jesus and was much appreciated. Bible school and C.E. work are in good heart.

VICTORIA.

Fairfield Park.—Well attended meetings were held during past month. Bro. Sandells will occupy platform during Bro. Goldsworthy's absence on college vacation.

South Yarra.—Dec. 1 commenced fourth year of Bro. Candy's ministry with the church. Bro. Lang, from Ormond, spoke on morning of Dec. 8. All auxiliaries are working well.

Portland.—On Dec. 8 Bro. Robb gave a splendid address to a well-attended meeting. Bible class has grown rapidly. At evening prayer meeting one young lady made the good confession.

Coburg.—Meetings were well attended on Dec. 8. At close of Bro. Swain's gospel address, a woman who had confessed Christ the previous Sunday was baptised. Home mission offering to date, £18/10/-.

Stawell.—Bro. Thurrowgood's messages have been very helpful and appreciated. Bible school is having more scholars added; 67 were present last Lord's day. Endeavor society is doing good work; a box of Christmas gifts is being sent to Cumerooogunga mission station.

Oakleigh.—At morning service on Dec. 1, Bro. and Sister Dudley were received into fellowship. Monthly intercessory service arranged by ministers' fraternal was held in chapel on Dec. 4. There is increasing interest and attendances in all departments of Bible school.

Dandenong.—On Nov. 27 Miss D. Nankivell held a successful concert in aid of church building extension fund. Bro. Coventry gave two inspiring messages on Dec. 1. At mission band meeting on Dec. 4, Mrs. Coventry was presented with a gift from the sisters prior to her return with Bro. Coventry to India. Bro. Melhagger gave an interesting message at morning service of Dec. 8. At night two sisters were immersed. Afterwards Bro. Coventry preached a farewell sermon, "Where will You Spend Eternity?" All services are well attended.

St. Kilda.—On Nov. 30 the Ladies' Guild conducted a sale of work which yielded £25. On Dec. 4, at half-yearly business meeting of the church, reports were received from auxiliaries. At night on Dec. 8 a young man made the good confession, Bro. L. Johnston being the preacher.

Ararat.—On Dec. 4 the Ladies' Church Aid Society held closing meeting for 1940. Mrs. W. Bryant was appointed treasurer in place of Mrs. A. J. Fisher. Contributions were made to building and interest funds of the church, to the school piano fund and to other funds. H.M. offering is now £2/10/7.

Collingwood.—Bambra-rd. choir with assisting artists gave a splendid concert on Dec. 7 to assist church funds. The school was chosen to go to 3DB for "Sunday School of the Air" programme. Mr. A. A. Hughes was speaker and Miss Alma and Master George Wimpney rendered a delightful duet.

Footscray.—On Nov. 8 Bro. W. Clay gave a helpful message on principles of the Christian Fellowship. Bren. L. Haigh, H. Helmore and Bert Hakanem were welcomed upon their return from camp. Sister L. Forrester was received into membership by letter from Stawell. Home mission offering at present is £14/9/-.

Ormond.—On Dec. 12 the Ladies' Aid gave a social evening to members of the church. At prayer meeting on Dec. 3, Bro. C. L. Lang gave a good message. J.C.E. held annual rally on Dec. 8. Bro. Candy, of South Yarra, gave a fine message; 50 were present. Bro. Candy also gave a good address to the church. At gospel service Bro. C. L. Lang gave a good message on "Jesus."

Mont Albert.—S.S. anniversary services were held on Nov. 24 and Dec. 1. The messages given by Bren. J. Methven, F. Hunting and A. Pigdon were much appreciated. After the concert and distribution of prizes on Nov. 28, Bro. A. Connor showed one film on Abraham and another on nursery rhymes. Four new scholars were enrolled in Bible school.

Gardiner.—Bro. Hagger was speaker at each service on Dec. 1 and 8. Home mission offering to Nov. 8 amounts to £67. On Dec. 4 the ladies of the women's mission band celebrated last meeting of the year by a luncheon, when over 70 members attended. On Dec. 7 a first-class concert arranged by the choir leader in aid of the Royal Melbourne Hospital building fund appeal realised £13.

Brunswick.—At conclusion of evening service on Dec. 1, a young man who made the confession the previous week was immersed. Increased interest is being shown by the young people in gospel services. An enjoyable river trip, proceeds of which were divided between cricket club and building fund, was held on Dec. 7. Sympathy of the church is extended to relatives of Sister Miss Kelly, who has been called to rest.

West Preston.—Bro. Wigney continues to labor faithfully. Attendance at gospel meetings has distinctly improved, 128 being present last Lord's day, when Bro. Wigney gave an inspiring address on "Substitution." Bro. Robinson (Preston) was speaker at morning service. 127 broke bread for the day. Bible school reported a record attendance of 204, 80 being kinders. H.M. offering of £8/5/- was also a record.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—A happy Christmas party given by the N.C.B. class on Dec. 7 was attended by 200. On Dec. 8 many interstate visitors were welcomed at morning service, when Bro. H. G. Earle gave a helpful message. At 3 p.m. 110 attended Bible class. Bro. R. Enniss continued his series with "Can War be Outlawed?" Adelphian cricketers attended evening service in a group and took part with reading of scriptures.

Northcote.—On morning of Dec. 1, Dr. W. H. Hinrichsen was speaker, and at night Mr. Atkin conducted a baptismal service, when three young people were baptised. On Dec. 9 the choir entertained members of church at a musical evening and afterwards with supper. Mr. Atkin was speaker at both meetings on Dec. 8. The three who had been baptised were received into fellowship in the morning.

East Kew.—In recent C.E. examinations East Kew entered five. Miss M. Woodbridge gained highest marks for whole Commonwealth. The church has launched a three-months' "Opportunity Campaign," each member being called upon to exercise greater diligence, personal religion and evangelism. Open-air "gospel witness" in the streets after usual chapel meeting is making headway under leadership of Bro. F. Cambridge. H.M. offering is now £14/10/-.

Kandva.—Sister Mary Clipstone, Bren. H. Finger and Reg. and Cecil Goldsworthy were visitors on vacation on Dec. 1. A social evening was tendered to Miss Mary Clipstone on Dec. 5 in view of her impending departure to New Hebrides. A large number spoke in appreciation of her life and expressed good wishes. She was presented with a cheque to assist in purchase of equipment. Home mission offering is £109 to date.

Horsham.—During month of November Bro. C. W. Jackel gave lantern lectures from biblical themes concerning events of to-day, at Horsham, Haven and Dimboola. All lectures were exceptionally well attended. On Dec. 1 three were baptised. At morning meeting on Dec. 8, five were received into fellowship. At night Bro. Jackel ably presented the subject, "Is There a Hell?" The chapel was filled to capacity, 170 being present. A young man and young woman confessed Christ at close.

Brim.—Bible school celebrated anniversary on Nov. 24 with splendid attendances at services afternoon and evening in Brim Memorial Hall. Appreciated illustrated addresses were given by Bro. Thurrowgood, of Stawell. Singing by the school was a feature. On Nov. 29, at anniversary concert in the hall, a large and appreciative audience listened to splendid items by school and friends. Thanks are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Edwards and helpers, who trained the children. Half of proceeds of concert were donated to Brim Emergency Auxiliary for their war effort. Church has lost many members by removal to other parts.

Geelong.—Splendid meetings on Dec. 1 were conducted by Bro. K. Macnaughtan. In morning, one by confession of faith and one by transfer were received into fellowship. On Dec. 8 Bro. Lionel Dudley, of Drumcondra, was speaker at Belmont service in the Shire Hall, in the morning. At worship service at Geelong, Mr. Fletcher, of Drumcondra, gave an inspiring address. At study group meeting "Lands of the Bible: Greece" was main topic. At gospel meeting Bro. K. Macnaughtan preached on "The Man They Couldn't Hang." Sister Ivy Phillips delighted with a message in song.

Wangaratta.—On Nov. 27 the final "talent" social was held for 1940. These are organised by the sisters, and largest amount on record was raised this year—£34. At the annual banquet on Dec. 4, 150 sat down in addition to those supervising and helping on tables. Visitors were present from Shepparton, Albury, Yarrawonga and Brighton. Bro. Gale gave an inspirational address on "Paul at Athens." The largest amount on record was taken for thanksgiving offering. On Dec. 8 a soldier made the good confession and was baptised the same night. Bro. Lloyd's subject was "Gideon's Faith."

Ballarat (Dawson-st.).—Speaker at both services on Nov. 24 was Bro. W. W. Saunders, one deciding for Christ at night. Bren. L. Smith and J. A. Wilkie preached morning and evening respectively at Doveton-st. On Nov. 26 Y.P. fellowship at Doveton-st. concluded year with a banquet. For final meeting for year on Nov. 28, Dorcas held a united devotional session, Bro. Saunders giving the message. "God's Share" was title of Bro. Saunders' message on stewardship at morning service on Dec. 1, Bro. T. Maxwell preaching at gospel service. Bro. B. Feary spoke in morning at Doveton-st., and Bro. J. A. Wilkie at night. Mt. Clear Sunday school held successful anniversary service at night. Special singing was rendered under leadership of Bro. A. Graham, and Bro. Saunders preached. After a long illness, Bro. Champion entered into rest on Nov. 30. Sympathy is tendered to all the bereaved.

Blackburn.—A lantern lecture by Bro. Ross Manning was much appreciated on Nov. 27. Mrs. Ross Manning at Bible school gave an interesting talk on "The Boys and Girls of the Congo." Bro. R. Manning spoke at morning meeting and Bro. H. C. Bischoff at night. Bible school rally closed with attendance of 102. Bro. H. C. Bischoff conducted both services on Dec. 8. Mrs. Bischoff brought a message in song. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. C. Gill in the loss of a brother.

Bayswater.—Bro. R. Burns is preaching faithfully and meetings still show increase. Women's Eastern District Conference held quarterly meeting here on Nov. 28. Sister Mrs. Clark (Box Hill) was speaker. Talks by superintendent and Bro. Burns during "Temperance Month" resulted in 22 S.S. scholars signing pledge cards. S.S. combined with C.E. when flying squad visited on Dec. 1. J.C.E. maintains good interest under leadership of Sister Ivy Peck. Business meeting showed the church in a good position.

Maryborough.—On Dec. 1 there were good meetings. Bro. Hollard gave the church an educational address on "The Beginning of the Restoration Movement." At night Bro. G. T. Ellis preached on "Great Decisions," and was much appreciated. Sister Miss Dorothy was soloist. Ladies' Aid held a successful talent fund social, raising over £16. Home mission offering amounted to over £5. On Dec. 8 Bro. Hollard spoke at 11 a.m. on "The Life of Alexander Campbell." One young man was received into fellowship by letter from Stawell. At night the subject was "The Weakest Word, No."

South Melbourne.—A series of special meetings was held from Dec. 1 to 8 as a climax to the joint ministry of Bren. W. H. McCallum and J. C. Cunningham. Speakers: Dec. 1, J. C. Cunningham; 3rd, Thos. Hagger; 4th, Ross Manning; 5th, Lyall Williams; 8th, W. H. McCallum. The church is indebted to visiting speakers for willing co-operation. At close of the service on Thursday, the church partook of a social cup and extended best wishes to Bro. McCallum as he leaves for his new field of service. Tokens of esteem were presented by church and auxiliaries. Bro. J. C. Cunningham remains with the church as full-time preacher.

Ballarat (York-st.).—Home mission offering to date is £9/16/-. Services on Dec. 8 were good; Bro. Ritchie spoke in morning and Bro. Lindsay Smith at night, when a young people's service was held. A successful and enjoyable banquet on Dec. 3 closed young people's activities for year. Bren. Ritchie and Feary, sen., at morning meeting on Dec. 8 referred feelingly to the passing of Bro. Sheppard's mother. After evening service 22 young people, with elder members, participated in an enjoyable evening at Bro. and Sister Ritchie's home, when Bro. George Watkins led the singing of sacred numbers and supper was provided by the preacher and his wife.

Malvern-Caulfield.—There were excellent meetings on Dec. 8, over 200 in morning. Bro. E. C. Hinrichsen exhorted the church, and was listened to with keen interest. Bro. Buckingham preached at night to a big meeting. Two confessed Christ. Ten have been received by letter and obedience since last report. A farewell social meeting on Dec. 9 was tendered to Bro. R. P. Clark, who leaves in the near future with A.I.F. in charge of Y.M.C.A. work. Presentation of wristlet watch was made as a token of the very high esteem in which Bro. Clark is held. The ladies took the opportunity of presenting to Sister Mrs. Clark a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Essendon.—Bro. Burns, of Ascot Vale, presided on morning of Dec. 8, and three young ladies recently baptised (Grace Lamont, Vera and Enid Sutherland) were received into fellowship. At gospel service, local branch of W.C.T.U. attended in a body. Bro. Illingworth gave a splendid address on "The Unspeakable Gift." Miss Blakey rendered a beautiful solo. On Dec. 3 a kitchen tea was tendered to Sister Edna Green in view of her coming marriage to Mr. Wm. H. Tullo. Annual thanksgiving service

was held on Dec. 4. Bro. Illingworth presided, and Sister Dorothy Ploog sang. In all £80 was received from the various auxiliaries for church building fund. Sister Bone, sen., has lost a brother-in-law (Bro. Morris, of Sydney) by death, and Sister Hainsworth, sen., has received word of the death of a nephew (Mr. Ward) in W.A.

Bet Bet.—Bible school anniversary was held on Dec. 1, with good attendances. Morning meeting was "every-member-present," and Bro. Ellis exhorted. Bro. Holland, of Maryborough, gave enjoyable addresses afternoon and evening. Dunolly Bible school and mission party, also visitors from Maryborough, were present at afternoon session. Bro. Ellis tutored the scholars in the selected hymns which they rendered pleasingly. Anniversary services were continued on afternoon of Dec. 8, when prizes and scripture examination certificates were presented. Sister Mrs. Gemmell has been welcomed back into membership after absence from district for a number of years.

Thornbury.—On Dec. 7 ladies' class held a successful wind-up social. A splendid programme was arranged by Bro. Argo, and the large gathering of 130 was most appreciative. Average attendance breaking bread for last three months was 146, best for some years. The church has almost reached aim of £100, plus interest, for building fund reduction by straight-out giving. Bro. Searle spoke to splendid meetings on Dec. 8, in morning on "The Oil of Consideration," and at night he concluded his series on Mark's Gospel with "The Triumphant Christ." Both messages were much appreciated. 149 broke bread for the day. Bro. Searle is now on a fortnight's vacation. Home mission offering to date is £18/12/-.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Greystanes.—Bro. J. H. Adams was called to Queensland owing to serious illness. Bro. P. J. Pond, B.A., preached to an attentive audience on Nov. 24. Bro. and Sister Adams, Bro. and Sister Burkhead and Bro. K. Burkhead are building up a good Bible school.

Rockdale.—On Dec. 1 Bro. Hinrichsen spoke morning and evening. On Dec. 8 the church was ably exhorted by a visiting brother from Epping church, and at night Bro. Hinrichsen spoke on the second coming of Christ in the light of to-day. On Nov. 30 Sister Merle Sainty was married to Bro. W. H. Clements, of Canley Vale. A kitchen tea was arranged by the Bible school, and a presentation of an electric iron made from the teachers.

Bexley North.—Bro. T. V. Weir continues a faithful ministry, and his messages have been helpful to the church. He had the joy of receiving into fellowship a sister who recently made her decision. Missioners from Borneo and South Africa addressed Bible school scholars and Y.P.S.C.E. respectively. A lantern lecture by Bro. Ira Paternoster on our work in India was greatly appreciated. The church has separated its general and building funds at the bank.

Taree.—On evening of Dec. 1, Bro. A. G. Saunders conducted gospel service, at which two young people from Bible school made the good confession. Bro. Saunders gave a helpful morning message on Dec. 8. One young man was given the right hand of fellowship. The meeting was well attended. At conclusion of recent Wingham evangelistic campaign, the preacher of the church (at Taree) was recipient of a "Conklin" Endura pen in appreciation of services well rendered.

Granville.—There are improved attendances at meetings. Bro. P. J. Pond, B.A., is preaching three Sundays in the month. Other speakers recently were Bren. Ken. Taylor, W. Roberts and S. B. Hibbard. At Bible school picnic at Pendle Hill on Nov. 23, more than 100 were present. Junior clubs' concert was held on Nov. 26, when building was filled with parents and juniors. Mrs. L. Cocks is chaplain of girls and Bro. W. Roberts in charge of boys. J.C.E. evening on Nov. 30 was a great success; Bro. C. Dainty is superintendent.

Paddington.—At morning service on Dec. 8, Bro. Alcorn, of Hurstville, addressed the church from John 20: 24. Bible school attendance passed 100 mark. After Bro. Greenhalgh's address at gospel service, there were three confessions and one baptism. Church and C.E. society are working for Christmas cheer in district.

Burwood.—Attendances at all November meetings were good. Bible school held anniversary meetings on Nov. 24 and 26. The picnic on Nov. 30 at Parramatta Park was terminated by rain, but the scholars were brought back to the school hall and completed a most enjoyable day. Ladies' Aid visited Ashwood House on Nov. 7, and also recently held a successful Christmas gift evening. The Endeavor society visited Ashwood House, and the Boys' Home. Bro. D. R. Hall addressed morning meeting on Dec. 8. The board of officers has unanimously decided to ask Bro. Arnold to continue his appointment indefinitely.

A GOLDEN WEDDING.

Bro. and Sister J. Smith, of the church at Dawson-st., Ballarat, Vic., were privileged to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding on Dec. 4. Mrs. Smith will be remembered at Balaklava (S.A.) where, at the age of 14 years, she was baptised into Christ. Her membership with Churches of Christ has extended over almost sixty years, that of her husband over about forty-five years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are well known in the Kaniva (Vic.) church, of which Mrs. Smith was a foundation member. They were married in the Kaniva chapel in 1890 by W. W. Tomlinson, and were in membership until their removal to Ballarat in 1923. The loyalty, consistency, generosity and active service which have characterised their association with the Dawson-st. church have won for them the love and esteem of their fellow-members. Evidence of this was given by the surprise visit paid to the home during the afternoon of Dec. 4 by members of the Dorcas society and mission band, for the purpose of expressing congratulations and good wishes and making a suitable presentation. In the evening a family gathering was held in the home of a daughter (Mrs. A. G. Bell), when due honor was done to the chief guests. Letters and telegrams of thanksgiving, congratulation and well wishing were received from the board of officers and from members of both Kaniva and Dawson-st. churches, absent members of the family and many personal friends. It is hoped that these stalwarts for Christ shall find that "the best is yet to be."

TASMANIAN SISTERS' AUXILIARY.

THE final meeting for 1940 was held on Dec. 2 at Collins-st. Devotions were led by Mrs. Boxall. Mrs. Madel-Cole, who occupied the chair, extended a welcome to Mr. Tomlinson, Hobart's city missionary. Mr. Tomlinson described the numerous activities of his staff of assistants in alleviating distress, and expressed gratitude for the numerous gifts brought along by the sisters, and for the collection which also was handed over for Christmas cheer.

Reports showed that most auxiliaries are doing progressive work. Dorcas societies have gone into recess until the new year. 10/- for the H.M. special fund is gratefully acknowledged from West Hobart sewing class.

We would again kindly remind the secretaries of the churches of Dover, Geelong, Sandhill and Invermay of the importance of communicating with the isolation superintendent. Keeping in touch with isolated members is one of the main parts of executive work, and this can only be done by the church secretaries co-operating with the isolation superintendent whose address is Mrs. Kingston, 1 Quarry-st., W. Hobart.

A warm welcome is extended to all sisters to attend the picnic to be held at Long Beach on the third Wednesday of January, 1941.—B. Taylor, secretary.

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BEREAVEMENT NOTICE.

Mrs. Garland, of 41 Tyrell-st., Nedlands, W.A., desires to thank the Australian brotherhood, Conference Departments, and Federal activities, and the very many members in all the States, for kind expressions of sympathy received by letter and telegram in her recent sad bereavement.

THANKS.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith, of Albion-st., Sebastopol, Vic., desire to thank all kind friends, especially officers and members of the churches at Kaniva and Dawson-st., Ballarat, for letters, telegrams and tokens of congratulation and good wishes received on the happy occasion of the celebration of their golden wedding—Dec. 4, 1940. Will all please accept this as a personal expression of appreciation?

HOLIDAYS.

Red Hill church invites bysiders visitors to worship (11.15 a.m.) and gospel (7.30 p.m.) services. Mornington 11 miles, Dromana 5, Rosebud 7, Flinders 11, Shoreham, 8, Balnarring 8.

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Foreign Missions.

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PEARL ANDERSON SEEKS OUTFIT.

WRITING to her parents in September, Pearl tells of some of the sad happenings at Yunnanfu, and also of her desire to leave Yunnanfu as soon as possible to join the workers in Hueili. Mr. Tong, secretary of the C.H.M.S., says they need her help badly, but are afraid they cannot do much toward her support. Dr. Gee, our doctor at Hueili, has also written urging her to come.

Pearl cannot start out until she has a medical outfit, some much-needed clothing, and the coolie hire expenses for the ten days' journey. At least £25 to £30 would be needed for these initial expenses, and afterwards we should send at least £26 to C.H.M.S. to support Pearl in the field. Pearl has had a wide experience and a thorough training, and should do a good work. Any amounts sent in we would be glad to receive and forward to China.



Pearl Anderson.

Read what Pearl says herself about her ardent desire:—

My Dearest Mother and Father,—We are very unsettled because of Japanese bombs. The people are very sad and troubled, and everything is so dear, and people find it very difficult to make a living. I am thankful to God and you all for help in my course. After the general course, we had one year midwifery, and now we are awaiting our diplomas from the government. Most of the other girls have already been called to service in various centres, but I am not going, for my desire is to go back to my own people. I know that you and daddy would like me to be back with my own dear people too. So many calls came to go elsewhere, but I decided to be very true and good to God, and go back to the church at Hueili and the hospital workers there. This week I received a letter from Dr. Gee, and he wants me back to help him in the work. He also said that their committee (C.H.M.S.) wanted and expected me to assist in the work. This I desire to do, but I have no money to start with, and I must have companions to travel with as there are so many robbers on the road. I have told Mr. Gee that as soon as I get your reply then I should like to be there. All my class mates are out now, but I cannot stay here as they have to make room for others to train. I will also need a winter coat and some clothes, and would need to purchase them here before I went in. The allowance during our course was hardly sufficient to meet our needs, so I have no margin.

We have had some serious times owing to the Japanese and the cruel bombing. We have had to take the patients to the lower parts of

the garden for safety. All hope that there will soon be no more of this trouble. Wards have been prepared for the wounded, so we have been kept very busy. Now that I have gained my two diplomas, I am happy. First I am grateful to God, and thankful to you, mother and daddy, and all others for helping me and aiding me and giving me braveness and encouragement. Now there is nothing to stop me from serving God and helping the poor and the weak. As for me, I am glad that I put my trust in God and Jesus Christ so that, although there is so much sadness about me, I feel so happy, so much so, that I feel I am at the end of all my troubles.

Now I have to stop, with the best wishes that everything will turn out all right. May God open the way for us.

With much love, Your loving daughter,
Pearl.

THE WORK AT DIKSAL.

From Diksal Bro. Escott reports: "The Diksal village school is very encouraging. There are about 40 scholars on the roll, and I have had a letter from the school inspector to-day notifying me that he will be coming to inspect the school with the view of having it registered. That will mean us getting a school grant which all helps towards the expense of running the school. We had a nice gathering of children at our church service this morning. They bring the children attending the day school in the compound. They attend the Sunday school also. We have a few men attending from outside, and I would like to see the number increase. The dispensary is drawing a fair number of people, and the contact in this way is far reaching. Poor people, it is a great privilege to minister to them. Yesterday a man brought his wife from a village about ten miles from here. This was their second visit. The woman was troubled with rheumatism, which had affected her knees, thus preventing her from walking. She had improved somewhat under the treatment. Poor soul, she said that if I cured her she would give me a goat every year. Then she went on to say, 'Come to my village and I will give you a dinner and some fine bread.' We have been to her village and placed a gospel in every home, and she remembered our coming. The husband said, 'We feel in coming to you that you have sympathy with us, or else we would not trouble to come all this distance.' Poor souls, if they would only come to know him whom to know is life eternal."

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1st. To assist financially Aged and Infirm and Retired Preachers.

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Please forward contributions to W. H. Hall, "Hurlston," Carysfort St., Blackheath, N.S.W., making money orders and postal notes payable at P.O., Blackheath (N.S.W.). Contributions may also be sent to W. Gale, S. Price Weir and D. M. Wilson.

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Obituary.

William F. Screen.

AT Canterbury, Vic., on Oct. 23, Bro. William F. Screen passed peacefully away after a decline of health over several months, at the age of 69. He had been a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ for many years. Originally uniting with the church at Lygon-st., Carlton, he later transferred to that in Swanston-st., city; but since November, 1913, he had been a particularly loyal member of the church at Surrey Hills. Our brother's friendly home, fondness for flowers, unusually wide reading and delightful powers as a conversationalist were some of the numerous evidences of his Christian character, for he was indeed a goodly witness for his Lord. He leaves a wife and daughter who share his faith and rest in the consolation thereof. The president of the Victorian Conference, Bro. G. L. Murray, assisted the writer in services of consolation at the home and the graveside.—G.A.

Victorian Women's Executive.

THE last meeting for 1940 was held on Friday, Dec. 6, with attendance of 120. Mrs. Oliver, president, was in the chair. Devotions were led by Mrs. Funston. Miss M. Thompson gave an interesting and informative address on the aim of the "Girls' Fellowship." Miss Foreman gave a final message prior to leaving for India, and Mrs. Hughes conveyed greetings from the church at Swan Hill. Messages of sympathy sent to Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. McCann and Mrs. Downs. Special prayer was offered for Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Williams, of Brisbane. The following donations were granted: Home missions, £6; overseas missions, £4; Chaplains' fund, £3; College of the Bible, £1.

Missionary Department.—Meetings helped with speakers, Northcote, Surrey Hills, North Richmond, Brighton, Swanston-st., Malvern, Prahran, Dandenong, Collingwood, Gardiner, Oakleigh, Geelong. Home mission interests were especially stressed. Special gift of £1 from Box Hill.

Prayer committee visited Lygon-st. There was a fine gathering of women, and a very interesting meeting was held. We thank God for his blessing and help throughout the year.

General Dorcas committee is having a busy time. Goods and cash donations from interested friends are gratefully acknowledged. £3/3/- has been forwarded for overseas Christmas cheer. Useful articles, 68 in all, were distributed to Hospital Committee, Port Melbourne City Mission, Convalescent Home, Eye and Ear Hospital, one private case, Miss Lynda Foreman; another home was cheered by a cash donation; several parcels of socks, mittens and magazines given for soldiers.

Hospital Visitation Committee.—88 visits were paid. We acknowledge with thanks gifts of jam, soap, toys, comics, magazines, 10/- Thornbury Girls' Club; North Richmond, large parcel of books for Children's Library, Austin Hospital. Mrs. Pettigrove thanks all who have contributed such splendid gifts for Christmas cheer.

Social Service.—During the month 20 parcels were received, including a splendid collection of groceries from Christian Endeavor societies; 12 parcels distributed. Gifts of eggs for Guest Home are gratefully acknowledged. Members of Hartwell church visited the Guest Home. Several ladies assisted with programme, which the old folk enjoyed.

Temperance committee members are doing their part in stressing the evils of alcoholic beverages.

We offer our sisters far and near Christmas greetings and the best of wishes for a happy year of service in the name of our Lord, the Prince of peace.

Next meeting of executive, Friday, Feb. 7, 1941. Mrs. Broussard will lead devotions. Mrs. Scambler will give an inspirational address.—L. Rometch, secretary.

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○

O Lord God, in such a day, when national
institutions and social customs are all written
over with inscriptions of sin; when mistrust
of God and misuse of wealth are everywhere
evident; we bless thy name because we know
"where to turn" and that "a glorious high
throne from the beginning is the place of our
sanctuary." O God, we beseech thee to set and
sustain thy servants at life's real vantage
points, so that they may call and capture
harassed and weary people for the great ad-
venture of obeying the divine ordinance and
knowing thee as Sovereign Lord. For thy name's
sake. Amen. (Jeremiah 17.)

O God, we thank thee because Jesus shows
us how to adventure with thee, saying, "Come
now, this is how we should fulfil all our duty
to God." We bless thee for the assurance that
comes; we praise thee for the satisfaction that
accrues; we glorify thee because of the spiri-
tual intimacy which follows, as we become in-
creasingly devoted to doing the will of the
Lord, from the heart. Amen. (Matt. 3: 15,
Moffat; John 7: 17; John 4: 34; Mark 3: 35.)

○

"In the Lord put I my trust: how say ye to
my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?
For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make
ready their arrow upon the string, that they
may privily shoot at the upright in heart. If
the foundations be destroyed, what can the
righteous do? The Lord is in his holy temple,
the Lord's throne is in heaven."—Psa. 11: 1-4.

THOUGHT.

▽

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