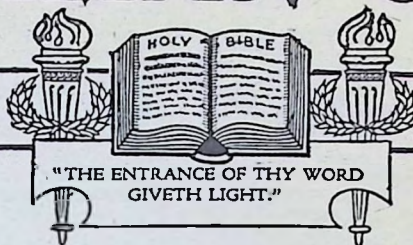


# The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Up to Greater Heights Help Youth to Climb. Victoria's Ideal.

### A Challenge to Youth.

IN these dark days, when nations seem to be staggering out of the desert of despair into the chasm of chaos, it seems almost impudent to address a challenge to the youth of to-day—"Climb up to greater heights!"

Such a challenge suggests that already Christian youth has climbed from the dull plains of earth to the foothills that lead to the throne of God. And true it is!

But the challenge of these days is to act, and act quickly, yet wisely.

To-day many forces are attracting young men and women, urging them to give up the Christian climb and to turn aside to where they can see and enjoy the pleasures of the world; to follow some other path than the one leading to the peak. Resist these forces! Turn your face towards the summit and press forward, up to greater heights.

Would Moses have reached Sinai or Peter, James and John have stood upon the Mount of Transfiguration, if they had not heard and obeyed the call to climb up to greater heights? Anyone can run downhill, but Christian youth to-day must scale the heights at once if they would be first to see the rising sun in the world's new day. Up on the hill-top is the purest atmosphere; the expanding horizon that can look out above the clouds of war in the valleys of the world. Those on the heights will first see the dawn that follows night's darkness. Who, then, will be ready to point the way to a war-shocked world?—Christian youth upon the heights!

Come then, young men, young women, up to higher ground. Lend a hand to your weaker brother; take a firmer grip on the outstretched hand of Jesus, and surmounting every obstacle, press forward up the heights!

### A Message to All Friends of Youth.

And you, who seek to lead and befriend youth, will be asking how you can help in the upward climb.

1. Fully equip your young people for the climb.

2. Remove what dangers you can from the pathway, but don't worry about ordinary obstacles if you have thoroughly equipped them spiritually and morally for the ascent.

3. Get out in front and stay there.

4. Be sure-footed yourself.

5. After looking back, to lend the helping hand, don't forget to look up again and again. Remember the pioneers of the movement who blazed the upward trail for us. Well may it be said:

*"They climbed the steep ascent of heaven,  
Through peril, toil and pain."*

And our prayer to-day is:

*"O God, to us may grace be given,  
To follow in their train."*

—R. P. Morris, M.C.E.

### "NECESSITY IS LAID UPON US."

LEADERS of secular affairs are planning to meet post-war problems affecting youth. They realise new circumstances will demand new methods for a new world; therefore, "necessity is laid upon them" to plan with a long-range vision. Large sums of money are being spent in the evolution and execution of plans, but the expense will be justified. What of the church and its attitude to the same question? It must recognise the realities of the many and varied post-war problems—old and new—to be faced by young people. "Necessity is laid upon us" to meet the situation through the activities of the Young People's Department. Naturally, it means money; but no cost is too high for the important task of helping youth climb to higher heights of Christian life and service for Jesus Christ, who climbed the heights of Calvary for youth.

It is the function of the Young People's Department to discover, develop and direct the rich and varied talents of young people by spiritual vocational guidance, through its co-ordinated programme of Bible schools, clubs, societies, camps, etc. "Necessity is laid upon us" to endorse this constructive policy.

The brotherhood is enriched by talent discovered, developed and directed by our youth department. Our leaders realise the urgency of the task, and they desire to increase the tempo of their efforts in every direction; they are planning to meet new conditions and problems emerging from chaotic world conditions, especially as they affect youth.

"To higher heights help youth to climb."

"Necessity is laid upon us" to respond liberally on Youth Day, May 4.—J. Ernest Allan, President Vic. Conference.

### CRISIS DAYS FOR YOUTH.

WE are living in days that present many new problems. Parents have always spent many anxious hours over their boys and girls, but the present world situation has created many new problems, which will cause us all to spend many more anxious hours trying to solve them. Present-day problems present the church with a greater challenge than ever before. This is especially so in relation to youth work. Your Young People's Committee presents the aim of greater heights. Greater heights in our vision. Greater heights in our plans. Greater heights in our efforts. Above all, in everything help youth to climb.

Youth workers, teachers, club leaders, C.E.

workers, will you all set yourselves a new high level this year in your own work? You will be inspired in your work and will have joy in your efforts when you see your young people climbing higher and reaching new levels because of your guidance. To the brotherhood of Victoria I appeal for £500 on May 4, so that your Young People's Committee can carry on the work of leading young people through crisis days; of inspiring leaders to make greater efforts, and of building the church of tomorrow. Anything less than our aim will mean that something will have to be cut from our programme. Brethren, please use your savings envelopes during April so that we may have a worthy offering on May 4.—Fredk. N. Lee, Chairman, Vic. Y.P. Dept.

### THE SUPREME OPPORTUNITY.

"The woman keeping her small house  
For love's own sake is happiest,  
And she who meets a child's dear need  
Will find her own heart blessed."

IT is true that the woman in the home meets untold opportunities of helping youth. The wise builder always makes sure of the foundation of the structure to be erected, and that is just where women folk can render their greatest service to youth—in the home.

It is in the home where youth first learns to live life, to discern between good and evil. We would that it were in the home when youth first learnt of Jesus the Saviour and constant companion of youth.

The woman in the home has a tremendous responsibility placed upon her the moment she is given in trust the soft and yielding heart of a little child, and it is there, right at the beginning of life, where she can best serve youth, by implanting in the heart of the little child the seed of love, of truth and of life. Life offers so much to youth to-day. There is so much that is beautiful and good, so much that tends to uplift, but there is also much that is bad and degrading.

Our Sunday schools, Christian Endeavor societies, clubs and the many opportunities given for Christian fellowship stand as a bulwark against all that would cause youth to stumble and fall away.

What great things could be accomplished by the co-operation of the woman in the home with the leaders of our youth organisations!

Our young people are anxious to "climb higher" in Christian experience. We cannot, we must not, hold them back—Muriel O. Bischoff, President Vic. Women's Conference.



# South Australia.

(Will Beiler.)

Youth Week and Bible School Day—April 27 to May 4.

Offering Aim—£200.

## A PRESIDENT'S WISHES.

AN engine is a beautiful piece of mechanism. A but it is useless unless the steam is sent pulsating through its pistons. Then it is given power, and something worth while is accomplished. The Bible School Department is able to supply power to the schools. It is organised as a great supply source. It directs the levers of organised success. It gives directed, spiritual, moral and social impetus to many of the schools. In planning for the success of the work in the schools for another year, may the blessing of God rest upon the Bible School Department, and may the churches on May 4 show their practical appreciation and support.—J. E. Shipway, Conference President.

## A TEACHER'S OPPORTUNITY.

THE opportunity is great. To teach is to cause another to know. What should teachers in the Bible school cause scholars to know? Briefly stated, the answer is John 3: 16.

By our lives, as well as our words, we must let them know that Jesus is our Saviour, and that he wants to be their Saviour, and that he will be, if they let him. We do well to pray—

"Oh, teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
The precious truths thou dost impart,  
And wing my words that they may reach  
The hidden depths of many a heart."

But words and actions alike must speak.—Hazel M. Grant, President Sisters' Conference.

## A MOTHER'S APPRECIATION.

TO the Christian mother the Bible school is of great importance, as it stimulates the teachings that a parent has given her children in their early life.

A mother who has a love for the Bible always appreciates any further help that the Bible school is able to give in sowing seeds of the love of Jesus in the hearts of the little ones. As the children grow older the influence of the Bible school helps to guide her children aright.

A mother should take every opportunity that the Bible school offers to co-operate and help, as it is such an important factor in moulding the character of the young.—L. McGlasson, Glenelg.

## A SUPERINTENDENT'S EULOGY.

AS superintendent of a Bible school with a staff of over 50 teachers and officers, and knowing the amount of work and preparation put in by all from the lower grades where we first teach the love of Christ, to those in the higher grades, where the aim is to help them make their decision for Christ, the workers by their untiring efforts and sacrifices are deserving of our highest praise.

We pay our warmest tribute to all such workers because without their loyalty and consecration the Bible school could not be the vital force that it is to-day.—F. K. Glover, Maylands.

## A CHAIRMAN'S APPEAL.

"TRAIN up a child in the way he should go," we are told in Proverbs. How very true this is has been proved time and again by the results of Bible school teaching and influence.

Workers are encouraged by the way children do respond to the teaching.

The Bible School Department endeavors to promote good teaching in all schools, to encourage all workers, to give advice, to provide equipment where possible, and to extend the sphere of the Christian influence.

This is only possible by the continued support and help of the brotherhood. Let us not be found wanting in our support of this vital work. May our offering on May 4 this year be a worthy one.—H. A. Dunkerton, Chairman B.S. Dept.

## A FATHER'S GRATITUDE.

AS a father of a family of girls and boys that have grown into young manhood and womanhood, I can vouch for the influence that the Bible school has had in their lives, and I am fully persuaded that the environment surrounding the lives of young people has much to do with their future aspirations.

I take the liberty of expressing thanks to all who have dedicated their lives to this service of teaching and directing the lives of young people.

I appeal to all fathers to take their children to Bible school that they may become the

Christian men and women that are so necessary in the building of a righteous nation.—H. K. Brand, Croydon.

## A PREACHER'S INJUNCTION.

THE future demands that Christians ever serve the meaning of Matt. 18: 1-6, 10-14. The fourteenth verse is vital. Jesus is particularly direct. Most intelligent action is from a motive, towards an object, for a purpose. Jesus teaches: "The will of your Father"—motive, "these little ones"—object, and "should not perish"—purpose.

Salvation is Christ's rock-solid basis and security for character and civilisation. He warns adults to "take heed," and "despise not"—the "will of your Father." Therefore youth auxiliaries of church and conference are profoundly precious, to which let us all gladly offer our prayer, service and substance.—N. G. Noble, Murray Bridge.

## AN ORGANISER'S HOPES.

1. That encouragement will be taken from the fact of 4 new schools, a nett increase of 236 scholars, and of 225 scholars won to Christ last year.

2. That wholehearted support will be given by every church member through much prayer for this wonderful work, by hearty co-operation in it somewhere, and by a sacrificial offering on May 4.

3. That the year before us will be remembered as one of even greater progress, activity and development.

Help Reach the Aim—£200.

# Youth of the Western State.

YOUTH! Khaki! Marches! Convoys! How these things have become associated in our minds during the last year and a half! The youth of our land is called upon to play a stern part in the affairs of men and of nations. Western Australian youth has already gone forth to battle, many, alas, to lay down their lives in the cause they represent. Who can be bright and hopeful for youth in the face of such circumstances? Yet this very black picture is a challenge to the loyalty of Christian youth. Because of this the theme chosen for Youth Week among our Western Australian churches is to be "To-day's Demand for Christian Loyalty." Loyalty to Christ and the principles of his teaching, no matter what the cost, is the greatest contribution the youth of Australia can make to the cause of world peace.

## Youth Week.

Youth Week in Western Australia will be held from May 4 to 11 inclusive. On May 4 the young people will be assisting at all services, and special recognition will be given to the work of the teachers of the Bible schools. The following Sunday will be Mother's Day, and the theme for the day, "Youth Honors Mother." The annual offering for the work of the department will be taken on this day. During Youth Week three simultaneous district rallies will be held in the suburbs, and three in country areas. A time of warm fellowship and inspiration is anticipated. On the Tuesday of Youth Week a dinner will be held at the Lake-st. church, and following a discussion on matters of interest to youth of W.A., the young people will attend the Victory Campaign conducted in the tent by the Lake-st. church.

## Youth Organiser.

For some years it has been the ambition of the Youth Committee to appoint an organiser to give specialised attention to the

activities of the committee. This dream was realised a year ago when Bro. R. Hilford was appointed joint organiser of the Home Mission and Youth Departments. Just as he began to get the reins well within his hands, however, he was called to the work of permanent military chaplaincy and had to relinquish his work with both departments. Since then another organiser for the department has been appointed in the person of Bro. E. R. Sherman, who is also doing a part-time ministry with the church at Inglewood. Assisting him with the secretarial duties is Bro. Oliver Biddle, who was previously the honorary secretary of the department.

## Girls' Camps.

Three years ago it became the desire of one member of the Youth Committee to give a holiday to a number of girls from the Eastern Wheatbelt. This desire crystallised into a camp for country girls, and for the last three years Mrs. H. I. Digwood, in co-operation with Mrs. C. H. Hunt, has conducted a girls' camp in her own home. The average number of girls in attendance has been 19, and 12 of them have become church members as a direct result of the camps. Though most of them are in isolated areas, a number of them are doing good service in church or Bible school. The camps have been well worth while, and of a high order. Such work as this is indicative of the spirit of helpfulness in many of our women, and it is such a spirit that will help solve the problems of the Western State.

## Youth Offering.

On May 11 the department seeks the co-operation of all church members in bearing the financial burden of the youth work. The department's plans for the future demand an offering greater than that of previous years. But we know that the brotherhood is behind the department, and will not disappoint and discourage by withholding financial support on May 11.—E. R. Sherman, Organising Secty.



# "With Every Gift We Possess."

## BONDSLAVES.

### The Call of New South Wales.

CHRIST'S bonds slave. Paul was the Master's bonds slave. No word could better describe the relation of this Master and servant, no word can better describe the utter devotion of Paul to his Lord. We need men and women—young men and women—who will be his bonds slaves.

The very thought of this makes us catch our breath. His bonds slave—can we be this? It is his own call to us, for he himself has said, "If any man would follow me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and come, follow me."

To this end we would seek to "train and teach" every young man and woman, so that



Frank C. Hunting,  
Newly-appointed Director of Youth Work  
in N.S.W.

we may present them "before God, mature in Christ Jesus." This is our task. In every way, through kindergarten, junior, intermediate, Bible class in our schools; through junior, intermediate and young people's Christian Endeavor, clubs and leadership camps, we would teach and train our young people the full message of the gospel. No labor will be irksome, no time will be considered wasted, no sacrifice called great, if only we can present our young men and women "full grown" in Christ.

We shall train. The knowledge imparted must be put into action. It must be worked into character and reproduced in saintliness. The arena of every-day life is the training field. Here, as nowhere else, faith in Christ—simple faith, faith which trusts him—will be lived out as an open challenge to all that is pagan, and corrupt and wrong. The whole of life is the training ground; the whole of life will be the field of Christian living.

And the scope is—everyone. In everyone we shall see the possible miracle of a new man in Christ Jesus. "We train *everyone* and teach *everyone* . . . in order to set *everyone* before God mature in Christ." This is our goal, and this is our aim for the young people in and out of our churches.

So with every gift we possess, with sincerity of purpose and motive, with love of truth and a heart strong in courage, conscious that there is a kingdom to be won and a kingdom to be gained, we shall go to our young people with the message for this age: *Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

## FELLOWSHIP.

### Queensland's Quest for Youth.

DISTANCE is deprivation. At the youth camp a huge bonfire signalled farewell to 1940 and welcome to 1941. Young people were there who normally are separated by distances up to 800 miles. There could not have been the heat and light of that great fire without the assembly and contact of the many logs. That fire is typical of the enthusiasm and energy which we lose because distance makes great assemblies of our young folk difficult if not impossible.

Unfortunately systematic visitation of our young people's organisations is also very difficult, owing to distance mainly. The organiser was able to contact most of them at the end of last year, and realised keenly the need on their part, and on his as the representative of the Youth Committee, of more frequent and lengthy association, much being lost by both parties. Visitation pays in cash—put it on the lowest level—as was shown by the annual offering. But what of the higher and spiritual values, those things which throw money into sordid shade?

Efforts are being made to keep a close contact with all schools and societies. Youth Week is a very good agency of helpfulness. Realising this, the committee is specialising on this week from Sunday, April 27, to Sunday, May 4. One feels honored to be associated with so many grand, consecrated lads and lassies, but there are untouched potentialities in the young of our churches.

We want a wave of consecrated enthusiasm to sweep our youth into united service. A spiritual fellowship which will sublimate distance into devotion, so that none may feel lonely but all linked in the ideal of the week—

"Youth Lends a Hand." Links in the chain of service have been distributed, each of which will be returned with a signed statement of what each young Christian is doing for Christ. Each church will send its chain, and the whole will be linked in a wonderful chain of youth service and fellowship to be used at a central rally in Brisbane.

Essay contests on "Christian Unity" have been arranged. The song of the week is, "Lend a Helping Hand" (Sankey 764). Rallies throughout the State are being arranged with interchange of greetings. By these and other means we are out to defeat distance that we "all may be one."—H. G. Payne.

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## VISION.

OUR Youth Committee is departmentalised, and the head of the Christian Endeavor section is Bro. Will Finger, church secretary and treasurer, Bible school superintendent, general handyman, and good fellow. He has a vision—£50—which haunts him in his sleep, and obsesses him in his waking hours. Behind this he sees a launch slipping through the New Hebridean waters, with a smiling missionary at the wheel enjoying the steady hum of a good engine.

Our visionary is not selfish; he wants others to have their share in the vision—and its realisation. So the Youth Committee has set £50 as an objective to be realised in the months of March, April and May; £50 from our Endeavorers.

Nor shall he be let down, for we want to have our share in the joy of the launch and in the joy of giving. We cannot visit the Isles of the Sea, but our money, and faith, and love and prayers shall be there; and our reward, aye—and here also.

"Bill" Finger is putting his prayers, his money and his time into this project. He'll be a happy man when he has the £50. We say, "trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength," he shall have it.

# Tasmania's Programme.

## LEADERSHIP.

THE church's greatest need at any time is trained and consecrated leadership. The Youth Committee of our Tasmanian churches seeks by purposive activity to give opportunities for the training of young people for positions of leadership in the brotherhood. We have excellent groups of young people in our churches, the equal of any groups in willingness to serve, in ability, and in consecration. They are responding eagerly to the opportunities of increasing their capacities to serve and the results are apparent in all churches which have encouraged their youth to participate in the camps, competitions and youth weeks arranged by the committee.

Sunday school teachers, youth workers, church officers and leaders whose Christian experience is vital and whose conception of their task is high are the churches' greatest need. Through worship, fellowship and training of a practical kind the committee is endeavoring to fill this need for to-day and tomorrow. D. H. Lawrence said, "The real goal of education is not knowing, but doing and being." This is the ideal of all the committee's youth programme—being and doing as a Christian.

At this time the churches are asked for co-operation in two ways:—

1. In encouraging all their young people to take part in the church's active service and in helping those young people participate in the camps, etc., arranged by the committee. We covet the enthusiasm of the churches.

2. In giving liberally to the annual appeal so that more work and more effective work

will be possible. In 1939 the churches gave 2½d. per member; in 1940, 1/8 per member; in 1941, we ask that your offering be according to the worth and needs of the work.—W. S. Lowe, B.A., B.Com., President Tas. Conf.

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## APPEALING TO YOU.

YES—we do appeal to you, but we appeal only because of the urgent needs of youth. And surely our young people are worthy of your practical support. They are worthy of your prayerful support, too. Now, don't these two make a powerful combination? Yes—the answer comes spontaneously from your lips. Practical support and earnest prayer—our Young People's Department needs every bit of both that you can possibly give. Why? So that it will be able to attend to the urgent needs of youth in a practical and efficient manner.

But what are the most important needs of our young people? We find two standing out very prominently.

1. The maintenance of their spiritual welfare and its development.

2. Practical training in leadership and the development of their talents for use in the service of Christ.

Could two such important needs together with all others be more worthy of your utmost support?

We leave the answer entirely in your hands, but we remind you that May 4 is the day upon which you can give your answer. Can we rely upon you? Can we?—K. W. Barton.



# Victorian Conference.

THE 76th annual conference was held from April 10 to 16 under the capable presidency of Bro. G. L. Murray. From the reports presented by the conference committees we take the following information:—

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The churches have added 652 by faith and obedience, 500 by letter, 51 formerly immersed, and 61 by restoration—a total of 1264. The following losses are recorded: 491 by letter, 127 by death, 854 by revision of roll—a total of 1472. Nett loss for the year, 208. The church membership now stands at 12,681.

The Bible schools have 9711 scholars and 1523 teachers. There has been a loss of 283 scholars and 99 teachers. During the year 333 scholars have been added to the church.

The conference has had its representatives on the following institutions: B. and F. Bible Society, Local Option Alliance; Australian League of Nations Union; League of Nations Liaison Committee; Council of Churches; Hospital Sunday Committee; World Conference on Faith and Order, Victorian Regional Committee; Christian Social Order; Sunday Christian Observance Council; Joint Council for Religious Instruction in State Schools; World Alliance for Promoting International Friendship Through the Churches; and Chaplains' United Board.

The incorporation of the Church Extension, Properties, Trusts, and Bequests Committee has been delayed, war conditions preventing progress.

Deep regret was expressed at the death of our beloved Federal Conference president (Bro. C. J. Garland).

The paragraph on chaplaincy work contained the following information: Our first chaplain to go overseas, Allen Brooke, of Brisbane, left from Melbourne at very short notice. Our executive acceded to his request to provide a suitable communion set and supplies. There has been an increase in our staff of chaplains, who are now as follow: Jas. E. Thomas (Senior Chaplain); H. A. G. Clark, M.A., B.D.; E. P. C. Hollard; J. K. Martin; C. J. Robinson; L. E. Snow; C. M. Thomas (since resigned); and Chas. Young. J. K. Martin and Chas. Young have been appointed for the duration of the war to their respective camps, viz., the former to Darley and the latter to Caulfield. A Chaplaincy Committee has been set up to assist the chaplains in their work.

The treasurer's statement showed an expenditure of £273/10/10 for the year, and a credit balance of £3/8/11. Receipts included £30/10/-, conference offering for Preachers' Provident Fund; conference fees, £95/12/6; refunds of conference expenses, £44/2/-, and calls from committees, £105/15/-.

## HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

The year has been one of increasing perplexity and difficulty affecting all our work.

The work in country centres has been affected very seriously by the drift to the city which is on a scale unparalleled in our time. This has been brought about largely by drought and munition making. It has upset family life, business undertakings, and all phases of religious work. Home mission churches have felt these transfers very much. The loss is not merely that of numbers, but personnel and leadership, especially as regards youth.

The committee has assisted the churches in the following places: Albury (N.S.W. committee co-operating), Ararat-Stawell, Colac, Drumcondra, Hamilton, Merbein-Redcliffs, Ormond, Ringwood-Mitcham, St. Arnaud, Wangaratta, Warracknabeal-Minyip, Warrnambool-Port Fairy-Lower Heytesbury, Yarrawonga-Mulwala, Chelsea. The committee co-operated with college students in a mission at Morwell, in which there were five decisions. To assist Bro. W.

B. Payne in his visits to Cumeroogunga, the committee continued a payment towards his petrol expenses. A promised subsidy to Maryborough was not required, the church being self-supporting.

The financial statement reported that receipts for the year amounted to £3774/14/2; payments totalled £3622/17/7; showing a credit balance of £151/16/7 on the year's undertakings, which with the credit balance brought forward from last year of £278/1/11, gives a credit balance of £429/18/6 as at January 31, 1941.

The annual offering received in December was not so large as that of the preceding year. The amount received to the closing of the books (a month earlier than usual) was £38/18/6 from isolated members and £1088/9/4 from churches, a total of £1127/7/10.

Congratulations were expressed to the Women's Mission Bands for their splendid work, which not only assists the Brotherhood financially, but is of incalculable value as an educational and devotional factor. Their cheque to home missions amounted to £265/14/1. The



J. Ernest Allan,  
Newly-elected President of Conference of  
Churches of Christ in Victoria.

fields in which these bands are especially interested, viz., the south-west seaside circuit and Hamilton, give much encouragement.

Christian Endeavorers are helping to support Wangaratta as their "living link," and towards that end contributed the sum of £13/10/7.

Several who have passed to higher service graciously remembered home missions in the settlement of their estates and the following amounts have been received:—John Lavall, of Gippsland, £25; Catherine McLachlan, of Swanston-st. church, a final balance of £2/2/6; and £759/15/-, a first settlement from the estate of Catherine McKinnon, of Balwyn. In addition the usual annual amount of £34/2/6 was received from the estate of the late John Bailey, of Bacchus Marsh.

The Endowment Fund now has £1257/2/6 to its credit, this amount being on deposit at interest. The Investment Fund has a credit of £2462/8/11, which is on deposit at interest.

It is interesting to note that churches gave £462/6/4 through duplex envelopes to home mission funds, the committee's share of the cost of the envelope system being £83/5/3.

## FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

The report naturally dealt with the whole of our Federal work. Despite anxiety this has been carried on in an encouraging way. With the return of Bro. and Sister Coventry to India the missionary staff in India has been brought up to 17, which equals the highest num-

ber we have had on the field. Church, Bible school, general evangelistic work as well as that amongst women and children and the "child welfare," hospital and orphanage work have all been blessed and successfully carried on. The Indian Conference reports showed that during the conference year there had been 20 baptisms, and an average of 376 breaking bread each Lord's day.

Regret was expressed at the retirement of Bro. and Sister Dudley (because of Bro. Dudley's ill-health) from the New Hebrides, and also at the loss of their personal goods through the wreck of the "Orungal." Bro. and Sister Hammer have accepted a full-time appointment, and are giving loyal and faithful service. Miss Mary Clipstone was expected to reach Aoba by conference time. Her going as a highly qualified nurse will fill a long-felt want in the islands. The fall of France made conditions difficult, as the Islands are under the joint control of France and Britain. Copra has fallen greatly in price, causing severe hardship among the natives. Boats are irregular; thus stores and mails are scarcer than usual. Our workers are more isolated than ever, and greatly need our prayers. On the three islands of Aoba, Pentecost and Maewo there are more than 40 churches, with a membership of 1200. About 26 of these churches and nearly a thousand of the members are on Aoba. Bro. Hammer is giving special attention to the training of teachers. A new launch is needed for the work, and more adequate accommodation is required for the missionaries.

The report stressed the fortitude and courage of the Christians in China during their time of trial. The chapel in Shanghai destroyed by the Japanese a year or so ago cannot yet be rebuilt, the Japanese still controlling the area. The West China field continues to do good work under the capable leaders of the C.H.M.S., five of whom are at Hueili, where living conditions are very difficult. Our workers there have only the bare necessities. Regular preaching services are held, and Dr. Gee is busy in his medical work. Pearl Anderson has been invited to go to Hueili and help in the medical work. Work is still being done in the tribes' centre. The usual subsidy, £250 (including exchange), has been sent to China, and will be continued indefinitely. Our Chinese brethren have expressed keen appreciation of this assistance. Christmas cheer money (£25) was also sent to help our workers and Christian families.

Chinese church and mission at Queensberry-st., Carlton, have been blessed. There were 15 additions to the church in December last.

The use of duplex envelopes is increasing. £464/19/8 was received from this source, the committee's share of cost of the envelopes being £85/14/3.

Last year (the jubilee year) the Federal Board received £8674/7/4, £2580/12/2 being from Victoria. The giving from Victoria for the year was encouraging. £1643/19/6 was given by churches and individuals in the annual offering, a gain of £323/3/4 over previous year. Included in the other gifts were £8/12/- for Indian famine relief; £97/16/- for support of native teachers; £2/12/- for milk for Baramati welfare centre; £26/12/- toward a travelling dispensary for Dhond. The total raised for orphan support was £114/7/-, and for Dhond Hospital £122/10/7. To support "living links," Lygon-st. church raised £120; Ballarat, £111/6/-. The Women's Mission Bands and kindred organisations contributed £372/7/4. The funds benefited by the Mrs. C. McKinnon bequest £759/15/-, by Mr. Lavell estate £25, and by Miss McLachlan estate (additional), £2/2/6. Amounts sent direct to the Federal Board, which do not appear in our financial statement, include the following:—From churches, £13/10/9; individual gifts, £25/2/-; C.E. Societies, £6; Mrs. Oliver's collections for Bible-women in India, £60; bequests: late Mrs. P. A. Dickson, £100; late Mr. Chown, £1000. The Board also credited Victoria with interest on Endowment Fund, £42/13/4.



CHURCH EXTENSION, PROPERTIES, TRUSTS  
AND BEQUESTS COMMITTEE.

Repayments on account of loans amounted to £686. Balance in hand, March 1940, was £33/1/5. Other receipts were: Annual offering, £81/4/11; bequests, £125; interest, £1037/8/9; insurance premiums, £133/0/3; loans to committee, £3787/11/9; on account of other departments, £256/10/-; deposits on land sold, £28; other amounts, £92/15/-; total receipts, £6228.

Payments to Feb. 28.—Loans to churches and other payments, £2918/3/-; loans to committee repaid, £1824/4/-; interest paid, £994/0/9; insurance premiums paid, £129/15/5; rates on properties, £25/18/2; other payments, £13/5/-; sundry charges, £31/19/11; payments to other departments, £258; total payments, £6195/6/3. Balance in bank, £65/15/2.

Acknowledgment is made to the churches for their contributions to the annual offering, and some gifts have come by way of bequests. A rebate is being made of ten per cent. of all interest paid to the committee during the twelve months just passed, and these allowances will be credited to the various loan accounts.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT.

The world war has had a marked effect on all youth work. In many centres our best leaders are on military service, or are called upon to engage in intermittent training. The speeding up of industries in the metropolis has led to streams of young people leaving country centres for the city. This fact has seriously weakened our country youth work, but leaders courageously carry on.

In two camps the Lord's table has been set up for weekly communion, and our Endeavorers are thanked for their support in making possible the purchase of communion requirements and hymn books. The latest record of C.E. statistics gives the number of societies throughout the State as follows:—Senior, 1; Y.P., 69; I.C.E., 29; J.C.E., 69; a total of 168.

During the year the C.E. paper, "The Endeavourer" was started, with Miss M. Buckingham as editor. Contributions to home and overseas missions amounted to £26/18/3.

The work of the Bible school and youth groups has been greatly strengthened by the auxiliary method of organisation. The Good Companions' Clubs are catering for girls in the 11-15 years' age group. There are now 23 clubs in Victoria. Explorers' Clubs have made excellent progress. There are now 27 clubs operating in the State. Provision has been made for the sporting activities of young people in a Christian atmosphere.

There are 9711 scholars enrolled, together with 1523 teachers, a decrease of 283 scholars and a decrease of 99 teachers. Additions to the church from the school numbered 333.

A very successful Youth Week programme was undertaken and inter-church fellowship was enjoyed. Outstanding service was rendered by Mr. W. S. Lowe, B.Com., B.A., the guest speaker.

The highest number of scholars and teachers for many years sat for the examination, there being an increase of almost 300 candidates.

Our schools have engaged in Sunday School of the Air sessions for seven years, co-operating with the Victorian Council of Religious Education.

Two training-in-leadership camps were held this year. Both were well attended, and interest was very keen.

Religious instruction in State schools is carried on with devotion and efficiency by a large army of volunteer instructors. During the year a new constitution has been adopted which gives all religious bodies better representation on the Council. Our churches contribute £50 each year to this work.

The department has stressed the urgency of interest in temperance teaching in schools and youth groups. During the year it conducted a pledge-signing campaign, and arranged an essay competition for Bible school scholars in 10-14 age group.

The lending library and the anniversary items library have been much used during the year.

The department has been concerned with the spiritual requirements of men in camps and on military service. Help has been given where possible.

Week-day activities have been undertaken by P.B.P., K.S.P., Girls' Fellowship and other clubs.

Receipts from Feb. 12, 1940, to Jan. 31, 1941, were £908/16/7, the annual offering being £415/14/2. Payments to Jan. 31 amounted to £802/0/7.

## ADVISORY BOARD.

We can report a year of helpful co-operation with churches and preachers on the matter of securing preachers and fields of service. We have been glad to find both preachers and churches using the services of the board. We would remind churches of the motion passed by conference recommending churches to consult the board and seek its guidance in such matters.

## SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE.

There are four departments of work:—

1. The Social Service Department. The whole brotherhood is served in many social difficulties. Hundreds of members and others have been assisted by gifts of clothing, footwear, furniture, invalid chairs, etc., and money. Fifty men have been placed in employment, and in every case boys and girls applying have been placed. Increasing difficulty is being experienced in finding domestic and factory labor. Every Church of Christ in Victoria has been circularised, but fewer than half have responded to the appeal for signatures to an appeal to the Governor-General for a special tribunal, council, or commission, to investigate thoroughly the circumstances with particular reference to the economic system, etc. Only £199/7/11 was given by the churches during the year, and were it not for the support given by the Christian Fellowship Association the department could not carry on.

2. Christian Fellowship Association. Membership in Victoria has grown from 2929 to 3087, and is found in 95 churches; 113 agents and sub-agents are serving in the movement. The financial statement discloses total income by contributions, £1321/8/9; refund of loans, £537/12/-; donations, £5/10/9; and expenditure—loans and gifts, £766/8/8. Mr. Jack Methven has given much valuable assistance in organising work.

3. Christian Guest Home. The home has proved a blessing to many of our aged folk. In spite of the advanced years of the guests (13 are over 80 years and of these three are over 90), the health of all has been remarkable. Mrs. Ross and staff have given loving service. Extensions which are much needed are being contemplated. The fete held in December realised £190.

4. League of Friendship. This new feature of the work is assuming large proportions. 12,000 printed bags and 1000 sacks have been purchased, and 10,000 of these are already in individual homes, from which we are collecting about 900 sacks of waste material weekly. Three vans have been bought, and these are fully occupied. Mr. J. Plummer was appointed manager, and has given every satisfaction. A staff of 13 is engaged. The co-operation of the churches is invited.

The social service financial statement for the period ending Dec. 31, 1940, showed receipts (including £344/13/5 C.F.A. share of administration expenses), £753/9/4. Payments totalled £1012/5/-, the chief items being salaries, £622/2/6; benevolence, £99/12/8; rent, £91; office expenses, £41/18/11. The statement of the C.F.A. for the same period showed receipts, £1906/10/9, which with the cash at bank made the total £2895/0/4. Payments amounted to £1220/6/8, the chief items being relief and loans, £766/8/8; salaries, £25/8/-; office equipment, £16/12/6; printing and stationery, £15/3/3. Cash at bank, 31/12/40, £1674/13/8. The League of Friendship statement covered from 5/7/40 to 31/12/40. Receipts totalled £518/18/8; expenditure £804/11/6. The Christian Guest Home domestic account showed receipts £870/3/1, and payments £833/11/10.

## LITERATURE COMMITTEE.

The committee considered the MSS. of a new book by Bro. A. W. Stephenson, M.A., to be entitled "Pioneering for Christian Unity in Australia and New Zealand." This was accepted as the first work for publication. The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. agreed to make the necessary financial accommodation. The committee took the full financial responsibility in publishing the book, and looks to the churches for support in this new venture. During the year churches have continued to use the literature cabinets as means of distributing helpful literature. Several cabinets have been installed during the year by additional churches. The committee draws attention to brotherhood literature now being published. Churches in Australia and New Zealand are being well served by "The Australian Christian"; our Bible schools by "The Austral Graded Lessons"; and our young people by "Pure Words." Plans are in hand for other publications.

COMMITTEE FOR THE PROMOTION OF  
CHRISTIAN UNION.

The symposium published before last conference has run into the third edition. Rallies were held at Northcote and Malvern-Caulfield, audiences being interested, but not large. Plans are in hand for further rallies.

Christian Union Sunday has become a fixture in the church's calendar. A special number of the "Australian Christian" helped in preparing for the observance of the day.

The committee is glad to note the growth of Christian Union literature. Bro. A. W. Stephenson's book on "Pioneering for Christian Unity in Australia and New Zealand" will further the work of the committee. The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. has included in its list two or three new tracts on Christian unity.

The regional committee of the World Conference of Faith and Order and Life and Work has been very active during the year. Our representatives on the regional committee have been the chairman (T. H. Scambler), H. A. G. Clark and Howard Earle.

## PREACHERS' SESSION.

A helpful preachers' session was held in Lygon-st. chapel on Thursday afternoon. A devotional half-hour was led by W. W. Saunders, of Ballarat. He based his message on the ministry of Jesus Christ. Principal A. J. Grigg, M.A., D.D., gave a scholarly address upon the theme, "Changing and Abiding Emphasis in Preaching." The new president of the Preachers' Association, G. J. Andrews, was introduced. A presentation was made to W. T. Atkin, in recognition of his work for several years as secretary to the association. A good company remained for tea, which was prepared by the Lygon-st. sisters.

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The opening session of conference was held on Thursday evening in Lygon-st. chapel. Greetings were received from Federal and State executives, missionaries and others. Visitors were welcomed by the vice-president, J. E. Allan. Responses were given by the fraternal delegate from the Baptist Union, T. E. Shepherd; J. E. Shipway, president of the South Australian conference; and L. E. Dudley. A musical programme was contributed by the Eastern Suburban Choir, under leadership of E. Peters.

G. L. Murray took as the theme of his presidential address "The 'Is'm' that Evolves the 'New Order.'" World leaders are making reference to the coming new order. Present systems have failed through an over-emphasis upon transient material values. The new order of Christian hope will achieve permanence and stability because it has a spiritual base. The evangelistic zeal of the early Christians who "went everywhere preaching the Word" must be emulated to-day. The new order will be fully established when "the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ."



## HOME MISSIONS.

On Good Friday morning a home mission breakfast was enjoyed by a good number. An address was given by J. E. Shipway, his subject being "The Highway of Life."

At the afternoon session in the Masonic Hall, brief addresses were given by home missionaries concerning their work. The speakers were L. E. Dudley (Drumcondra), R. A. Banks (Ringwood-Mitcham) and J. Methven (S.W. Seaside Circuit).

At the evening session G. L. Murray introduced the incoming president of conference, J. E. Allan, who then presented a Bible to the retiring president. W. Gale gave a resume of home mission activities, and showed the great problem arising from the drift of population from the country to the cities. In response to the appeal the sum of £226/3/3 in cash and promises was received. Solos were rendered by A. Haskell. Greetings from the women's conference were brought by Mrs. Oliver, who presented cheques from the women's mission bands—£235/5/4 for home missions; £188/4/4 for overseas work; £47/1/- for the college. J. E. Shipway gave the address of the evening, upon the subject, "A Shout of Victory."

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES, 1941-1942.

President.—J. E. Allan.

Past President.—G. L. Murray.

Vice-President.—A. W. Stephenson, M.A.

Secretary.—W. Gale.

Treasurer.—G. W. Mitchell.

Asst. Secretary.—J. E. Webb.

Executive Committee of Conference.—The above officers of conference and one representative of and from each committee in control of a conference department.

Home Missionary Committee.—The officers of conference, as above, together with the following:—J. McG. Abercrombie, S. R. Baker, H. M. Clipstone, A. W. Connor, R. F. Geyer, J. Holloway, B. J. Kemp, T. R. Morris, H. J. Patterson, M.A.

Advisory Board.—J. McG. Abercrombie, A. W. Connor, Thos. Hagger, Dr. W. A. Kemp, A. R. Main, M.A., G. L. Murray, D. E. Pittman, J. E. Thomas, together with T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip. Ed. (principal of the college), J. E. Allan (president of conference) and W. Gale (secretary of conference).

Foreign Missionary Committee.—H. A. G. Clark, M.A., B.D., L. Gole, A. A. Hughes, Dr. E. R. Killmier, D. E. Pittman, W. A. Strongman, J. E. Thomas, J. Turner, B.A., Henry Watson and W. A. Wigney.

Young People's Committee.—Bible School Section: G. R. Clark, B.A., P. Foster, F. N. Lee, R. P. Morris, M.C.E., S. Neighbour, A. W. Stephenson, M.A. Christian Endeavor Section: G. J. Andrews, A. W. C. Candy, G. Hing, J. W. McDiarmid, Miss R. Roberts, J. E. Searle.

Social Service Committee.—W. T. Atkin, J. E. Austin, W. A. Brown, F. P. Chipperfield, B.Com., W. H. Clay, L. O. Collyer, F. J. Funston, W. G. Graham, G. M. Mathieson, and W. R. L. Rodgers-Wilson.

Promotion of Christian Union Committee.—J. McG. Abercrombie, H. A. G. Clark, M.A., B.D., H. Earle, Dr. E. R. Killmier, R. P. Morris, M.C.E., T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip. Ed., L. E. Snow, J. Turner, B.A., E. L. Williams, M.A., and A. B. Withers.

Literature Committee.—G. L. Andrews, A. L. Gibson, Thos. Hagger, C. L. Lang, A. R. Main, M.A., D. E. Pittman, and A. W. Stephenson, M.A. Council of Churches.—H. C. Bischoff, C. L. Lang, S. Neighbour and John Woodgate.

Nominating Committee.—W. H. Clay, Thos. Hagger, Keith A. Jones, C. L. Lang and F. N. Lee.

## FOREIGN MISSION SESSIONS.

J. E. Thomas and H. G. Clark introduced the report at the afternoon session. At the evening meeting Lygon-st. chapel was well filled. Several items were rendered by the Eastern Suburban Choir. The speaker for the evening was the minister of the Gardiner Presbyterian

church, E. Owen, M.A., B.D., who was welcomed heartily. His subject was "Has Madras Failed?" It was shown, in a convincing address, illustrated copiously from his own experiences in India, that in a very real sense the Madras World Convention was successful. The offering in cash and promises amounted to £115/19/9. Greetings were sent to missionaries on the field, and they were commended to God in prayer.

## CONFERENCE NOTES.

Churches at Portland and Morwell were admitted to conference.

During the Friday afternoon meeting, a session was set apart for meditation on the cross. In addition to scripture reading and prayer an appropriate solo was feelingly rendered by Miss Amelia Searce.

Short addresses were delivered on Friday afternoon by representatives of phases of our work. J. Plummer represented the Social Service Department; A. W. Stephenson spoke for the Christian Union Department; and T. Hagger outlined the work of the Literature Department. A report on the College of the Bible was presented by Principal Scambler.

Students of the college gave valuable assistance as ushers and scrutineers.

The sisters again prepared and served meals for delegates. Their work was much appreciated.

A resolution of sympathy with Bro. and Sister Mudge, because of the serious illness of Bro. Mudge, was passed at the close of the social service report.

Greetings and sympathy with the brethren in Great Britain were expressed in a resolution.

## RESOLUTIONS.

That this conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria expresses its loyalty to His Most Gracious Majesty, King George VI. We acknowledge with gratitude his steadfast leadership in these days of special difficulty. We pray God's blessing upon His Majesty, his advisors and ministers of State, and upon the Empire. We pray that God may grant speedily a just peace.

That this conference fully approves of the Federal Conference being held at Adelaide this year, and assures our South Australian brethren of our hearty co-operation in the arrangements.

That this conference requests the Executive Committee to arrange a series of conferences, beginning within the next three months, to discuss with a view to plan a programme to make more effective the gospel message to the people.

A motion was carried amending the constitution to make six weeks' notice of business being given to the executive, four weeks' notice being sent to church secretaries.

The constitution was amended as to the method of raising funds to meet expenses of the executive.

A motion submitted by the "Constitution and Preacher" Committee amending the constitution re the Advisory Board, to bring about closer co-operation between preachers and churches and the Advisory Board, was carried.

That conference be requested to appoint a committee to investigate the possibilities of inaugurating a fund by insurance or other methods from which duly accredited preachers could be helped whilst temporarily disengaged, or otherwise requiring assistance. That the executive be the committee.

That this conference requests the conference executive to take whatever steps are necessary to associate, if possible, the conference with brotherhood publications and the operations of The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., and authorises the executive to enter into any arrangement to this end.

This conference is of the opinion that a much greater amount of the time of conference should be given to the consideration of policy and current questions, and therefore requests the incoming conference executive committee to plan accordingly for 1942 conference.

That the Executive Committee be requested to consider the advisability of a rotation of reports at conference.

This conference strongly affirms its opposition to the use of liquor in military camps, and believes it to be subversive of the best interests of the soldiers and of the cause of the Empire. Conference is of the opinion and records its conviction that the introduction of wet canteens was not the result of any majority claim of our soldiers.

A motion concerning post-war reconstruction was passed, after an amendment provided for the means of making it effective.

That this conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria expresses its appreciation to the management of 3 DB for its generosity in making its station available for "The Sunday School of the Air."

Motions protesting against liquor traffic, horse and dog race meetings and excessive press publicity and radio broadcasts of horse-racing during wartime were passed by conference.

A motion was passed asking for the same treatment of conscientious objectors as afforded by the British Government.

The proposal for a refresher course at the college during the August vacation was approved.

## S.A. Sisters' Auxiliary.

THE monthly meeting was held at Grote-st. on April 3. Mrs. Tippet, leader of devotions, spoke on "Who shall roll away the stone?" Mrs. Clarke sang a beautiful solo.

Miss Grant (president) had charge of the business session. Welcome was extended to Mrs. Fitzgerald, who gave a greeting from sisters at Auckland, N.Z. Miss Grant went to Northern Conference in March and gave the address at the Sisters' Conference.

Home Mission Committee.—Mrs. C. Verco (supt.) reported that the committee had visited Croydon sisters, and that £8/5/3 was received from churches for month.

Overseas Committee.—Mrs. Downs (supt.) read interesting paragraphs from letters sent by Mrs. Hammer and Miss Foreman. Collected during March, £2/0/1.

Dorcas Committee.—Mrs. Riches (supt.) reported that sisters went to Stirling and spent a happy time.

Hospital Committee.—Mrs. Thomas (supt.) reported that 30 visits had been paid to Adelaide Royal, Children's, Morris, Keswick, Sunset Lodge, private, sick and aged; 9 magazines and 2 picture books, flowers and many dainties distributed. Money on table at March meeting, 4/1.

Obituary.—Mrs. House (supt.) reported that the following have received the home-call: Mrs. Potter and Mrs. Halliday, Maylands; Mrs. Brunt, Semaphore; Mrs. Smith, Torrensview. Letters of sympathy were sent to the bereaved.

Literature.—Mrs. Dodson (supt.) has sent 3 bundles of literature to Escourt House, 3 to Sunset Lodge, 1 to Welland School, 2 to Port Adelaide Mission.

Treasurer's statement for March.—Home Missions, in hand, £23/7/11; Overseas Missions, £21/7/10; General Fund, £5/15/4; Catering Fund, £15/6/6.

Mrs. Harding will be leader of devotions at May meeting.

Annual fete of Morialta Protestant Children's Home will be held in Adelaide Town Hall on May 8 and 9. Churches of Christ are responsible for produce stall. Will sisters remember the little ones, send contributions, and so help the conveners, Mesdames Thomas and Selway, on this stall.—Mrs. H. R. Charlick, assist. sec.

## LOVE SUPREME.

FAITH, Hope and Love now dwell on earth,  
And earth by them is blest;  
But Faith and Hope must yield to Love  
Of all the graces best.

"Hope shall to full fruition rise,  
And Faith be sight above;  
These are the means, but this the end,  
For saints for ever love."



# Here and There.

We are indebted to Bro. R. T. Pittman, B.A., Dip.Ed., for kind help in the preparation of the report of the Victorian conference appearing in this issue.

On Tuesday afternoon we received the following telegram from N.S.W.:—"Hinrichsen-Morris having wonderful meetings Wollongong; four decisions Sunday, 23 to date.—Corlett."

Owing to the Easter Monday holiday, usual postal deliveries from other States had not been made at time of closing for press. All reports received to Tuesday afternoon have been inserted.

We are glad to report the recovery to health of Bro. J. Ernest Brooke, who for some time had to relinquish his preaching work through illness. He hopes to resume service after a little while. At present he is in the country, and may be addressed c/o Box 34, Merbein, Vic.

Glorious weather for the past week tended to make conference gatherings more enjoyable, if the outdoor conditions were too attractive to permit of record attendances. The Victorian conference picnic at Wattle Park on Monday was an unusually happy function, a very large number being present. It was good to see so many young people enjoying sport and fellowship together. Great praise is due to the sports committee, consisting of a group of college students, whose carefully planned programme and indefatigable labors contributed greatly to the pleasures of the day.

At St. Arnaud, Vic., on April 2 a public farewell was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pratt. The large attendance of church members and citizens of the town was evidence of the esteem in which they are held. The speakers who paid tributes to them were Mr. H. Hurren (secretary), Mr. M. Smith (treasurer), Mrs. J. Grigg, for ladies of the church; Messrs. R. Hall, Rankin (Presbyterian), Peart (Methodist), Canon Gearing (Church of England), and Mr. P. Alexander (State School headmaster). The church very much regrets Bro. and Sister Pratt's departure, and presented them with a mantel clock. On April 6 Bro. Pratt preached two farewell sermons to good attendances.

The death of John Oxenham (father of Dr. Dunkerley, Principal of Westhill (writes Principal Wm. Robinson in "The Christian Advocate") removes from our midst a man who has influenced, by his poetry, a wider group than almost any living writer. He was one of the few people able to make poetry really "pay" during his lifetime. Such also was Tennyson. So far as the Press is concerned there seems to have been some doubt as to his age, and I can understand this, for when we were producing "The Christian Hymnary" he told us that the date of his birth was a closely-guarded secret. Of course, we had several women authors about whom the same was true! But he was the only man who refused to divulge the secret!

Collins-st. Independent Church building was well filled on Sunday afternoon, when Bro. E. Lyall Williams preached the Victorian Conference sermon. Our brother received warm praise for his very able and helpful address on "The Church Relevant," of which the following is an outline:—Some people regard the church as irrelevant to the needs of the modern world. But the church has a survival value and can present claims that defy all efforts to relegate it to the scrap heap of irrelevancies. As the sole custodian of the gospel it is the most creative agent in the world. Yet the record of the organised church has often proved a stumbling block. To silence criticism and be relevant the church must be the church—a divine institution whose light, life and voice are from above. The purpose of the church is to carry on the programme of him who said he came

not to be ministered unto but to minister. Its relevance depends upon its fulfilment of this programme of changing individual and social life and bringing in the new order of the kingdom. The church relevant is the church with vision. It sees beyond itself to the kingdom and the world never regarding itself as an end but always as a means. It is in the world not to save itself, but the world, and is ever moved by a vision of big things and of real human need. The divided church is irrelevant for its witness is weakened and its authority undermined. Only the church that is one is relevant. Courage is essential to relevancy. There are three characteristics of the courageous church. It is the champion of truth, the church with a rebellious faith, and the church with purity. The church relevant by its purity outlives the world; by its progressiveness out-thinks the world, and by its courage outdies the world.

## FEDERAL CONFERENCE.

Bro. Roy Raymond writes:—The Federal Conference Executive, after prayerful deliberation, and with the consent of the South Australian Executive, and the approval of the State Executives, has decided to transfer the Federal Executive and Conference to South Australia. This is done only because we realise that under present world conditions it would be impossible to secure a large enough delegation from the Eastern States to make a successful conference in a city so far away as Perth, and that being so, we feel that we ought not to hold office indefinitely. It is a matter of very great disappointment to the western brethren, but we feel that nothing less could be done in the interests of our Australian work. Further details will be published later.

Under the heading of "Their Simple Faith" the following paragraph appeared in the "In Town and Out" column of the Melbourne "Herald" for April 5: "It came as a revelation and an inspiration to learn from a military officer just returned from Malaya of the simple religious faith that sustains the army leaders there and not only there, since they represent the Imperial fighting forces on land and sea and in the air everywhere. Faith and religion are not what a soldier talks much about, but our friend from Singapore mentioned the devout inclination of men in command in Malaya, because he thought it would do us all good to know the type of leaders with whom the A.I.F. is co-operating. Since the Empire is inspired by a sincere conviction that her cause is righteous, it is a splendid thing that simple faith in the God of their fathers should animate these men. One who was host to the Commander-in-Chief at Singapore, Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, noted with admiration that a well-thumbed Bible with its bookmark had a regular place on the table by his bed, while his predecessor in office, General Sir William Dobbie, never takes his place at table without saying grace. Lieutenant-General L. V. Bond, G.O.C., British Army in Malaya, is a regular attendant at church in Singapore, not merely as an example to his men, but because he has been going to church all his life and likes it. That recalls a famous saying of one of our first Chiefs of General Staff in Australia to his aide-de-camp: 'My boy, never miss church on Sunday. You work so much better during the week if you go.'"

## Our Book Table.

### "THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE."

MR. J. OSWALD SAUNDERS, superintendent of the New Zealand Training Institute, has written a very readable, clear and helpful book on "The Holy Spirit of Promise" in which, in simple non-theological language, he deals with the mission and ministry of the Comforter. The author thinks that the doctrine of the Holy Spirit has been sadly neglected in preaching and teaching, and that therefore much blessing has been missed. In sixteen chapters he expounds what he believes to be the scripture teaching. Amongst the chapter headings are the following: The Promised Paraclete, The Meaning of Pentecost, His Threefold Conviction, The Spirit in the Believer, Baptised into One Body, That Blessed Fullness, Gifts for the Church, Sorrows of the Spirit, The Sin that Hath Never Forgiveness. Here and there may be found expressions which the reader might desire to change. Without vouching for its every position, we may say that the book may be commended as a very helpful one; it is of immeasurably greater value than the usual treatise on the Holy Spirit. The author writes with a full and reverent faith in the Word of God. The publishers are Messrs. Marshall, Morgan and Scott Ltd., and the Australian price is 3/9; posted 4/-. Owing to the demand for the book in Britain, we are informed that it may be some months before copies are available in Australia.

### "MODERN HERESIES."

THE Anglican Truth Society has published a little book written by Mr. Ivan Shevill, B.A., Th.L., and printed by Messrs. Robert Dey, Son and Co., of Sydney. The Anglican Primate of Australia commends the booklet in a brief preface. It may surprise some readers to note the five "Modern Heresies" about which the author endeavors to write "the real truth." In five chapters he deals with British Israel, Pyramid Prophecies, Astrology, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Christian Science. Concerning each he has some forthright things to say, and advances reasons for his opposition. There is much to help those who are troubled by some of the questions treated. Mr. Shevill knows how to compress and arrange his matter, and has produced a remarkable booklet. To have crowded so much matter into 20 pages is an unusual achievement. The price is 6d. per copy, posted 7d.

### SHANE QUARTERLY.

JANUARY issue of "The Shane Quarterly," edited by Dean Kershner, of Butler University, U.S.A., is to hand. This first number of the second volume is larger than usual, containing 138 pages, and is full of interesting matter. Amongst the important articles are the following: "The Approach to Armageddon," and "The Archbishop of York's Programme," both by the editor; "Some Religious Aspects of Late Nineteenth Century German Philosophy," by Dr. D. S. Robinson; "How will Christianity Survive on the Continent?" by Dr. Adolf Keller; "Lincoln," by Dr. Scott Butler; "An Investigation of the United States Census Report for 1940 Concerning the Churches of America," by Francis O. Reisenger; reviews of "The Gifford Lectures of the Archbishop of York on 'Nature, Man and God,'" by Dr. Arthur Holmes, and of "The Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching by Dr. Charles Clayton Morrison," by Dr. Kershner. "The Shane Quarterly" has received much praise from readers in many countries. Its published price is two dollars per year.

Do not grudge the hand that is making the still too shapeless image within you. It is growing more beautiful though you see it not, and every touch of temptation may add to its perfection. Therefore, keep in the midst of life. Be among men, and among things, and among troubles and difficulties and obstacles. Character grows in the stream of the world's life.—Henry Drummond.



# News of the Churches.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

**Perth.**—C.E. society held a social evening on April 5 to raise funds towards a new launch for New Hebrides. Offering of £3/5/- exceeded amount set for the society. On morning of April 6 Bro. A. G. Elliott gave an inspiring address on "What are We Fighting For?" At night two young men were baptised. Bren. E. R. Berry and V. Conigrave rendered a duet, and Bro. J. Wiltshire delivered a stirring message on "A Threefold Witness."

## QUEENSLAND.

**Monkland.**—The completion of kindergarten hall by voluntary labor was marked by thanksgiving services on April 6, when large congregations assembled both morning and evening. Building fund thankoffering exceeded cost of erection by several pounds.

**Gympie.**—Women's Guild held a successful meeting on March 27. Bro. E. Trudgian preached on April 6. C.E. patriotic committee is planning to help provide soldiers with magazines and books, and the church is uniting with other communions to provide stationery.

**Maryborough.**—On March 23 Bro. J. Deighton spoke at the morning meeting, and Bro. Alan Price preached at night. Both services were well attended. Bro. D. R. Stirling, of Albion, conducted an eight-nights' mission from Mar. 26 to April 3, including a broadcast service on morning of March 31. Attendances were good, and interest was well maintained. During the campaign there were six confessions.

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

**Rockdale.**—On April 6 over 160 broke bread. One was welcomed into fellowship, and a married man made the good confession before a full meeting. Annual business meeting revealed record progress in all departments. Total offerings for the year reached over £980, showing an increase of over £500 on any previous year. Since the mission 34 have been added to the church.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

**Murray Bridge.**—On April 6 Bro. Will Beiler (chairman, Council of Religious Education) addressed J.S.C.E., church and Men's Fellowship and also preached at night. His excellent addresses were much appreciated. Bro. N. G. Noble conducted afternoon monthly service at Burdette, and commenced a new monthly gospel service at Pompoota, 15 miles out, where 24 attended in local hall. Bro. F. C. Mitchell assisted.

**Cottonville.**—Sunday school anniversary services proved the most successful for many years. The building was crowded at all meetings. Bright singing by the scholars led by Bro. A. Glastonbury was a feature. Delightful messages were given by Bren. Anderson (morning), Brown (afternoon) and Manning (evening). Splendid items by the kinders were included in the prizegiving night's programme. School work is steadily progressing, with attendances on the up-grade. Sunday morning meetings continue large. Ladies' Auxiliary is in full swing.

**Henley Beach.**—Bible school anniversary services on March 30, April 3 and 6 were well attended. Scholars under leadership of Mr. W. Strudwick gave of their best. Speakers were Bren. W. Beiler, W. Thomson, Geo. Brown, F. Collins, I. Durdin and A. E. Brown. Their messages were much enjoyed by all. The school has an enrolment of 101. Mrs. Maunder is in Adelaide Hospital recovering after operation. Mrs. Russell has been welcomed by transfer from Mile End. Good work is being done by I.C.E. and J.C.E. Numbers are increasing. P.B.P. club and Pages have welcomed new members. Among visitors have been Bro. and Sister Jim Alves, from North Es-

sendon, and Bro. and Sister Mason, from Ascot Vale, Vic. On March 23 Miss Meg Dolling was baptised. Several decisions and baptisms have encouraged the church.

## VICTORIA.

**Swan Hill.**—On April 2 the marriage of Sister E. Anderson and Bro. E. Jeffery took place. Miss Anderson has been an indefatigable worker in both Sunday school and church life.

**Sunshine.**—Bro. Nixon spoke at both services on April 13, his morning subject being "Lessons from the Resurrection." In the evening service a duet was rendered by Bro. Stewart and his son.

**Melbourne (Swanston-st.).**—On April 13 fellowship was enjoyed with many conference visitors. Bro. Hughes preached at both services. The choir rendered portions of the sacred cantata "The Crucifixion" at evening meeting.

**St. Kilda.**—On April 2, at a social fellowship tea, Mrs. Box was presented with a handbag in appreciation of her work as church organist. Bro. McCallum gave a message. At Sunday school anniversary on Apr. 6, Bro. H. Campbell, of Gardiner, gave a good address to the children in the afternoon, and Bro. McCallum spoke at night.

**Bentleigh.**—Sunday school anniversary was held on April 6. Bro. D. Lang, of Ormond, was afternoon speaker. After Bro. Nance-Kivell's gospel address a scholar confessed Christ. An enjoyable concert was held on April 8. On 13th Bro. McKean, of Lygon-st., addressed morning meeting and Bro. Nance-Kivell the gospel service.

**Moreland.**—On April 6 an excellent address was given by Bro. H. Earle, of North Richmond, at morning service. In the evening the choir rendered two anthems, Bro. Graham preached, and a young man made the good confession. Among conference visitors on April 13 were Bro. Randall, of Peel-st., Ballarat, who spoke in morning, and Bro. C. P. Hughes, Swan Hill, who preached at night.

**Horsham.**—On March 31 a complimentary social was tendered to Bro. and Sister Geo. Millar, to mark the beginning of Bro. Millar's 24th year as secretary of the church, and in appreciation of his and his wife's services as deacon and deaconess respectively. Eulogistic references were made to their work, and gifts of love were presented. Bro. Millar suitably responded. A varied programme and 'supper were enjoyed.

**Frankston.**—Women's Mission Band celebrated its fourth anniversary on April 2. A happy time was spent, and over 50 ladies were present from churches between Ormond and Red Hill. Mrs. Brough gave a helpful message. Miss Crawford was soloist. On April 13 a party from Lygon-st. church camp was present, and the speaker was Bro. Granger, of Mentone. Over 70 were present. Speaker at gospel service was Bro. A. McRoberts.

**Northcote.**—On April 5 the C.E. societies held their anniversary, when some young people from Lygon-st. presented the biblical drama, "He had great possessions." About 200 people greatly enjoyed the programme. Mr. Atkin spoke at both services on April 6, Endeavorers taking part in evening service. On April 13 Mr. Atkin spoke in the morning, and Mr. W. W. Saunders, from Ballarat, addressed gospel meeting, when a young lady confessed Christ.

**Ringwood.**—I.C.E. had 14 present on April 6; Bro. Banks was speaker. Later he brought a helpful message to the church; attendance was good. Bro. Young (Caulfield camp) preached at night. On April 8 a fellowship evening was held, and presentations were made to those who helped with recent mission. Bro. Anderson was visiting speaker on Easter Sunday. At night Bro. Banks conducted a baptismal service. Members have been strengthened as result of recent mission.

**Warragul.**—Good meetings were held on April 13. Bro. Hillbrich's helpful messages were enjoyed. At evening service special singing was rendered.

**Montrose.**—Meetings have been keeping up very consistently. On morning of Easter Sunday there was a very fine meeting, many visitors being present, also some old members back for the day. Evening meeting was also good. Bro. Roberts gave appropriate addresses. Bro. Westmore, owing to indifferent health, has had to go away for a change and rest.

**Kaniva.**—Yearlinga school celebrated its anniversary with services on April 6, when Bren. Stewart and Wheaton delivered helpful addresses, and on Monday evening following, when a social time interspersed with musical items was enjoyed. Attendances were encouraging. Local brethren conducted all services in the circuit on April 13. Bro. Welsh gave an effective address to evening service, and the solo also told the Easter message. Under ideal conditions, Kaniva school had its annual picnic on Budgik Park on Easter Monday.

**Carlton (Lygon-st.).**—On April 13, "one of Lygon-st.'s best days," the incoming conference president, Bro. J. E. Allan, spoke in the morning on "The Christ of the Common Cross." Bro. Baker's evening theme was "Lest We Forget." Both messages were highly appreciated. Miss Amelia Scaree rendered two solos. Over 400 meals were served to visitors by the ladies of the church. Miss Pittman gave an organ recital at 6.40. Forty young people of the Bible school held their annual camp at Frankston. The church extends deepest sympathy to Bro. Atkins in the passing of his wife during the week.

## FILM CENSOR'S REPORT.

IN his annual report the Chief Commonwealth Film Censor referred to the unsuitability of the great majority of films for children. In present circumstances, the report states, the censorship could not make any constructive or effective suggestion that would result in action being taken to make matinees more suitable for children. Moving pictures were becoming more and more an adult entertainment, though many exhibitors tried to meet the situation by infusing cartoons, serials, or other films with a juvenile appeal into their Saturday afternoon programmes. In 1939 only 38.8 per cent. of the features were classified "for general exhibition," and the corresponding figure for last year was 42.6 per cent.

"The Censorship Board classifies all pictures as to their suitability or otherwise for general exhibition, and this is indicated in practically all the publicity, Press, and otherwise," Mr. O'Reilly says, "but it is doubtful whether this practice has any influence upon the distributor, exhibitor or parents." In 1940 there were imported into the Commonwealth 1630 standard films of all classes—a total length (one copy) of 4,318,830 ft., of which 3,545,699 ft. (1,121 films) came from the U.S.A., 616,618 ft. (314 films) from the United Kingdom, and 156,513 ft. (195 films) from other countries. In addition Australia imported 370,589 ft. (949 films) of miniature films. Of the standard films 31 were rejected in the first instance, 163 were passed with eliminations, and 1436 were passed without elimination. Twelve of the films rejected in the first instance were passed on appeal or reconstructed, 14 were rejected on appeal, and for the other five there was no appeal. The Chief Censor comments that the percentage of British feature films in which eliminations had to be made is almost double that of American films, and the percentage of final rejections is also higher.

"The liquor traffic is the most dangerous corrupter of citizenship and civic righteousness in all places and all history. We can prevent more crime in the high chair than in the electric chair, whether that crime be against property or against our nation."—J. Edgar Hoover.



# The Family Altar.

J.C.F.P.

TOPIC.—EDIFYING ONE ANOTHER.

Monday, April 21.

LET us follow after things . . . whereby we may edify one another.—Rom. 14: 19. In this case the exhortation to edify one another has special reference to conduct, yet may also include speech. In both word and deed we should do all we can to promote the welfare of our brethren in Christ. Reading—Romans 14: 19-23.

Tuesday, April 22.

Let each one please his neighbor for that which is good, unto edifying.—Rom. 15: 2. The special reference is to our brethren in Christ. We should seek to promote their welfare; never indulging them in things which tend to their injury, but in those which build them up in their most holy faith. Reading—Romans 15: 1-13.

Wednesday, April 23.

All things are lawful; but not all things edify.—1 Cor. 10: 23. Many lawful things are improper to consecrated souls because they interfere with the attainment of their highest objectives. Such things, lawful in themselves, are esteemed as unlawful because they hinder rather than help their brethren in Christ. Reading—1 Corinthians 10: 23-33.

Thursday, April 24.

The authority which the Lord gave me for building up, and not for casting down.—2 Cor. 13: 10. Paul never boasted of his divine commission, but humbly referred to it as his authority for the doctrine given, reminding the brethren that it was for their edification and not their destruction. Reading—2 Corinthians 13: 1-10.

Friday, April 25.

Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for edifying.—Eph. 4: 29. Never should a Christian use evil, obscene or filthy language. Purity of life and speech should be cultivated. He should weigh his words lest any should tend to the harm, instead of the good, of his hearers. Reading—Ephesians 4: 25-32.

Saturday, April 26.

Exhort one another, and build each other up.—1 Thess. 5: 11. This is usually left to the preacher. How widespread would be the work, and what wonderful results would accrue, if each disciple engaged in the holy task of building up the brethren in the faith once delivered to the saints. Reading—1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11.

Sunday, April 27.

He that prophesieth speaketh unto men edification.—1 Cor. 14: 3. The word "prophesieth" must not be limited to the foretelling of events, for the apostle used the word in a wider sense. Here, it alludes to the communication of God's will. Those who engage in this work should seek to speak unto edification. Readings—Psalm 48; 1 Corinthians 14: 1-19.

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"Let us acknowledge and confess before God—

That as a nation we have often disregarded and disobeyed the law of Christ. That through inordinate desire for wealth and pleasure, we have worshipped other gods, and have not yielded heart-whole allegiance to him in whom alone is true life. That we have allowed the lower ideals of life to take root amongst us, and have not fostered as we should the nobler virtues of self-discipline and self-sacrifice. That as individuals, and as a church and nation, we have failed in our witness to the great truths of the everlasting gospel."—A. R. Howell.

"Let us give thanks—

For the grace given us as a nation to champion the right, and to suffer and endure. For the courage and endurance of our sailors, soldiers and airmen in face of hardship and dan-

**THOUGHT.**

*"It is dangerous to entertain great moral ideals without attempting to realise them in life."*

—Reinhold Niebuhr.

ger. For the noble response of the women of our land in national service. For the awakening of many to the serious issues of life and death. For the full sufficiency of Christ and his gospel to meet every need of human souls, and to bring healing to the nations."—A. R. Howell.

"Let us intercede—

For the church, that it may hear the divine call to a new consecration, and may be inspired by the Holy Spirit with a right message for the manifold needs of the time. For the king and all in authority, that they may seek and find the wisdom that cometh from above, and in their heavy responsibilities, may be upheld by the divine grace. For the nation and the Empire, that we may be penitent in the day of chastening, strong in the day of trial, serious and resolute in the day of opportunity. For our enemies, that their plans may be confounded, and that they themselves may repent, and may learn to honor and obey the divine law; and for ourselves, also, that we and they may abjure bitterness and hatred, and may find, in common, the way of righteousness and peace for all. For the captive and homeless, the sick, the wounded, and the dying, that they may receive all needful succour and comfort in their time of trial."—A. R. Howell.

(Above extracts from "Church Prayers for War-time.")

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