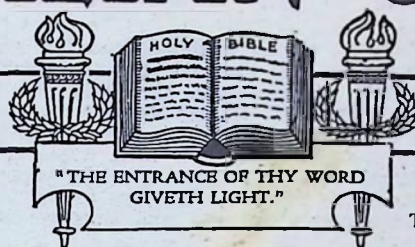


# The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## The Modern Ebenezer Scrooge.

CHRISTMAS is coming. We are planning our special services. The dust is being shaken from the covers of copies of Handel's great work, "The Messiah." Our hymn books are opening at page 57, and we are singing,

"Oh come, all ye faithful,  
Joyfully triumphant,  
To Bethlehem hasten now with glad accord!"

Little children in the kindergarten are already learning Martin Luther's beautiful Christmas hymn:

"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head."

Grandfather is patiently searching the shelves of the book-case for a book he left lying about last Christmas. He had forgotten all about it until now, and he is asking anxiously, "Where is my copy of 'Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens?" When it is placed into his hands, he sighs with relief, turns over the pages and begins to again enjoy the experiences of that old miser, Scrooge.

### I.

Ebenezer Scrooge is not a representative character. He stands out as a kind of Christmas oddity. He is the background against which we like to stand at Christmas. We delight to compare ourselves with that old skinflint and say, "Well I may have my faults, but I do not need to be converted like old Scrooge." Our liberality, or is it prodigality, is set over against Scrooge's meanness. This gives us an inflated feeling of self-satisfaction. But have we any real grounds for satisfaction? Is the lavish spending of money at Christmas a virtue? Yes, it may be, if it is spent on the right person and in the right way. But how is money usually spent during the Christmas season? Often it is spent on luxurious presents and on expensive holidays. Much is spent idly on orgies of frivolity. The fashion at Christmas is to spend freely. Whether people can afford to or not, is not considered very often. We need another Charles Dickens to create a new Christmas character who could be a corrective to those who spend money and time very foolishly during the Christmas season.

In the new Scrooge and in the old

Scrooge there would be similar characteristics, but these characteristics would be expressed in different ways.

### II.

The Scrooge of "A Christmas Carol" was condemned because he thought only of himself and kept his money to himself. He never used his money to help others. The modern Scrooge of the new story must be a person who spends time and money extravagantly at Christmas on himself and his gay friends. He ignores the just claims of others on his wealth. He forgets the accounts due to butcher and baker. He overlooks that he has entered into an agreement to pay others their dues.

It would be a better way to spend Christmas, if, before buying expensive gifts, people considered their obligations and duties toward others. If, instead of keeping pace with some "smart set," people considered their relatives, their parents, their children, and the higher virtues within themselves, then they would find Christmas happier. Sometimes people are so impoverished by Christmas spending that they are not able to make a satisfactory contribution toward the maintenance of the church. We may well wonder if such a way of spending Christmas is satisfactory or beneficial.

### III.

If we examine Ebenezer Scrooge we shall note that his sin was not just in his meanness. He derived pleasure from the possession of money. To handle money in large amounts gave him the intense delight that a costly pearl necklet sometimes gives a vain lady. He gloried in possessions and delighted in the satisfaction they gave him. His sin was that he thought of himself and not of others. It is likely that he would have been just as self-centred, even if he had exchanged his money for fine jewels, gay clothes and a great house. Even if he had lavished all his wealth upon comforts for himself, it would not have altered the moral of the story very much. Scrooge was a selfish and an unjust man. He refused to see that he had obligations towards others. Bob Cratchit, his nephew, whom he employed, was miserably paid. Bob's income was so meagre

that he could not meet the needs of his family and the little cripple. Scrooge owed a moral debt to Bob. His money could help to pay it, but he kept that for his own enjoyment.

### IV.

The essence of the moral of this story of Charles Dickens is in setting out our obligations over against our selfish interests and urging us to consider the obligations of others rather than our pleasure. People have no right to indulge in expensive personal pleasures at Christmas when they have obligations to face. Let us meet our debts and dues to others first. Let us be reconciled to those with whom we have quarrelled. The best present we can give may be the payment of money that settles a debt or a letter with a word of regret for some misdeed. Christmas is a good time to settle up the debts of the past and to begin to prepare for the future.

Christmas ought to bring debtors to creditors. Why ought it not also bring creditors to debtors? Christmas gives us the opportunity of being kind and gracious to those who are in debt to us or who really owe us an apology. Christianity does not run on a one-way track: there are two ways for Christians to travel. Christians are expected to go to their creditors and settle with them; they are also expected to be gracious toward their debtors and go to them. Christianity was born because there was a debt to be paid, and because the debtor could not pay it. The Creditor, being rich in grace and mercy, sent the richest gift he had to pay the debt and set the debtors free. While we were in debt to God, he sent his own Son to Bethlehem to redeem us. By this gift the debt was paid and peace was made. Then the angels came and sang:

"Glory to the new-born King,  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."

The modern Ebenezer Scrooge in a new "Christmas Carol" must be converted. He must be portrayed as a person who turns from a life of foolish spending and becomes a person who will make the Christmas season a time to pay dues and to settle differences and in this practical way, create peace and goodwill. The converted Mr. Scrooge, of the new story, must find time to go to church and thank God for the gift of Jesus Christ.



# Consecration.

Alan Price, B.A.

ROMANS 12 is a favorite with me, and no doubt with many others. Read it please, but begin at Rom. 11: 32. There is a little word in the first line of Rom. 12 that connects the two passages—"therefore."

God has included all in unbelief that he might have mercy on all—for this reason I beseech you to consecrate yourselves to his service. Oh the depth of the riches of his wisdom and knowledge. He saves that we may love and serve. In the body of Christ he gave himself to redeem ours. He asks a present, a sacrifice, complete consecration. Take me, Lord, out of the mould into which I have been fashioned in conformity with the world, transform me from my mind outwards into the image of Christ, that I may prove how good, acceptable, perfect, is thy will. Thy will be done on earth through me, both in word and work.

God cannot use a mind that is proud; we must have the mind of Christ, that we may do as he did. The mind, spirit or soul, if you wish, is the centre of all thought and action; if it is warped and defiled, so is the life.

The oyster shell may contain a pearl of great value. Once that pearl was a crooked grain of sand which the bivalve could not expel, but instead covered it with layer upon layer of glistening matter. As days or years went by that grain of sand became a lovely rounded pearl. So the mind of the sinner may be warped by peculiarities and whims, but when Christ takes possession, it may become a thing of beauty and value.

The transformed mind, realising how good and acceptable and perfect the will of God is, will seek avenues of service. There is a

ministry for all, in teaching, exhorting, giving or directing. Let each do that for which he is suited; do it simply, cheerfully and lovingly. The last of these words contains the secret of successful service. There is no pretence about love; it never fails, it places the loved one first. It rejoices with the happy, it mourns with the sad. It stoops to the lowly, it returns good for evil and lives peaceably with all.

In the old days the priest went forth and caught his victim. With expert hands he slew it, and offered the entire body as a sacrifice on the altar. But it was motionless, voiceless, dead, useless, except as burnt meat. The spiritual sacrifice of some is as that dead sheep. They have come away from the pastures of sin, they have died to sin, but they have forgotten to live in Christ. Since their entry into the church, they have done practically nothing for Christ. They are dumb, when opportunities of speaking for Christ occur. Even their hands will not work for him, their feet will not carry messages of love.

What is the matter? Perhaps no opportunity, no time, probably no wish. I beseech you by the mercies of God to make a start now.

Church life is sometimes cold and uninspiring. Men and women become worldly through prosperity, sometimes through adversity. Love is almost dead. Progress is nil. But let the lips be touched with a live coal from Christ's altar of sacrifice, let the heart be won back through a realisation of his great work on Calvary, let the life be once more given to him who gave himself for us, and souls of men thus consecrated to him will bring about a revival in church life.

## The Tonic of Large-Heartedness.

G. J. Andrews.

THANK God for the big-souled, broad-minded men that are raised up to disturb and benefit the rest of us when we have become little and narrow, and restricted in our manner of life and outlook. Behind the world's present chaos and brutality we trace the curse of narrow nationalism. The shame and weakness of our nation at this time of crisis is in its opposing classes and stubborn sectional interests. Even the church has her scandal of exclusive sects and competing denominations.

There can be no doubt that we are in dire need of a tonic of large-heartedness, such as God has administered time after time to humanity. It is

### The Great-heartedness of Jesus

which we need. Let us behold him—the Christ who preferred the title, "Son of man," for he belonged to humanity rather than to a race; the teacher and helper whose generous habit was to employ such inclusive terms as "whosoever"; the Good Shepherd who could not but declare, "Other sheep I have, them also I must bring"; the preacher who parted from selfish admirers saying, "I must preach in other cities also"; God's sacrificial Servant, prepared to pay the price of his mission, and be "lifted up" that he might "draw all men"; the Friendly Heart, who mingled readily with rich and poor alike; the respectable and disreputable as well, even though highbrows dubbed him "friend of publicans and sinners." Behold him, our highest Enthroned Authority, sending his ambassadors "into all the world,"

with a gospel for "every creature"; this big, gracious-hearted Son of man and Son of God.

We need the tonic of his bigness as did Peter, ere he was ready to fulfil a divine mission in the household of the Roman officer, Cornelius. After the refreshing vision and reminder, the prejudiced fisherman was ready to admit: "God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean." If we are honest, Christ's large-heartedness can take effect in us as it did in the one-time narrow and nationalistic Saul of Tarsus. From a sectarian fanatic he became Christ's wide-hearted evangelist, for every type and race, who said, "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

Let us be assured that

### God's Spokesmen for Our Day

in the life of the church are such as truly share the spirit of men like Thomas and Alexander Campbell who began what we know as the Restoration Movement. This modern movement of churches of Christ, wearing no other than the divine name, with no creed but Christ, acknowledging no rule of faith and practice but the Bible, had its rise in days of gross sectarianism. It sprang out of the big-hearted invitation of one Christian minister and another to scattered members of various sects to meet as the Lord's people for communion, in Christ's name and in common allegiance to the scriptures. God's authentic leaders in the church to-day are touched with the passion with which Christ Jesus prayed:

"That they all may be one, that the world might believe."

In the nation God's spokesmen are talking to us as did Lord Nelson, just prior to one of his greatest battles. He called to his flagship two of his captains who hated each other. Putting their right hands together into his left hand he pointed to the opposing fleet and said, "There is the enemy; you must be friends!"

## Reflections.

### On Suffering.

"PAIN makes the sufferer exceedingly sensitive."

"It is a matter of experience that he who has suffered little enjoys little."

"Suffering is the payment that joy demands."

—Sir Francis Younghusband.

### On David Livingstone.

London "Punch's" centenary recalled a happy line from "Punch's" memorial for David Livingstone: "Let marble crumble! This is living stone."

### On Archaeology.

"Archaeology has not yet said its last word; but the results already achieved confirm what faith would suggest, that the Bible can do nothing but gain from an increase of knowledge."—Sir Frederic Kenyon, sometime Director of the British Museum.

### On Revelation.

Why has Christianity failed to discharge its high responsibility in the Western world? In answering this question in his book, "What is Christianity?" Dr. C. C. Morrison writes, "I think the deepest reason for its delinquency is that the Christian church has not adequately understood either itself or its faith, that it has compromised Christianity with that which is not Christianity, that it has lost its bearings by its substitution of man for God and of its own ideology for the revelation of God in history." "There is one thing greater than any truth which man can know, and that is the revelation of God."

### On Thinking.

"A man is not what men think he is," Mr. W. F. Betts said, in an address in Melbourne recently, "but as he *thinks*, he is."

### On Intelligence of Community.

"Unless people with higher intelligence had more children, the average intelligence of the community must decline," said Professor Agar, of the Department of Biology, at Melbourne University, at a meeting of the Genealogical Society at Kelvin Hall, city, recently.

"The environment of children made only a slight difference to their intelligence. If identical twins were separated at birth and one brought up in a physician's home and the other in a laborer's home, the children, after many years, would still show identical intelligence."

"Of all defectives in the community 15 per cent. had defective parents, 70 per cent. had a defect somewhere in the family, and 15 per cent. became defective as a result of non-hereditary causes."

### On the Need of Happiness.

"Russia was the land where religion had taken a pessimistic view of life," the Dean of Canterbury wrote in his book, "The Socialist Sixth of the World." "Russian literature is sad and pessimistic, and Russian religion increased the gloom, shunning happiness and preaching that inevitable suffering was the normal road to salvation. Russia at heart panted for a gospel of happiness to counteract this pessimistic teaching and practice."



# At the Table of the Lord.

A. R. Main, M.A.

## JUSTIFIED BY FAITH.

*"Even we believed on Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law: because by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."*  
—Galatians 2: 16.

AMONGST the very definite and repeated assertions of the New Testament, which naturally come to mind as we sit at the Master's table, is this, that we are justified by faith and not by meritorious works of law. How strong and insistent are the statements every reader, especially of the Pauline epistles, knows. Consider the following expressions: "By the works of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight"; "We reckon that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law"; "Being justified by faith, let us have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"; "By grace have ye been saved, through faith; . . . not of works, that no man should glory."

Many in Paul's time needed such emphatic reminders, and even to-day the great truths require emphasis, for men are still tempted to trust to their own good works rather than to Christ for safety.

There are two conceivable means of justification. One is by the performance of meritorious works. But for this a man would have to keep perfectly all God's law and never sin even once; for "cursed is every one which continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them" (Gal. 3: 10). No mere man has perfectly kept God's law; "all have sinned," and therefore justification by works of law is for ever excluded. The second alternative, and the only possible way for sinful man, is justification by faith in Christ. What the law could not do is done for us by our Saviour, who on the cross gave his life as an atonement for the sin of the world. We sing of that cross:

"O safe and happy shelter,  
O refuge tried and sweet,  
O trysting-place, where heaven's love  
And heaven's justice meet."

Had love alone been concerned, God is rich enough in love and mercy to have saved all. Had justice alone been concerned, all must have continued to be under condemnation. Let us praise his name for that plan of redemption in which both love and justice meet and were seen in reconciliation.

Salvation by works is forever excluded. While another apostle tells us that a man is not justified only by faith, and makes it clear that a saving faith will manifest itself in works, it also remains true that all the things that sinners are asked to do are but means of appropriating the salvation procured for us by Christ, and hence fall to the side of justification by faith, and never to that of justification by works of law. The Supper reminds us of this truth.

"Nothing in my hand I bring;  
Simply to thy cross I cling."

## FOR A FIRST COMMUNION.

*"The bread which we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ?"—1 Corinthians 10: 16.*

□

A FIRST communion is a sacred experience. Many look back to their first fellowship at the Lord's Table, and wish they could recapture the blessedness of the occasion. It is well to help those beginning the Christian life to appreciate the meaning of the feast.

A letter by Rita F. Snowdon, ostensibly written to a friend first approaching the Lord's Table, explains beautifully part of the meaning of communion:

"So you are coming to your first communion. I am so glad. Can I tell you what this means to me? I will try. In my mind are some lovely words: 'Music I heard with you was more than music, and bread I ate with you was more than bread.' Of course it was. You can think of some times, I am sure, when that has been true to you; when with your friend you have shared some simple meal, and it has been more than bread.

"Away back in 1903 four men were making their way wearily back from the South Pole. They had been short of food for days, and one of their number was sick. All that they had was a little horse-flesh and a few biscuits. One morning the sick man, Commander Frank Wild, was so ill that he couldn't bear his horse-flesh. Then Shackleton did a glorious thing: he slipped into his companion's pocket his own morning's ration, one biscuit. In his diary Wild wrote of it: 'I do not suppose any one else in the world can thoroughly realise how much generosity and sympathy were shown in this. But I do, and I shall never forget it.' To him it was a beautiful thing: you see, there are times when 'the bread I ate with you was more than bread.' It's the presence of one's friend; and the sympathy and the deep, real love of one's friend that makes it so.

"So is the bread and wine of this simple feast, to me. The presence of my Friend makes it a sacrament. . . . I come to this simple table to share this feast with my Lord, and because he is here, this 'bread that I eat is more than bread.' Studdert-Kennedy has the same wonderful thought expressed in a slightly different experience; he says, 'If we picked a rosebud from a tree, it would be a rosebud and no more; but if the one we loved best in all the world plucked it and gave it, it would be a rosebud, and a great deal more; something spiritual would be added because of the love behind the gift. In this sense,' he says—and adds the thought I have expressed—"the bread and wine we take at the communion service are different from the food and drink we have in our own homes; they carry a share of the love of our Lord who receives us at his table."

# "Did Not Our Hearts Burn."

Luke 24: 13-35.

H. J. Patterson, M.A.

## Prayer Meeting Topic for December 17.

W. D. JACKSON once said, "Never judge a book by one sad page, a climate by one wild day, or life by one tragic experience. Cleopas and his friend made that mistake. Reading only one page of Christ's story, they deemed the death of Christ a tragedy, but when Jesus told them the whole story, expounding in all the scriptures the things concerning himself, they realised that the cross was part of God's plan for him; things had gone right, not wrong. And the whole story so cheered them that they joined the 'Order of the Burning Heart.' 'Did not our hearts burn within us?' they said."

## Our Sad Experiences.

Many of our readers have had some tragic experiences, and perhaps even this last week or so some have felt that the last darkness had come upon them. Mothers grieve for some overseas, wounded, prisoner or killed. Or there may be a worse sorrow than any of those. Perhaps a business built up laboriously over the years has failed, and there is nothing left but a debt and the memory of failure. In 1812 a great fire destroyed Carey's mission press at Serampore, ruining priceless translations, wrecking years of labor, reducing to ashes £10,000 worth of materials. "Yet soon he cheered himself. It was God's right, he said, to dispose of man as he pleased; it was man's duty to acquiesce in God's will." But few of us would be able to look at the matter in that light. These happenings cut away the very ground from under our feet, and hell seems to swallow us up. We all lack faith in these sad days. Perhaps you are saying, "This war is a terrible tragedy, nay worse, taking the flower of humanity and turning it to dust." Yes, maybe, but what may emerge from the dust we as yet are not able to say. Let us keep faith.

## The Divine Teacher.

Surprising revelations were made to them that day, for out of all the scriptures he showed that these things must needs be. He offered a surprising rebuke to them. He said that they were foolish men and unbelievers. There had been a lack of independent thought, and they had accepted without question the traditional view of the many. Do we fall into that same error? We take the commonplace, the newspaper view, and failing to reconcile this with the facts that are, we become hopeless and despairing. Open unto us the scripture, O Lord Jesus, and show us afresh how that through suffering men may be brought to God. Reveal to us the nature of the kingdom and show us afresh that "all things work together for good to them that love God." Are we willing to be taught of God? The Bible for many people is a closed book, and there is no systematic study of it. Let us open it and study, and we shall find that our hearts will burn within us.

## A Divine Companion.

Where Jesus joined them and how long he was with them we do not know. But he was unrecognised. They were not expecting him. That was the thing farthest from mind. Why don't we have the divine companionship? Perhaps we are not expecting him. We bear the burden and sorrow alone, and when he is there available for comfort and hope we do not see him. Open our eyes that we may see that he is walking beside us day by day. And when we see and know him our hearts will burn with new hope and new desire.

□

TOPIC FOR DECEMBER 24.—THE GIFT OF LOVE.—John 3: 1-17.

## A Town Where No-one Would Like to Live.

THE town without a church—what a lonesome spot it would be! Few would I want to live there—still fewer would dare to bring up a family in a place where the spiritual side of life was so completely neglected. Mankind cannot be content without some means of expressing the religious impulse and anything which develops and deepens this impulse is a priceless contribution to the progress of the church. Thoughtful observers agree that the value of the church press is beyond estimate. By loyally supporting the church paper of your choice you are in effect aiding the church itself—and thus encouraging the spread of the finest aspirations and impulses known to man.—Associated Church Press."



# The Home Circle.

Conducted by J. C. F. Pittman.

## CHRISTMAS DAY.

IN one of his poems Longfellow says that:—

"Each man's chimney is his golden milestone,  
Is the central point, from which he measures  
every distance,

Through the gateways of the world around  
him."

In some such way Christmas Day is Time's golden milestone.

## THE DATE OF CHRISTMAS.

ALL Western Christendom celebrates December 25 as the birthday of Jesus, but we have not to study very carefully to find that that day must be wrong. When he was born the shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks by night out on the Judean hills. That they would not have been doing in the month of December. The flocks were taken out to pasture about the Passover time, that is, in our month of April, and kept there until about the middle of October, when winter began in earnest. The birth, therefore, must have taken place somewhere between those two dates.

Why, then, was December 25 fixed upon? The reason is not hard to find, and is set forth interestingly by a writer: "Toward the close of that month (December) the Romans kept their festival of the Saturnalia, abandoning themselves to revelry. Albeit marred by debauchery, it was a season of peace and goodwill. While it lasted it was impious to begin a war or execute a criminal, and friends sent gifts to each other. And there is one curious custom which must not be forgotten: for a whole day freedom was granted to the slave; many of the primitive Christians belonged to this oppressed class, and it was natural that, while their heathen fellows were spending the

day in riot, they should keep it as a holy festival, celebrating the birth of their Lord who had redeemed them with his precious blood and delivered them from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God."—Selected.

## A ROYAL LOVER OF CHILDREN.

ONE of the last and most beautiful pictures of the beloved monarch, King George V., is that told by the Dean of Manchester (Dr. Garfield Williams), who ministered to the King at Christmas in the pretty village church of St. Mary Magdalene at Sandringham, Norfolk. "Every member of the Royal Family was present," he says. "I shall never forget seeing His Majesty there, with the two little children, one on either side. The King joined in the hymn until his cough became so troublesome that he could no longer continue. He was singing, and watching the little children as they tried to sing, as he sang, that beautiful hymn written for young people by Mrs. C. F. Alexander":—

"Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle-shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child."

And on through the three following verses, so universally known, to the triumphant last stanza, which may now be well regarded as the swan-song of our late ruler:—

"And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love;  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone."

## The Family Altar.

### TOPIC.—"GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY."

Monday, December 15.

A VIRGIN shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.—Isa. 7: 14.

"Immanuel" signifies "God with us." He had always been with his faithful children, but after the lapse of centuries, he was to appear to mankind in the form of his Son, "bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh," "Immanuel, God with us."

Reading—Isaiah 7: 12-16.

Tuesday, December 16.

And his name shall be called . . . the Prince of Peace.—Isa. 9: 6.

Of the five names here given, the last, far from being the least, is to us of the greatest significance. Christ is the "Prince of Peace," through whom alone hostilities between nations or individuals, or on account of our depraved nature, can forever cease.

Isaiah 9: 1-7.

Wednesday, December 17.

And the Redeemer shall come to Zion.—Isa. 59: 20.

The prophet lived in a dark time. It almost seemed as if the nation would be wrecked upon the rocks of idolatry and worldliness. But, looking through the vista of the future, Isaiah saw the great Deliverer, as a life-boat, approaching to the rescue. The birth of Jesus was conclusive proof that the Redeemer had come to Zion.

Reading—Isaiah 59: 16-21.

Thursday, December 18.

And thou shalt call his name Jesus.—Matt. 1: 21.

Here is yet another name, signifying "Saviour." Our religion is incarnated in a person, through whom alone salvation is brought to fallen humanity.

Reading—Matthew 1: 18-25.

Friday, December 19.

Being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself.—Phil. 2: 8.

Thus Christ descended from the highest heights to the lowest depths, that he might touch the lowest and the vilest. "Let this mind be in you," says the apostle.

Reading—Philippians 2: 1-11.

Saturday, December 20.

I bring you tidings of great joy.—Luke 2: 10. Better tidings were never before or since brought to mortal man. They consisted of the newest and freshest of all news. Dark days will now be followed by seasons of sunshine, for the "sun of righteousness has arisen with healing in his wings." Salvation is now possible for all, because Christ has been born in Bethlehem.

Reading—Luke 2: 1-11.

Sunday, December 21.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.—Luke 2: 14.

There are two lights upon this scene; that illumining heaven on the one hand, and earth on the other. The birth of Christ brings glory to God and peace to man.

Readings—Isaiah 9: 1-7; Luke 2: 8-20.

## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Conducted by W. R. Hibburt.

### HEALTH, WEALTH AND HAPPINESS.



Awareness.

THESE words describe the Field Days of the Explorer Clubs at Burwood

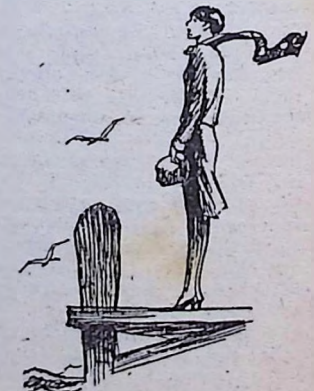
Boys' Home, Nov. 16, and the Good Companions at Jolimont Reserve, Nov. 22. 120 boys bubbling over with life, and 140 girls tingling with healthy excitement, demonstrated that it is possible to relate young people's religion to life. The writer found himself impressed with the young men and women dedicating themselves to these kindred movements catering for juniors. If the church wishes to avoid being at a discount with the rising generation, it must prove itself equal to the same kind of work over a wider range. The abundance of health and happiness may be the possession of the boys and girls, but the wealth is shared. A brotherhood with such groups under the control of purposeful leaders is indeed wealthy. Bambra-rd., Caulfield, Explorers were the winners of the efficiency cup, and Newmarket Good Companions won the sports shield for 1941-42. The runners-up were South Yarra and Thornbury.

### CHRISTMAS TIME IS CAMPING TIME!

THE Victorian Young People's Department is holding a camp at Warragul from Dec. 26 to January 1. While the camp programme gives attention to the recreating of physical reserves that the holiday period demands, it aims to fit the campers for future leadership in all phases of young people's work. Mrs. W. Waterman is camp hostess, and W. R. Hibburt is camp director. C. J. Robinson is camp padre. Bren. A. A. Hughes and Colin Thomas will be contributing to the lecture period. Camp discussions will centre around the theme, "Shaping the Larger Liberties."

### A NEW CREATION.

THE Victorian Young People's Department is putting into circulation 2000 calendar diaries this month. Young people will be well advised to delay purchase of their usual diary until they see this new creation bearing the title "Youth's Own Diary." Though produced in simple style to keep down costs, it contains 72 pages. Its salient features are: Calendar pages, information, texts, stimulating thoughts, and major youth and brotherhood events of the year. Those using the diary will gain a sense of unity with other youth. The hope is cherished if the venture proves a success, that it will be published in a more attractive form and in a manner to serve Federal youth forces. Bible school secretaries have been asked to act as local sales agents. The diary, which costs sixpence, will make an ideal Christmas goodwill gift. Please add 1d. for postage.



Expanding Horizons.



## Passing of Bro. A. C. Rankine.

THE news of the death of Bro. Rankine on Nov. 28, after a brief illness, was received with deep and widespread regret. There was a rugged grandeur in his strong Christian personality. Physically he was a big man, and the largeness of his soul enabled him to devote himself to the varied interests of the kingdom of God. He always spoke with intense conviction. The positive note in his preaching and his thorough grasp of the essentials of the gospel made him one of the most successful evangelists our churches have produced. He was a fisher of men. Just recently he spoke to his fellow-preachers with glowing face of casting the net in the good old days of his Norwood ministry and being rarely disappointed when he drew it in, and at the same time ex-



A. C. Rankine.

pressing his regret that the net so often returned empty in these days of worldliness and religious indifference, which, he felt, heralded the early return of our Lord.

Andrew Rankine was born at Sebastopol, near Ballarat, Victoria, in 1865, of devoted Christian parents. When he was a boy of eight years they removed to South Australia, but after he had left school they settled on a farm in the West Wimmera district. A period of spiritual unrest led Andrew at 21 years of age to decide to serve God, and he travelled to Adelaide to be baptised in the Unley chapel on June 2, 1886, at the hands of Bro. Jesse Colbourne. The ardent young Christian man induced Bro. Colbourne to cross the border to preach the primitive gospel. In Bro. Rankine's own words it is recorded: "Mr. Colbourne's efforts were not in vain, as several were gathered into the fold, and thus the foundation of the work in the north-west Wimmera was laid." Two years were spent by Bro. Rankine in the College of the Bible, Kentucky, U.S.A. He returned to the homeland to begin his monumental work at Norwood, South Australia, in October, 1888, where he labored for 23 years, the membership increasing from 20 to 800. It was a common sight to see the big tabernacle packed to the doors. In recent years Bro. Rankine returned to Norwood to add another three years to his previous long and fruitful ministry. His other fields of labor were Glenferrie, Victoria; Ann-st., Brisbane, Queensland; California, U.S.A.; and Grote-st., Henley Beach, Dulwich, Forestville, and, finally, Fullarton, in South Australia. As a pastor he was indefatigable. Singularly endowed and blessed as a soul-winner, he lovingly shepherded the flock of God. In the

sickroom and as a friend and adviser he was unexcelled. Like his Master, his spirit was touched with the feeling of others' infirmities. The overseas enterprises of the church found in Andrew Rankine an inspiring leader. From the inception of the work in South Australia in 1891 he was a member of the State Foreign Mission Committee. Sister Rosa L. Tonkin went to China and Bro. Frank Filmer to the New Hebrides largely as the result of his suggestion and encouragement. Home missions also had a big place in his capacious heart. He was a committee-man for many years. He was a strong advocate of temperance, and was one of the original members of the S.A. Alliance and a vice-president at the time of his death. His views were often trenchantly expressed in the daily paper. For several years Bro. Rankine was associated with the late T. J. Gore, M.A., as a teacher of the training class at Grote-st.

A brief funeral service was conducted in the Dulwich chapel on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 29, and the body of the devoted servant of Christ was laid to rest in the Magill cemetery in the presence of a large company of friends and representative brethren. Bren. F. Collins, W. C. Brooker, A. E. Hurren, A. J. Ingham, A. Anderson, A. M. Ludbrook, and the writer took part in the services. Sister Rankine, who survives her husband, proved herself a devoted partner during his long ministry. An adopted son, Reginald, resides at Gaythorne, Queensland. To the sorrowing relatives and a multitude of friends the brotherhood expresses warm Christian sympathy. Andrew Rankine amply fulfilled the pledge with which he closed a brief personal sketch in 1897:

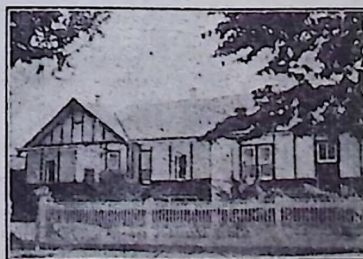
"Ere since by faith I saw the stream  
Thy flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be till I die."

—H. R. Taylor.

## Echuca Church Jubilee.

IN May, 1891, six people gathered in the old Mission Hall in Hume-st., Echuca, Vic., to break bread. They were Bren. Little (preacher), Robinson, Cartwright, and Sisters Mrs. Little, Cartwright, Lawry (nee Foyster). Soon they were joined by Bren. Marsh and G. Freeman from S.A. The first baptised were Bro. and Sister Ben Taylor, and Bro. Brown (who was baptised in a creek at Bower's Bend). A few months after commencement a building was erected. This was later destroyed by fire. In 1895 it was replaced, and when the present building was added in 1926 the old building became the school room.

In the early years an extensive circuit was formed, and preachers went as far as Shepparton and Wedderburn. For years the sisters had practically to run the church, preside at morning meetings and conduct gospel services, but the door was never closed, Mrs. Simmonds being treasurer, Miss Darlow secretary, and afterwards Mrs. Lawry.



The Chapel at Echuca.

The following preachers served: W. D. Little, T. Hagger, F. W. Greenwood, W. Burgess, T. H. Scambler, A. M. Ludbrook, J. Parslow, T. G. Mason, W. Davey, J. E. Shipway, C. L. Lang. Then came students from the College of the Bible, and then W. B. Payne took up the preaching, and afterwards was assisted by G. Woolnough. Since 1927 the work has been carried on by full-time preachers, viz., R. Hilford, W. A. Wigney, A. C. Thurrowgood and H. Hargreaves. During Bro. Wigney's ministry a manse was erected.

To mark the 50th anniversary of Echuca church, a special evangelistic campaign was held, with Bro. J. E. Webb as speaker. These meetings concluded with a jubilee banquet on Dec. 1, when greetings from former members and preachers were read. The following preachers sent greetings: T. Hagger, T. H. Scambler, A. M. Ludbrook, T. G. Mason, W. A. Wigney, H. Hargreaves. Brotherhood greetings were given by Bro. J. E. Webb, and by letter from Bren. W. Gale, R. Lyall, and also from Hartwell, Northcote, Rochester and Swanston-st., Melbourne, churches. The Mayor of Echuca and representatives of local churches were present. Sister Miss Darlow and Bro. Hillier were honored as representing the pioneers. Mrs. Lawry, the only living foundation member, sent a very interesting letter. Mrs. Collins, baptised February, 1892, Miss Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Davis were welcome visitors. The celebrations were brought to a fitting close with a chart address on "Christian Union—How?" by Bro. J. E. Webb. The church acknowledges God's goodness, and looks to him for future blessing.—T.A.H.S.

## War in the Pacific.

THE events in the last few days have brought the second world war nearer to its climax. The threat to Australia is growing. Mr. Curtin, the Prime Minister, in his appeal to the citizens of Australia, said, "This is the first time in the history of this land that it looked as though the enemy could enter here and break down the defences that have kept our homes from attack. It is now up to us to hold what God has given to us and maintain the traditions that have been born into our manhood."

Although the power of the great Americas is with us, we should not rely upon others to save us, but we ought to co-operate with those in authority to help to hinder the advance of the aggressors. We are asked to limit our luxury spending and to observe precautionary measures. As loyal citizens we shall do these things. With fighting in the regions north of Australia, many of our young men will be in the midst of the battle.

We hope that the seriousness of the situation will be realised by all, and that the days of indifference to righteousness will come to an end. We need the strength of the Lord. We shall be worthy of his help if we seek to serve him as individuals and as a nation. We should find a new national strength if steps were taken to rid the land of the weakening effects of strong drink, gambling and immorality.

Because we love our country we want it to be strong in these days of peril so that we may preserve the way of life that is acceptable to God.

## THE PEOPLE WHO CARE.

⊙

"We couldn't be brave when life's blinding things come,  
And hide the deep pain that is all we can bear,  
And go on believing in God through it all  
If it weren't for the faith of the people who care."



## Here and There.

The following telegram reached us Dec. 9:—"Having good meetings Loftus Park; twenty-one to date.—Hinrichsen."

We learn that Bro. W. E. Jackel has accepted an invitation to become the preacher of the church at Essendon, Vic.

Bro. C. G. Taylor, who has concluded his ministry with the church at Parkdale, Vic., has accepted an invitation to become the preacher of the church at Hampton.

Appropriate services were conducted in many churches in memory of the loss of the men of the H.M.A.S. Sydney and H.M.A.S. Parramatta. Prayers were offered on behalf of sorrowing relatives, and sympathy expressed for their sad loss.

Christmas cards, with scenes of Australian country life, drawn by H. R. Ham, are on sale at Austral Printing and Publishing Co. These black and white and colored views are beautiful reproductions and make excellent cards. The prices are black and white, 3/9 per doz., posted 4/-; colored 4/9 per doz., posted 5/-.

Bro. A. Anderson, 261 Magill-rd., Tranmere, S.A., requests that all contributions for the bombed British churches should be sent in promptly, as arrangements are being made to forward money to England. A brother in Surrey Hills, Vic., has sent £2/10/- with the request that it be acknowledged in the "Christian."

On their way home to New Zealand from the Dadaya mission, Rhodesia, South Africa, Bro. and Sister Garfield Todd and their daughter Alycen have been able to meet some of the brethren in Australia. We trust that our workers, who have spent over seven years in Africa, will have a happy reunion with their home folk and with the churches in the Dominion.

At morning service at Oakleigh, Vic., Nov. 30, Bro. Robertson McCue, representing Local Option Alliance, was speaker. On Dec. 7 Bro. Alex. Wilson gave a thought-provoking address on "The Privilege of Bible Study." Bro. A. G. McCullough gave the gospel address on each Sunday. Bro. S. Neighbour has accepted a three-years' engagement with the church, and will commence his ministry on Jan. 4.

Owing to readjustments at the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, Vic., Bro. E. Lyall Williams has resigned as preacher of the Ivanhoe church as from the beginning of college lectures in February, 1942. He plans to do Sunday relief work of a temporary character so as to be free from the demands of a regular charge. The college board desires to place the faculty on a completely full-time basis, and this is a step in that direction.

Bro. W. B. Payne writes: "Bro. Edwin Atkinson, pastor of the church of Christ, Cumerungunga, last week received a return rail warrant to Sydney and an invitation to meet the State Chief Secretary and discuss aboriginal needs and problems. We think Bro. Atkinson a very suitable man for such a mission, and on Sunday the church commended him to God in his important mission. A liberal daily allowance is being granted him while away by the Aboriginal Welfare Department."

Christmas brings its problems as well as its joys. We desire to make suitable gifts to friends and must decide what is likely to be acceptable. A gift that conveys a spiritual blessing is appreciated by many. Mrs. Beth Burns, well known to members of churches of Christ in N.S.W., has just written a delightful meditation on Frances R. Havergal's well-known consecration hymn. "Fragrant Frances," the title of the booklet, is introduced with a foreword by Archdeacon R. B. S. Hammond. The graceful cover and general appearance of the booklet make it an acceptable gift for Christmas.

Messrs. Marshall, Morgan and Scott Ltd. notify that they have in the press a book entitled "Words and Their Ways in the Greek New Testament," by Randall T. Pittman, B.A., Dip. Ed. (144 pp. Cr. 8vo. Clo. Bds.); "studies for the general reader which throw much light on the meaning of a large number of scripture passages; may also be considered as a textbook for preachers and students." We hope soon to be able to announce the arrival of copies of this work and to give particulars as to price. Orders may be sent to the Austral Co.

Reports presented to annual business meeting at Rockhampton, Qld., showed 7 added during year. Bible school, which started year with 16 on roll, now has 46. Christian Endeavor reported net increase of 15, membership now being 31. Financial statement revealed credit balance of £16, after meeting all expenses and paying £41 off building debt. It was unanimously resolved to make an effort to pay off Connexional Fund loan within 12 months. The church has affiliated with Rockhampton Council of Churches, and co-operated in a Sunday observance demonstration on Nov. 23. Meetings on Nov. 30 were well attended, Bro. Vanham speaking in morning on "How to Double Your Strength" and in evening on "Life."

The Melbourne City Mission is making its Christmas appeal for the needs of its work. Many are interested in the excellent work of this mission and welcome the opportunity to help. Mr. H. P. Virtue, the treasurer of the mission, writes: "For more than 85 years the Melbourne City Mission has carried on its redemptive work of succouring the needy and preaching the gospel of Christ to those in spiritual want. And it has done this through your aid and on your behalf. It does not purpose to withdraw or retreat or to change its venue, but rather to remain as a bastion against the forces which would endanger the lives and souls of those least able to withstand. It therefore makes this Christmas appeal for your continued help with the added hope that your response will be a generous one."

Bible school anniversary services at Lismore, N.S.W., were very successful. Singing was under leadership of Bro. C. L. Savill. Sunday afternoon speaker was Bro. J. L. Stimson, conference president. Bro. Acland, home on monthly leave from Maitland camp, gave a stirring address at night, when Esme Brown and Delma Wotherspoon made the confession. Owing to notification being received by Bro. Acland that his services as chaplain are required for a longer period, and probably for duration of the war, he has felt impelled to tender his resignation as evangelist, and this was accepted with great regret by the officers. His ministry has been a very happy one. School services were continued on Dec. 3 after tea and Christmas tree for kinders. The programme was bright. Scholars were trained by Mrs. Acland and other teachers. At guild coin afternoon on Nov. 26 Bro. Stimson was welcomed and Sister Mrs. Rowe (nee Audrey Townley) farewelled, as she is joining her husband at Evan's Head.

Many expressions of appreciation of the ministry and life of Andrew C. Rankine have reached us. From these we express the following. On behalf of South Australian Foreign Mission Committee A. J. Ingham writes: "Bro. Rankine's service for overseas work and his large-hearted brotherliness leave each member of the committee with a deep sense of personal loss." Writing of his fellowship with Bro. Rankine in Brisbane Bro. Len Gole says: "A. C. Rankine was a stalwart for the restoration of New Testament Christianity; he loved the church, and his zeal for the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ 'to the uttermost parts of the earth' was translated in the hearts of his congregation, and their interest and giving

rose rapidly." Albert E. Lloyd writes: "The Lord's day before the commencement of his illness, I was at the morning service and presided at the table. Bro. Rankine's message that morning was one I shall never forget. 'For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.' He said that there was only a comma between life and death in that text. We shall miss his kindly voice, his handshake, his visitations and his brotherly words of advice."

### A Good Mixer.

THE only thing to do when people "get on our nerves" is to get them off our nerves as quickly as possible. When people get on our corns, it is a situation which they themselves are generally glad to rectify. But when people get on our nerves there is very little they can do about it. The task falls almost entirely to us.

We ought not to let people get on our nerves, and, if they do, we ought to know how to get them off. I am concerned here not with "the mystery of iniquity" nor with the genuine "bad hats" who are to be found occasionally, but with the decent, irritating, exasperating, well-meaning folk with whom we have constantly to deal. How can we like them? How can we enjoy their company? How can we so get on with them that they never get on our nerves?

The first thing to do is to get away from any feeling that people are sent into the world to minister to our pleasure, and that, if we do not like them, they are very much to blame. God made them, and God loves them; that ought to be enough for us. In any case, if we dislike them, the fault lies very largely with us, and we may be quite certain we have not understood them. These people who are so exasperating would generally seem pathetic, if we looked at them more understandingly, remembered their background, had an eye for their inward struggles, and considered whether in their place we should not be far worse—or perhaps we are far worse already! We generally dislike most intensely those unattractive traits in others of which we are secretly most conscious in ourselves.

If you want to like somebody or to be patient with him, pray for him. That is the sovereign remedy. But be careful how you do it! It is no use saying (in your own words), "O Lord, how revolting he is; do, please, make him less odious"! That is conceit, not prayer. Try to see him as Christ sees him, and your heart insensibly will be melted towards him. You cannot go on disliking a person whose good points you have tried to see, into whose difficulties and struggles and needs and longings you have entered by imagination and sympathy, whose failures are your sorrow, and whose true good you ardently desire.

Then remember that it takes two to tell the truth. Your interlocutor must be made to understand what you mean and not merely what you say. If he is in a bad mood he will twist and misinterpret and resent your words. Get him first, therefore, into a good mood. That you do by really caring for him, genuinely appreciating his often hidden troubles and evoking a cheerful response from him. Talk about the weather and his children till he is spiritually ready to listen to what you have to say to him.

Most of us are like children; we need managing; we need deliverance from the sulks. Christians ought to be over those childish complaints (which they call "nerves"); they must have "a heart at leisure from itself to soothe and sympathise." Blessed are the peace-makers. And blessed are they whose hearts are so on their neighbors that they have no time or thought for personal resentments and small dislikes!—"Ilico" in "British Weekly."



# News of the Churches.

## TASMANIA.

**Tunnel Bay.**—Children's Day was observed on Nov. 30, when the Sunday school rendered enjoyable items. The offering was £10/9/-. Bro. C. Burden and Sister E. Rogers were recently married. Services have been fairly well attended.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

**Subiaco.**—Attendances are encouraging. On Nov. 23 a "favorite hymn" night was much appreciated. Sunday night service, Nov. 30, was broadcast, Bro. Raymond speaking on "God and the Individual." Bro. V. Pallot's solo, "The Ninety and Nine," was topic of the address and rendered beautifully. Work amongst young people is probably the most encouraging aspect here.

**Kalgoorlie.**—On Nov. 27 Bro. H. Fitch left for Perth to participate in Victory Convention. Bro. E. C. Smith gave a good message on morning of Nov. 30. The gospel was preached by Bro. Fred Stephenson, when a Bible school scholar took her stand and Sister D. Lance sang a solo. The church regrets the loss of a most faithful worker, Sister Mrs. Davies, who passed away on Nov. 28.

**Perth.**—On Nov. 26 a profitable talk by Bro. J. Wiltshire on "David the Psalmist" preceded an interesting period when Bro. A. B. Povey asked his audience many questions about great events in the scriptures and elsewhere. On morning of Nov. 30 Bro. R. G. Burgin, of Harvey, gave a stirring home mission address on "The Great Importance of Spreading the Gospel." At gospel service Sister Mrs. H. Smith rendered a solo. Bro. Wiltshire delivered a touching message on "Drifting—Whither Bound?" Afterwards he gave a broadcast address on "God's Microscopic Care."

## QUEENSLAND.

**Maryborough.**—Mr. Lars Larsen, of Bundaberg, spoke at both services on Nov. 16 at Bible school anniversary. Mr. Brooks, of Baptist church, gave the afternoon address. There were good attendances; 58 attended Lord's Table. At conclusion of Mr. Larsen's address on Sunday evening a Bible school scholar confessed Christ and after baptism was received into fellowship on Nov. 30. A number of Urraween brethren were present at anniversary service. P. Larsen is seriously ill in hospital.

**Albion.**—Services are well attended, and a number of visitors have been present. A young people's service was held on evening of Nov. 23. Bro. Williams spoke, and the young people assisted. On Nov. 30 a men's service was held, Bro. Brooke speaking on "The Man and the Donkey." Boys' and girls' clubs combined to give a successful gymnasium display and concert on Dec. 5. An every-member-present service was conducted on Dec. 7. Bro. Williams gave an inspiring address on "The Evidences of Christianity." Band of Hope and Junior C.E. have held closing functions and are now in recess.

**Brisbane (Ann-st.).**—There were splendid attendances on Nov. 30. Bro. Arnold's morning subject, "Well Done, Colosse," was greatly appreciated. Six were received by transfer from Albion. At night Bro. Arnold spoke on "The Glorious Gospel." A young girl made her decision. 187 broke bread for the day. On Dec. 7 Bro. Arnold's morning exhortation was "I saw the Lord." A young woman decided for Christ. Bro. Arnold's gospel address was "Whither Goest Thou?" Two young women were baptised. Bro. Arnold officiated at the marriage of Miss Clarice Berry and Pilot Officer Jones in the chapel on Dec. 6. Women's Mission Band tendered a farewell luncheon to Sister Mrs. Arnold in Botanic Gardens on Dec. 4. Sister Mrs. Fulton (president), on behalf of the sisters, presented a handsome "airways" case to Mrs. Arnold.

**Monkland.**—Bro. Bert Whitnall, of Albion, gave an interesting missionary message at J.C.E. on Nov. 25. On Nov. 30 Bro. J. Venning exhorted the church, prior to his leaving for Brisbane for the Air Force.

**Gympie.**—Annual meeting of church was conducted successfully on Nov. 19. All reports showed work to be in good heart. A special resolution was passed protesting against any change in hours for sale of liquor. On Dec. 28 a united meeting was held in connection with the liquor question. 54th anniversary of church began on Nov. 30. Mr. R. H. Crowe, minister of Presbyterian church, addressed morning service. In afternoon the scholars sang and prizes were distributed. At night another successful service was held, when Mr. Fisher gave an illustrated sermon and the scholars again sang.

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

**Enmore.**—Good meetings held Dec. 7. Bro. A. C. MacLean was morning speaker. His address was appreciated.

**North Sydney.**—Following gospel address by Bro. Paternoster on Dec. 7, the good confession was made by two scholars, and five lads were baptised.

**Rockdale.**—On Nov. 23 Bro. Wakeley, of Burwood, gave a fine exhortation. On Nov. 30 Bro. Hinrichsen spoke at both meetings. A happy fellowship social was held on Dec. 6. Good meetings were held on Dec. 7, Bro. Hinrichsen speaking at both services.

**Lidcombe.**—The church has been fortunate in securing the services of Bro. A. R. Main, M.A., for a limited period for Lord's days, morning and evening. At gospel service on Dec. 7 two Bible school girls made the good confession. Dr. E. Bardsley, of Enmore church, comes on Wednesday evenings.

**Burwood.**—Eddie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Owen, and Mr. A. Walker, both of H.M.A.S. Sydney, are reported missing. Ladies' Aid held a concert to raise funds for Christmas gift to building fund; nearly £12 was realised. Bible school anniversary commenced Dec. 7 with successful meetings. Bro. F. Hunting addressed afternoon service. Bro. and Sister R. L. Arnold, from Queensland, are visitors.

**Bexley North.**—Morning messages by Bren. Cust (Chatswood), Little (Hornsby) and Weir have been appreciated. On Dec. 7 Bro. and Sister Southcombe were received by transfer from Rockdale. At night two young girls from Bible school were baptised. Bro. T. Weir preached, and tribute was made to late Sister Mrs. Michau, a foundation member of the church. Sympathy is extended to Bro. and Sister Roffey and family in their bereavement. Soloists were Sister Weir and Bro. P. Lyle. Bible school increases; 93 scholars present. Building fund debt is now £37. Girls' club held gift evening for social service and donated all their funds to local church and Boys' Home.

**Wagga.**—Since close of Hinrichsen-Morris mission there have been splendid attendances. Extensions to chapel, though incomplete, are being used, and are a wonderful improvement. Nov. 16 was observed as day of national prayer. There was one confession at night. On Nov. 19 a young people's welcome social to new Endeavorers was held, more than 50 attending. On Nov. 23 there were good meetings. Two were baptised at night. Bible school anniversary services were held on Nov. 30, Bro. Stow speaking morning and evening and Bro. Phil Hayes, of Baptist church, speaking at afternoon session. Anniversary concert and prize-giving on Nov. 2 were an outstanding success. Services on Dec. 7 were well supported, Bro. Stow speaking morning and evening.

**Paddington.**—At morning service on Dec. 7 Bro. Greenhalgh spoke on Col. 2: 9. At gospel service members of Eastern Division of St. John's Ambulance attended. Bro. Greenhalgh spoke on "God's First Aid to the Injured."

**Kingsford.**—Meetings during November improved. Addresses by Bro. A. Baker were uplifting. There were two baptisms. Midweek prayer meetings are well attended, and a visiting speaker once a month has been helpful. An electric heater has been installed in school room.

**Taree.**—A successful social was held on Dec. 2, when men of church entertained sisters of congregation. The first part of the meeting was given over to discussing "Higher Standards in Church Worship." Supper was served by the men. At concluding meeting for the year of Sisters' Missionary Aid Class on Dec. 3 a presentation was made to Sister Mrs. N. Branch (treasurer), and mention made of her 13 years' service in that office. Bro. A. G. Saunders addressed the church on Dec. 7, and after speaking at gospel service conveyed wishes of members to Bro. and Sister P. Aurisch and Sister C. Scott prior to their departure for Newcastle next day; a presentation was made to the departing members. Bro. D. G. Myers, visiting from Newcastle, conducted services at Wingham morning and evening on Dec. 7, his help being appreciated.

## VICTORIA.

**Portland.**—On Dec. 7 Bro. Davey addressed the church on "We would see Jesus." Offering for home missions is £3/6/-.

**North Essendon.**—A happy Bible school picnic by tram to Wattle Park was held on Nov. 29. Bro. E. Hart has commenced his ministry, giving good addresses at both services on Dec. 7.

**Stawell.**—On Nov. 30 Bro. Goldsworthy was speaker; morning theme, "The Conquest of Life"; evening, "Not to Condemn but to Save." On Dec. 3 ladies of the church held a sale of gifts which was a great success.

**Preston.**—Bro. McCullough gave a helpful message to the church on Dec. 7, Bro. Robinson speaking at night. On Nov. 27 Bro. Gale delivered his lantern lecture on home missions. Offering for home missions to date amounts to £7/14/8.

**Bet Bet.**—On Nov. 23 Bro. Ellis concluded his ministry with the church, and Bro. Eager, of the College of the Bible, commenced on Nov. 30. Bro. Will Readhead passed away on Nov. 29. The church extends sympathy to those who mourn.

**Footscray.**—P.B.P. Club entertained ladies of church on Dec. 1. Mission Band held final meeting on Dec. 2, at the home of Sister Mrs. Hansen. On Tuesday the Ladies' Aid held a meeting for Comforts Fund, and on Dec. 10 visited Caulfield Military Camp.

**Warragul.**—On Dec. 7 Bro. Jones gave farewell addresses. Good meetings were held throughout the day, with many visitors. After morning service members and friends stayed to lunch. At evening meeting a duet was rendered by Mrs. Readhead and Miss Wenks.

**East Kew.**—Bro. Candy addressed both meetings on Dec. 7. Home mission offering so far is just on £11. The special rally of Sunday school has ended; it resulted in 32 new scholars. Bro. A. Wallbridge is again at the organ in absence of Bro. E. Snibson, called up for camp.

**Bendigo.**—The 75th anniversary of the church was held on Dec. 7, when Principal Scambler spoke morning and evening and at the pleasant Sunday afternoon. Special singing was enjoyed. Choir rendered three anthems at night, and solos were rendered by visiting artists in afternoon. The messages of, and fellowship with, Bro. Scambler were enjoyed, and a very helpful day was experienced. C.E. Society with other church members visited the blind home, and gifts of biscuits, fruit and sweets were taken.



**Coburg.**—Services were well attended on Dec. 7. Bro. Wakefield addressed both meetings. A sale of gifts, declared open by Mayoress of Coburg and which realised about £30, was held on Dec. 6. A social followed, attended by more than 70 members. Home mission offering has reached £14.

**Drumcondra.**—On Nov. 30 Bro. Dudley addressed the church on "The Mustard Seed" and preached at night on "The Unsuspected Presence of the Divine." On morning of Dec. 7 he spoke on "Priceless Gifts," and at night on "After Death—What?" A working bee was held on Nov. 29 to clean up grounds of church.

**Box Hill.**—During past six weeks there have been 12 additions by faith and baptism and two by transfer. Meetings on Dec. 7 were well attended. Bro. Harold Steele, who goes to minister to the church at Cottesloe, W.A., presided in morning. Average attendance at Sunday school during past month was a little over 200.

**Ormond.**—Women's Mission Band held final meeting for year on Dec. 4, a happy time being spent. On Dec. 7 Bro. C. L. Lang gave the church a good message, and at night his subject was "The Christmas Offer." Bro. Staley and Bro. Gracie were with the church after absence for some time. Home mission offering was £13/17/10.

**Essendon.**—Bro. A. G. E. Smith gave a forceful address on morning of Dec. 7 on "Caesarism," and at night Bro. A. E. Illingworth preached on "No Gospel Substitute." Sympathy of the church is extended to Bro. Payne, a former officer, who has lost a son attached to the "Sydney." P.B.P. club held a "treasure hunt" on Dec. 2.

**St. Kilda.**—On Nov. 29 a successful sale of work was conducted by Ladies' Guild. On morning of Nov. 30 Bro. L. Finger spoke on the budget to be put into operation in the new year. Young people's Fellowship Club held a concert on Dec. 3. Bro. D. Stewart, of Middle Park, on morning of Dec. 7 gave an address on "Stewardship."

**Kyneton.**—J. Robertson McCue spoke on behalf of L.O. Alliance on Nov. 23. A combined farewell and welcome social was tendered to E. T. Hart and Neil Burn on Nov. 29, when presentations were made. On the Sunday excellent addresses were given by Mr. Hart. J. and G. Goudie sang. Mr. Burn gave impressive messages on Dec. 7.

**Caufield (Bambra-rd.).**—On Dec. 7 Bro. Clipstone addressed both services. Many are absent through illness. Bro. Gale gave an interesting lantern lecture on home missions on Dec. 3. H.M. offering, £20/14/- (incomplete). C.E. societies entertained Collingwood children at a Christmas treat on Dec. 6. Girls' gymnasium annual display took place on Nov. 24.

**Springvale.**—On Dec. 7 the Sunday school opened with 22 scholars. Bro. Marks is superintendent, and there is a fine band of teachers. At worship service 21 received the right hand of fellowship. There were 48 present. At opening gospel service 47 were present. Bro. Marshall's message was appreciated. Bro. and Sister Dowsey, from Bambra-rd., sang a duet.

**Fitzroy (Gore-st.).**—On Nov. 23 Bro. Hillbrich, of the college, gave a fine message to the church. A Girls' Companion Club has been formed, which on Dec. 2 held a social, admittance by gift. The gifts were sent for Cumerogunga Christmas tree. Bro. Whiting gives helpful messages. Bro. R. Shepherd spoke on morning of Dec. 7. All auxiliaries are working well.

**Warrnambool.**—On Nov. 11 the annual meeting of Ladies' Aid Society was held, and it was decided to merge with Ladies' Mission Band; officers were elected. At a later date a presentation was made to Sister S. V. Petterd in recognition of 13 years' faithful service as secretary of Ladies' Aid. Sunday school anniversary services on Dec. 7 were splendidly attended. Addresses by Bro. Les. Brooker were greatly appreciated.

**Balwyn.**—Sunday school is progressing under leadership of Bro. R. Smith; 194 present on Dec. 7. A children's service was held at night, a young people's choir rendering special singing. An invitation had been sent to all Sunday school children's parents, and the building was crowded. One young man from Bible class made the decision. £15 has been received for home missions.

**Frankston.**—Bro. J. K. Bond commenced his ministry on Nov. 30, and gave fitting addresses. Bro. Jack Fletcher has left for active service overseas. Bro. Crawford, sen., is absent on home defence duties. Women's Mission Band had a large attendance on Dec. 3. Its gifts for chapel are a gas tea urn and crockery. On Dec. 7 many visitors were present. Bro. Bond was speaker. Miss Carroll sang at evening service.

**North Williamstown.**—An interchange of local preachers was held on morning of Dec. 7, Mr. J. E. Thomas going to Welsh church and Mr. A. E. Smith, of Baptist church, being speaker here. At night a parade of boys' club was held, and J. E. Thomas gave an address on "Wanted—a Boy." At gospel invitation a young lady made her decision. Bro. Tom Haskell has returned home on leave after being abroad with Royal Navy.

**Melbourne (Swanston-st.).**—On Dec. 7 Mr. A. A. Hughes spoke at both services. Amongst visitors were Messrs. Sefton, from Burwood, N.S.W., and Fraser (Newcastle, N.S.W.). Offering for home missions was £61 for first day. Junior church had very successful Christmas entertainment on Dec. 8. Children rendered musical items and other exercises. Gifts were distributed, and other gifts made to be presented to children at Balmain-st., Richmond.

**West Preston.**—There were good congregations on Nov. 30. Bro. Wigney addressed morning service. 112 broke bread for day. At night Bro. Hector Campbell installed incoming officers of Phi Beta Pi club and later gave the gospel address. On Dec. 7 Dr. Killmier spoke in morning on "The Fellowship of Jesus." Bro. Wigney preached at night. During the afternoon scholars of junior and intermediate school were entertained at tea by teachers of school.

**Cheltenham.**—Bro. Buckingham on morning of Nov. 30 gave an interesting address on home missions, and at night Bro. Allan's address was enjoyed. On evening of Dec. 7, Bro. Allan commenced a series on "Christmas Meditation." Home mission offering was £22. Several new scholars have been enrolled at Bible school. J.C.E. held a combined meeting with Methodist J.C.E., when Bro. Langton, president of C.E. Union, spoke. Annual picnic was held at Fitzroy Gardens. Snowball ladies visited Parkdale ladies on Nov. 26, and provided the programme.

**Black Rock.**—The church has enjoyed messages of Bren. W. White and A. Wilson. At conclusion of Sunday school rally scholars were entertained at tea and given an illustrated travel talk. Under auspices of Ladies' Guild Mr. Mathieson delivered a travel talk on New Zealand, illustrated with pictures. Proceeds, £4/10/-, were given to Guest Home. On morning of Dec. 7 Mr. Mathieson gave an address on home missions. At conclusion of evening meeting Dick Sercombe was baptised. Ladies' Guild has gone into recess after a profitable year's work.

**Parkdale.**—At worship service on Nov. 23 five young people baptised on Nov. 16 were received into fellowship, and at gospel service Gwen and June Willis and Rita Cuddy confessed Christ. These three were baptised on Nov. 30, and with Bro. W. Robertson, from North Fitzroy, received into fellowship on Dec. 7. Bren. P. J. Bryce, morning, and Stan. Wilson (Swanston-st.), evening, were speakers on Dec. 7. 13th home-coming day services on Nov. 30 were very successful. Attendances were good at sunrise prayer service, Y.W.L., worship, pleasant Sunday afternoon, tea, song-service and gospel meetings. Many former

members were present during the day and assisted in services. Bren. A. L. Gibson in morning and C. G. Taylor in evening gave helpful messages. In the afternoon words of farewell and a presentation were made to Bro. Taylor, who concluded his part-time service with the church.

**Ararat.**—On Nov. 30 Bro. Randall spoke morning and evening. The home mission offering was stressed. Bro. Randall will try the experiment of spending four Sundays running at Ararat and then four at Stawell. Bro. Burttis, from the college, is the other preacher. At officers' meeting on Dec. 3 Bro. Randall reported on Horsham conference, the Stawell mission which he conducted, and discussed plans for a mission in Ararat in new year. A credit balance of over £7 was reported, due largely to the Ladies' Aid, who in past three months have given £32 to church work.

**Hamilton.**—Church annual meeting on Nov. 26 was well attended. Two new deacons (Bren. R. McPherson and R. T. Pitman) were elected. All auxiliaries reported good progress and credit balances. Four baptisms took place during November. Bro. Ian Leith has been called up for service with R.A.A.F. Bro. T. H. Hadden, with A.I.F. abroad, sent greetings and acknowledged receipt of Christmas parcel. Tennis club opened 1941-42 season on Nov. 29. Court has been surfaced, and after meeting all commitments a good credit balance remains. Two by transfer and one by baptism were welcomed on Dec. 6.

**Gardiner.**—Women's Mission Band last meeting for year was held in the chapel at the College of the Bible on Dec. 3. During the meeting Bro. and Sister Todd, of New Zealand, returned missionaries from Rhodesia, visited the college and at the conclusion of the Mission Band meeting showed moving pictures in natural color of the work in Rhodesia. On Dec. 4 members of Mission Band visited Port Melbourne branch of City Mission. Bro. Hagger spoke at both services on Dec. 7. Home mission offering was £60/16/6. Sympathy is extended to Sisters Miss I. Savage and Mrs. T. Brown, who lost a brother and grandson respectively in recent naval disasters.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

**Forestville.**—Church anniversary was celebrated Nov. 30. In morning Bro. J. F. Nankivell, of Unley, gave address; gospel message was delivered by Bro. P. R. Baker. Bible school held a social on evening of Dec. 6.

**Adelaide (Grote-st.).**—On Dec. 7 Bro. Hurren gave splendid addresses, in morning on "Robbed of the Prize"; in evening on "The Old Paths." One lady, previously baptised, was received into fellowship. On Dec. 2 a successful foreign mission evening was held by ladies' F.M. Band.

**York.**—Deepest sympathy is expressed by members of church, Sunday school and C.E. department with Mrs. Barrie, wife of Flight Officer Raymond Barker Barrie, of H.M.A.S. Sydney, in her recent sad bereavement. After his recent illness Bro. J. H. I. Durdin spoke on Dec. 7 morning and evening.

**Murray Bridge.**—Fine exchange programme with Nailsworth Y.P.S.C.E. Nov. 4. Church appreciates letters from A.I.F. brethren, Don. Keatch and Will Swift. Church annual offering for social service taken Nov. 23. Guild meeting of 22, addressed by Sister Elsie M. Caldicott Nov. 25. Sister Alfred Lomman, formerly of Balaklava church, has moved with family to Murray Bridge. Much interest manifested in Bro. N. G. Noble's prophetic series, "The Millennium," Dec. 7.

**Fullarton.**—On Nov. 28 the church was saddened to learn of the death of its preacher, Bro. A. C. Rankine. Christian sympathy goes to his wife and all who mourn. Anniversary services of church were continued on Nov. 25, when Bro. Nankivell gave a forceful message to the church. Happy fellowship and basket supper were enjoyed. On Nov. 29 Bro. Anderson in morning and Bro. Ross Manning at



night gave splendid messages. Bro. Manning made special mention of Bro. Rankine and his splendid life of service. On Dec. 7 Bro. Jessop gave a fine address in morning and Bro. Will Beiler preached at night.

**Prospect.**—A social evening was given Bro. Schwab on Dec. 2; over 100 members attended. Midweek service was an inspiration, when seven young people were baptised. Ladies' Guild held annual picnic on Dec. 3. Miss P. Robson has taken over J.C.E. Bro. Schwab conducted services on Dec. 7. Six young people were welcomed into the church.

**Whyalla.**—On Nov. 23 Bro. Ryles spoke in morning and Bro. Cox in evening. At prayer meeting on Nov. 26, fellowship was enjoyed with Bro. McGlasson, of H.M. Committee. On Nov. 30 Bro. Tregloan spoke in morning and Bro. Thurgood at night. Bro. and Sister Cox were received by transfer from Queenstown. Welcome was given to Bro. Pearce, from Croydon.

**Stirling.**—Splendid services are maintained and a good spirit prevails. On Nov. 30, Bible school anniversary services were held. Bro. Chas. Schwab, from Prospect, was speaker all day, his fellowship being much appreciated. In morning there was dedication of teachers. Afternoon and evening excellent singing by children was conducted by Bro. Gent. A collection was taken up in aid of Children's Hospital. On Wednesday the services were concluded with items and bright singing, and rewards were presented.

**Hindmarsh.**—On morning of Dec. 7 a welcome was extended to Bro. and Sister David Hammer, from New Hebrides. Mrs. Hammer is a daughter of Bro. W. L. Evers, the preacher. Bro. Hammer addressed the church on "God's Leading." The church extends sympathy to Bro. Caudle, who has received news that his son is missing on the "Sydney." In afternoon the men's Bible class held annual reunion. Bro. W. F. Nankivell, from Unley, brought a message on "Fellowship." Nearly 100 sat to tea. Reminiscences were enjoyed. Bro. D. Hammer gave a talk. At gospel service a men's choir of 40 rendered items and a quartette was sung by J. Holden, R. Price, H. Evers and L. Mayes. Bro. Holyoak helped with a solo. Bro. W. L. Evers preached on "Man's Body, Soul and Spirit," illustrated with chart. The "League of 500" was launched during the day, £17 being received in cash besides promises.

### Tasmanian Sisters' Auxiliary.

**DECEMBER** meeting was held at Collins-st., with Mrs. Madel-Cole in the chair. During devotional session, led by Mrs. Watkins, prayer was made for the bereaved. A solo was contributed by Mrs. S. Cooper.

Work of city mission staff during Christmas season formed part of an address by the city missionary, Mr. Frisken. Gifts of Christmas cheer brought by the sisters were handed over, together with £1 in cash.

An interesting account of proceedings at Women's Federal Conference was received from Mrs. Younger, Launceston, and copies of resolutions from Mrs. Bowes.

**Overseas Mission Report.**—Christmas cheer: Geeveston, £4/4/-; Margaret-st., £10; Collins-st., penny-per-week, £2/9/3.

Splendid work in prayer circle continues. A special treat was an address given by Mr. Turner at the sanatorium. Gospels and Testaments were distributed by Mr. Bowes to patients on behalf of Prayer Meeting Committee. A day of fellowship is to be held at Collins-st. on Dec. 18. Mrs. Bowes reports all hospitals visited weekly, distributions of fruit, flowers and books being made.

Mission Band reports were received from Devonport, Geeveston and Collins-st.

**Isolation.**—An absence of replies to superintendent is far from encouraging. We ask that prayer be made for isolated members.

Two interesting events in aid of home missions will be held during December, the first

on 13th, a gift afternoon, at home of Mrs. Madel-Cole, 8 Lynton-ave., Sth. Hobart; the second a concert at West Hobart chapel on 18th.—B. Taylor, secretary.

### Victorian Women's Executive.

**THERE** was an attendance of 112 on Dec. 5, 1 Mrs. H. C. Bischoff, president, in the chair. Devotions were led by Mrs. W. H. Hinrichsen. Matron Richardson gave an interesting address on work at Austin Hospital, and paid a fine tribute to Mrs. Pettigrove (superintendent) and her helpers.

**Reduction of debt on college.**—A motion was passed that each woman of Victorian churches be asked to contribute threepence per week for 20 weeks, 5/- in all, beginning Feb. 13, 1942.

**Allocation of £15 from Funds.**—Home missions, £8; overseas missions, £3 and £1 for Christmas cheer; college, £3.

**Sympathy** was expressed with Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Mitchell, Mrs. Pettigrove and Mrs. A. C. Rankine, S.A.

**Missionary Department.**—Members of committee have visited 10 churches—Malvern, Caulfield, Balwyn, Geelong, Essendon, Swanston-st., South Yarra, Brighton, Girls' Clubs Thornbury, and Reservoir. Home Missionary Committee had a very busy time on Dec. 2. Mr. and Mrs. Hammer, missionaries to the New Hebrides, were welcomed. We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Cleland for providing transport for the visit to Geelong.

**Hospital Visitation.**—88 visits were paid to institutions. We thank all who have helped with gifts distributed to sick in various public hospitals.

**Isolated Sisters.**—28 letters written; 4 replies received.

**Guest Home.**—30 ladies with Mr. Atkin visited, provided a splendid programme, and a large donation of biscuits and groceries. Happy fellowship was enjoyed.

We offer to our sisters near and far Christmas greetings in the name of the Prince of Peace.

**Next meeting of executive;** February 6, 1942. Mrs. C. R. Brough leads devotions. Speaker, Miss M. Jones (W.C.T.U.).—Miss Rometch, secretary, 1 Elizabeth-st., Hawthorn, E.2.

### Scripture Christmas Cards.

Add to the value of your greeting by sending a card with a scripture quotation, and devotional verse. Large assortment available, all sizes, with floral, landscape, village designs.

Packets of twelve, 3/6, 4/6.  
" six, 1/3, 2/6.  
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### KESWICK BOOK DEPOT.

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### BIRTH.

**SMITH** (nee Myrtle Hodgson).—On Nov. 4, at "Airlie," Ivanhoe, to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon L. Smith, Glenard Drive, Heidelberg—a daughter (Elaine Catherine).

### DEATHS.

**MICHAU.**—On Dec. 2, 1941, at a private hospital, Eva Moore, late of 64 Durham-st., Carlton, N.S.W., dearly loved mother of Lottie (Mrs. W. C. Roffey) and Edna (Mrs. S. Buckmaster), aged 76 years.

**RANKINE.**—On Nov. 28, at 2 Ormond-gve., Toorak Gardens, Adelaide, Andrew Crichton, beloved husband of Mary, and loving brother of Mary (dec.), Violet (dec.), Elizabeth (dec.), Ebenezer (dec.), Crichton, Lily and William. A faithful minister of the church for 53 years. "Gathering homeward one by one."

### COMING EVENTS.

(16 words, 6d.; additional 12 words, 6d.  
Displayed, 2/- inch.)

**DECEMBER 14 and 16.**—Bro. R. J. Clow, of Queanbeyan, N.S.W., will be preaching at South Richmond on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 11 a.m., also Tuesday, 16th, 8 p.m., and would like to meet old friends.

**DECEMBER 17.**—Members of Victorian General Dorcas will hold usual monthly meeting on Wednesday next, Dec. 17, from 10.30 a.m. till 4 p.m., in the Swanston-st. lecture hall. All sisters interested in this work invited to attend.

### FETE FESTIVAL.

**CHRISTIAN GUEST HOME,  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1941.**

The women of the churches will bring their gifts.

Anticipation, £200.

Realisation—?

A happy afternoon is promised.

Sale of goods. Basket tea. Programme.

### FRANKSTON CHURCH, VIC.

#### OPENING OF NEW CHAPEL.

Saturday, Dec. 13.—3.15 p.m., official opening, Mr. Robert Lyall; dedicatory address, Mr. J. E. Allan, conference president.

Sunday, Dec. 14.—11 a.m., speaker, Mr. J. E. Webb; 3.15 p.m., Mr. T. Hagger; 7.30 p.m., Mr. Jack Methven.

Tuesday, Dec. 16.—8 p.m., C.E. Rally. Speaker, Mr. W. Hibbert.

Thursday, Dec. 18.—2.30 p.m., Women's Inspirational Meeting; speaker, Mrs. McCann.

Special offerings at afternoon sessions. Musical items. Hospitality provided. Come and rejoice with us.

Trains leave Melbourne Saturday, 2.8 p.m.; Sunday, 9.47 a.m., 2.4 p.m.; Thursday, 1.5 p.m.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT.

**SWANSTON ST. CHURCH.**

Monday, Dec. 15, 1941, 8 p.m.

Church of Christ Ladies' Choir and prominent artists.

Proceeds for Social Service  
Christmas Cheer Fund.

Tickets, 1/3.

### THANKS.

Mrs. Albert Watson, of Best-st., Wagga, N.S.W., would like to express her thanks for the many kindnesses of all her friends in the church at Wagga during her illness in hospital, and would be glad if they would accept this as a personal acknowledgment. Everything done has been greatly appreciated.

### SITUATION WANTED.

Stack-builder, outstanding ability, available about Christmas, two weeks, apply early.—Stacker, Austral Co.

### SITUATIONS VACANT.

Woman (elderly) offered good home, few shillings weekly, to assist aged lady; easy position.—31 Fellowes-st., Mitcham.

### HOLIDAYS.

Red Hill church invites to Sunday services. Worship, 11.15 a.m.; Gospel, 7.30 p.m. Mornington 11 miles, Dromana 6, Rosebud 8, Flinders 11, Balnarring 7. Happy fellowship.

Interesting and Instructive  
**PRESENTS AND PRIZES**  
For Young and Old.

**A. M. LUDBROOK'S**

Hymns and Their Authors, 3/6.

Catacombs of Rome and Heroes of Faith, 2/6.

Austral, 528, 530 Elizabeth-st., Melb.



# Foreign Missions.

Conducted by A. Anderson, 261 Magill-rd., Tranmere, S.A.

## HUEILI TO BECOME MISSION CENTRE.

AFTER laying the foundations for our work in West China, our Australian missionaries withdrew and the Chinese Home Missionary Society "entered into their labors." This society are now in their eighth year of service, and the response has been so marked that the board in Shanghai have decided to widen the scope of that work. The plan they have in mind is fourfold.

1. Hueili to be considered a central station.
2. Send more trained workers into Hueili.
3. Build more houses and enlarge present properties.
4. Continue all existing work, including tribes, but with the added staff to branch out into Western Szechuan with the vision of opening work in Tibet.

To the board, this is the most encouraging news we have had in years, and we commend the plan of Pastor Tong, the general secretary of the society, who asks that the Australian brotherhood will pray that God will bless and help them work out these new plans.

## MR. ESCOTT'S ILLNESS.

THE value of medical service in India is shown in a recent communication from Dr. Oldfield. For three weeks Bro. Escott was threatened with an attack of pneumonia, but careful nursing by Sister Escott, combined with instructions and necessary medicines from Dr. Oldfield, warded off the enemy. Dr. Oldfield has made a further examination and finds definite improvement, and now care and rest should bring about a complete recovery. Bro. and Sister Escott are due for furlough, and the board recommended that they return to Australia when their time was due. As they have mainly been on the field for seven years or even more, these workers feel they should remain for an extended period. With three workers on furlough in Australia, and Dr. and Mrs. Michael on extended leave, the position in India is not easy for those who remain at the task.

## BUSY DAYS AT DHOND.

WORD from the hospital reports an exceptionally busy time. Dr. Oldfield states, "the busiest year so far." Up till mid-November this year, 75 more inpatients and 26 maternity cases had been in hospital than till the end of December last year. Just prior to a busy rush, Miss Foreman was glad of a lull to take charge of some probationers. Trained nurses are hard to get, and some of our old reliable nurses have recently become brides. Concerning these probationers Miss Foreman says: "When they came we were slack for a few days, so I was able to spend most of the time teaching them. The result was that, when we got busy, they were quite useful. They are both very keen and interested, and should make useful nurses. We are just entering a special Hindu festival time, Divale, so all the patients want to go out of hospital for the festivities."

## INTEREST AT DIKSAL.

BRO. and SISTER ESCOTT have, in many respects, felt that this term has been one of the best in their experience, and the experience of Bro. Escott has been a long one; he went to India in 1899. Enquirers have been more frequent, and our workers are reaching the place where they feel that some of these enquirers are ready for baptism. His own report is encouraging: "I have been busy making preparations for a man who has asked for baptism. He is one who has for about

three years been coming from a distance of five miles to attend the church services on Sunday. I have delayed his baptism for certain reasons, and wanted to make sure of him being genuine. He has three sections of land, but is in poor circumstances. He and his wife and child were living in a hut composed of branches of trees; and if the monsoons had broken they would have been in a sore plight; so I took out men and in two days we raised the walls of half his old building built in stone and put on a roof of corrugated iron. They are of the shepherd caste, and he was influenced by my helping him, while I was at Shrigonda, by making an application to the Government to have his land restored to him, which had been unjustly given to another party. Then he was interested and influenced through another of the same caste that I baptised at Bori, whose son, by the way, is now being educated at Wilson College in Bombay, and is doing well, having passed his exam., having the highest marks of any student in the college. When I was baptising his father in the canal at Bori, his father expressed the wish for me to baptise his son at the same time. I explained that we could not baptise him then, but I had the joy of being present when his baptism took place later at Baramati. The father of this family here has put his little son into the orphanage at Shrigonda, as he said that he wanted him to grow up a Christian. I am interested in these Dunder shepherd caste people; and seeing there is a break in them, it is desirable to follow it up. In the history of work in this country, once a break has been made in a certain caste, relatives and others are often brought in too. The dispensary keeps me busy, as the patients have increased considerably, but one is pleased to come in such contact with the people in this way."

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## PREACHERS' PROVIDENT FUND.

With which is incorporated the Aged and Infirm Evangelists' Trust.

Established by the Federal Conference of the Churches of Christ in Australia.

Members of Committee: T. E. Rofe (Chairman), H. E. Bell, J. Crawford, C. Graham, F. S. Steer, Dr. C. A. Verco, W. H. Hall (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer).

Representative in Victoria: W. Gale, T. & G. Building, 145 Collins St., Melbourne, C.1.

Representative in South Australia: General S. Price Weir, 2nd Avenue, East Adelaide.

Representative in Western Australia: Roy Raymond, 260 Bagot Rd., Subiaco.

The Objects of the Fund are:

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

2nd. To control and manage an Endowment Fund to which Preachers may contribute.

In order to do this effectively, the Committee needs the practical sympathy and support of all the churches and brethren throughout the Commonwealth.

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 Roy Raymond.

## THE BOOK OF THE HOUR.

### "INEVITABLE."

Read "Inevitable" and cheer up!

"Inevitable" shows the final overthrow of Britain's enemies, and future glory of the church of Christ.

"New Life" would "like to see every minister reading this book. The 'Australian Christian World' said: "'Inevitable' is both refreshing and challenging." A bookseller writes: "A minister came back and purchased six more copies to pass to his people. Please send 50 more."

"Inevitable" is intensely interesting page by page from beginning to end. Post one to your minister, relatives and friends in the fighting forces. If desired, send names and addresses, and we will mail them for you.

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## WHEN THE SUN SHINES — WINTER SEEMS FAR AWAY.

There is, however, no good reason for thinking that one will never be caught in the rain. It is wise to build up a bank balance for protection against life's rainy days. It means peace of mind, and if, luckily, no emergency arises, then the money saved will surely be most useful.

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## Obituary.

### Mrs. D. W. Freestun.

THE church at Unley, S.A., has lost a much-loved member in the passing of Mrs. Freestun. In her early years our sister was baptised at Norwood by Bro. A. C. Rankine, where, with her late husband, she shared in the leadership of the church. In 1921 her membership was transferred to Unley, where a similar devotion to the church was expressed and where she endeared herself to a large circle of friends. Our sister was interested in brotherhood activities and shared in their promotion. All who met Mrs. Freestun were deeply impressed by her quiet, unassuming nature. In every way she adorned the Christian graces. To her family, who mourn the loss of a devoted mother, we extend Christian sympathy. —W.F.N.

### T. H. Mathieson.

BRO. T. H. MATHIESON, pastor of church of Christ, Colorado Springs, Colorado, U.S.A., passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 1941. Bro. Mathieson spent his youth and early manhood in New Zealand, where his parents had been among the early Scottish settlers. He received part of his college education in New Zealand, then, in order to complete his education for the ministry, he came to the United States in 1904. He became a student at the Texas Christian university, Fort Worth, Tex., where he graduated. He returned to New Zealand in 1907 to take the pastorate of the church of Christ of Oamaru. In 1912 he returned to America. In each of his pastorates he was actively engaged in religious and civic activities. He also held a prominent position in the national brotherhood of the Disciples of Christ. A surviving brother, S. J. Mathieson, is the preacher of Central Christian church, Denver. He is well known in New Zealand, and has friends in Australia.

### Mrs. S. J. Rule.

ON Nov. 8, at her home, Kadina, S.A., Sister Mrs. Rule passed beyond the reach of toil and suffering. Her life was one of hard work and determination. Her husband died in 1910, leaving her with seven daughters, who showed great devotion for her. She died within a few weeks of her 90th birthday, having lived in Australia for 86 years. Sister Rule became a member at Kadina in October, 1917, and has always witnessed for her Lord by her kindness and bright and happy disposition. It was the custom, on each Mother's Day, for her and daughters to occupy a seat in the chapel at evening service. Through life she was blessed with good health, but towards the close she experienced some suffering and great weariness of the flesh, but with wonderful patience. Six daughters remain to mourn the loss of a great mother, but "not as those who have no hope." Two daughters, Mrs. E. A. Read and Mrs. C. E. Larcombe, are active workers in the church and wives of officers of the church. The Kadina preacher conducted services in the home and at the graveside. We sympathise with the bereaved, but rejoice in the knowledge of her eternal reward—"an inheritance incorruptible." —M.T.L.

### Miss E. Santo.

IN the recent passing of Miss Esther Santo, at the age of 87, churches of Christ have lost a member of one of the pioneer families of the Restoration Movement in South Australia. Miss Santo was the youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Santo and a sister of our esteemed Mrs. T. J. Gore, who is now the sole survivor of a family of eight children. Over 70 years ago our sister was baptised at Grote-st., Adelaide, and continued her membership there until the passing of her mother. For the past 35 years Miss Santo was a mem-

ber at Unley. During the visit to Australia in 1889 of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Wharton, missionaries in India, a Women's Mission Band was organised at Grote-st. of which Miss Santo was the first president. Although prevented by age from active fellowship in later years, our sister maintained an unwavering and confident faith in her Lord. There will be brotherhood sympathy for Mrs. Gore and other relatives of our late sister.—W.F.N.

### Mrs. M. Smith.

THE church at Hurstville, N.S.W., has lost an old and esteemed member in the passing to higher service of Sister M. Smith. Our sister had been associated with churches of Christ for about 25 years, twelve of which she was in membership at Hurstville. During her lifetime, in rearing a large family, she had many sorrows, but her life was mellowed and her faith deepened thereby. She was held in the highest regard in the church for her quiet and unassuming character. She loved the church, and her chief joy was to meet with her brethren around the table of her Lord. During the last four years of her life up to her last illness she was absent on only one occasion. After a short but trying illness, at the age of 75 she fell asleep in Jesus, on Sunday, Oct. 12, and was laid to rest by the side of her children who predeceased her, in the Rookwood cemetery. We commend her sorrowing loved ones to God and the comfort of the Holy Spirit "until the morning break and the shadows flee away."—F.E.A.

### Mrs. S. T. Stevens.

ON Nov. 12 Sister Sarah Isabell Stevens in her 83rd year passed to be with her Lord. Baptised at Mt. Marker Baptist Church, S.A., the family later worshipped at Willunga for many years. Here five members of the family, including Bro. Stuart Stevens, preacher of Enmore church, N.S.W., were immersed. Later the family moved to Naracoorte, where they were foundation members of that cause. For years they lived at Mylor and worshipped at Stirling East, and of more recent years our sister had membership at Unley and was frequently with her daughter at Victor Harbour. She loved the house of God and the meeting for prayer. We shall miss her from the assembly around the throne of grace.—B.W.M.

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—G. J. Andrews.

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—Chesterfield.

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York Street, £3/5/4; Mitcham, 15/-; St. Arnaud,  
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