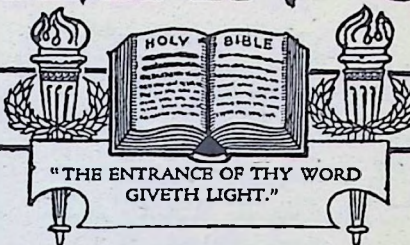


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Weights and Sins.

IT appears as if not so many addresses are given to-day as formerly on "The Christian Race," and doubtless there are those who suffered from a former plethora who are thankful for the change. The theme used to be a favorite, if not *the* favorite, one for the budding preacher. Yet the subject is not unimportant, and the New Testament contains many lessons drawn from the Greek games and especially the great races for which the athletes trained so strenuously. The apostolic writers wished Christians to be as willing to train for the religious life as the contestants, say, in the ancient Isthmian games, were for the chance of winning a wreath of victory.

One of the most beautiful passages regarding our Christian race is found in the Epistle to the Hebrews: "Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Every clause in that invites comment, but at present we notice alone the exhortation to "lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us." That distinction between weights and sins has always aroused our interest, and with increasing frequency as the days go by do we wonder if the ordinary Christian has very much appreciation of the necessity of laying aside both kinds of encumbrances, or much understanding of the hindrance which the former can be to the attainment of our Christian ideal or reward.

Lay Aside Sins.

There is no one who will doubt the appropriateness of this advice. What are manifestly discerned as sins are condemned by all disciples of our Lord.

With this group of encumbrances the chief question for discussion has generally been that description of "the sin which doth so easily beset us." The last six words are given as the translation of one Greek word which is found only in this text, and which has been interpreted in a bewildering variety of ways.

There are many who imagine that the writer is warning his readers to be on guard against what we—probably because of a misapprehension of this passage—are accustomed to call our "besetting sin," that is, the sin which in the case of any one of us is proved to have special power. One man's characteristic sin is covetousness; others are specially prone to drinking, immorality, evil speaking, bad temper, etc. We certainly should be on guard against a sin which we know by experience to have special allurements or danger for us. On the other hand Satan may make an assault where we do not regard ourselves as weak, just as the commander of the besieging army may

come unexpectedly and successfully against a position whose very strength has led to its being left without sufficient defence because forces had been withdrawn and the watch set on naturally weaker positions. It was Moses, the meekest of men, who spoke unadvisedly with his lips. Elijah the courageous was scared of the threat of Jezebel and asked that he might be allowed to die. John the Baptist for a time wavered in his faith. We must guard against all sin, not merely what we decide is a "besetting sin."

It is not at all likely that the writer to the Hebrews was dealing with what we commonly call "besetting sins," or that he was discriminating between one kind of sin and another. Probably he had in mind and was describing a characteristic of sin in general, "the tenacity with which it clings to a man"—it "hems us round and clogs our running." So Moffatt translates, "Strip off sin with its clinging folds," and Weymouth writes of "the sin that so cleverly entangles our feet."

Lay Aside Weights.

"Every weight and the sin." There is a distinction. Every encumbrance, although it may not be a positive sin, must be laid aside, just as the athlete in his vigorous training for the race sought to get rid of "an encumbering superfluity of flesh" as well as of clothing.

There are many professed Christians who appear not to have learned the lesson that merely because a thing cannot be branded as a sin it is not therefore something which a follower of Christ has a perfect right to do. There are two dangerous extremists in the ranks of directors of Christian morals—the man who without discrimination brings what is plainly wrong in itself and what is not thus wrong under one general denunciation and manufactures new sins; and, on the other hand, the person who thinks that because we cannot attach the label "sin" to a suggested course of conduct, therefore it must be right for a Christian to engage in it. We have to ask not only, Is this wrong? but, Will it help, or will it spoil our influence and lessen our interest in the things of God? One writer refers to modern life as having "become dangerously pleasant in its amusement enticements." A great many Christians—some old as well as many young—including hundreds of our own people, are giving a disproportionate amount of time and money to what are quite fittingly described as worldly pleasures. It was not a "wowsar," but a great journalist, Sir William Robertson Nicoll, who, in a letter to Dr. John Watson, wrote: "It appears to me that if society is to be saved, and if the church in especial is to do her proper work, there must be a return to the great Puritan idea of separation from the world." The worldliness which Nicoll lamented and the difficulty of distinguishing professed Christian from non-Christian by outward conduct, have increased since he penned his statement.

The neglect on the part of members to heed the injunction to "lay aside every weight"—or, as Moffatt translates, "strip off every handicap," every encumbrance even if apparently innocent, hinders the usefulness of many a life and lowers the prestige of the church.

The comment given by Dr. Marcus Dods in The Expositor's Greek Testament furnishes a fitting close: "The Christian runner must rid himself even of innocent things which retard him. And all that does not help hinders. It is by running he learns what these things are. So long as he stands he does not feel that they are burdensome and hampering."

Mr. and Mrs. Illingworth Honored.

ON Tuesday evening, February 18, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Illingworth were honored by their brethren at a happy function arranged by Essendon church (of which our brother is preacher) and our Victorian Conference Executive. It was a double jubilee—their golden wedding and the completion of a fifty years' ministry of Mr. Illingworth. Elsewhere reference is made to the meeting and to the record of our beloved brother as a preacher of Churches of Christ in Australia and as leader in conference work in various States and also as Federal Conference President. We join in heartiest congratulation and expression of good wishes. This worthy couple enjoys the love of a great company of friends throughout our country, who esteem them most highly for their Christian character and the quality of their service. Few preachers among us can have as worthily represented Christ for so many years as has Bro. Illingworth. We would hesitate to mention one other whose preaching has been maintained at so high a level. The witness and teaching so splendidly given in words has constantly had the reinforcement of a beautiful Christian character, marked by dignity, grace and kindness. Those honoring Mr. and Mrs. Illingworth, it was truly remarked at the complimentary dinner, honored themselves. We pray that our brother and sister will continue to have rich blessing as they labor in the gospel, and continue also to be a blessing to those to whom they minister. May the knowledge that they have the love and confidence of their fellow Christians, who appreciate to the full the great services rendered by them for half a century, prove an inspiration and stimulation to them in all their future ministry. God has been good to spare them to work together for so long. His goodness will continue in all the days and years that lie ahead.

A Week of Anxiety.

THE week has been an eventful one. The menace to the peace in the Pacific and to Australia has been the chief topic of conversation, though the threat to the Balkans was a close second. The arrival of the Australian soldiers at Singapore and the flight of U.S.A. bombers to Malaya have naturally been proclaimed in great headlines. Anxiety still pre-

vails as to Japan's intentions. Some of the official utterances express a desire for peace. A Japanese army spokesman is reported to have said that Japan was like a dove of peace, but the British and the Americans were "snakes placing snakes' eggs in the dove's nest." We should never have thought that the situation was precisely like that! Major Kunio Akiyama's statement furnishes a remarkable illustration of how things appear very differently to different observers, what is already in the mind largely determining what is seen.

The landing of British forces on Lemnos arouses memories of the last great war. The African campaign progresses to the continued discomfiture of Italy. Events are moving rapidly. How soon the crisis will be reached and passed cannot be forecast. Let us put our confidence in God and carry on in the doing of his will as he has revealed it to us.

At the Table of the Lord.

GUESTS OF THE MASTER.

"The Master saith, Where is the guest-chamber?"—Luke 22: 11.

AT the Table of the Lord! We all sit there to-day. To him, our loved Master, each may say as did David to his Lord, "Thou preparest a table before me." He is our gracious Host; we are the guests who have gathered in response to his invitation. Oh, to receive the honor of an invitation to a king's table! Would the receipt of such an honor embarrass us? Yet we have a higher honor than any earthly king could confer; for our invitation has come from the Lord of heaven and earth, who has asked us to meet and remember him.

The guest-chamber in which the Supper of the Lord was instituted was one which belonged to another man. It was a room lent by an unknown friend, to whom the question of "the Master" was a sufficient request. Immediately the room was placed at the disposal of our Lord. It was another's room, lent in love; yet Jesus was the best Host to disciple guests. Where Christ is, he is the Head.

Have you ever thought of the probable effect if as a Lord's day drew near all church members were to have delivered by the postman real letters indubitably coming from Jesus Christ, inviting them to have supper with him? Would any one either dare or wish to refuse? Surely not one who could come would be absent. Yet he has as surely invited us to be his guests as if a letter with our names inscribed upon it had come from him. "This do, in remembrance of me." Who that realises that our Lord and Redeemer thus invites will willingly be absent?

We are guests of the Master. He is certainly our Host, for it is his invitation, and we sit at his table. He is present with his people, as really as he was with the disciples in the upper room. Perhaps we have thought with many of those who sat there with him, or have longed to have such a blessed experience as those who sat and supped with him in the home at Bethany. But he is with us as truly as he was with his loved ones of old. We do not see him with the physical eye, yet he is here at the table, and by the enlightened eyes of our heart we behold our blessed Lord, the Master who loved us and gave himself for us. With thankfulness we shall come, every one, and the appropriate prayer of every heart will be:

"O let thy table honored be,
And furnished well with joyful guests;
And may each soul salvation see
That here its sacred pledges tastes."

We pray for the coming of the day of peace, and for that great day when the kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdom of our Lord.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

THERE are no friendships equal to those formed in Christian service. This service brings out the best that is in a man and shows him in his most lovable aspects. If you are lonely, join a church and enter heartily into its activities. If you are in a strange place, take your letter to some church. The church is the world's greatest fraternal society. Its phrase, "the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men," is no mere phrase. The closer we get to God, the closer we get to one another.—Dr. Amos R. Wells.

THREE THINGS OF THE LORD.

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day."—Revelation 1: 10.

"The house of God, which is the church of the living God."—1 Timothy 3: 15.

"The Lord's Supper."—1 Corinthians 11: 20.

THE name of the Lord is declared in Scripture to be great and holy, and God is jealous for his holy name. The Lord himself is so precious that anything bearing his name should ever be held dear. There are three divine institutions to which by God's sanction the name of the Lord Jesus has been attached. These are the Lord's Day, the Lord's House and the Lord's Supper. Each of these receives from many Christians less than the honor which is its due, and with great frequency their association is overlooked.

The Lord's Day, the first day of the week, commemorates Christ's glorious resurrection from the dead, the descent of the Holy Spirit and the establishment of the church. If there is a day which is singled out specially as his, then to us it ought to be different from other days, set apart for the worship and service of him whose name it bears. May all disciples of Christ have the desire to be "in the Spirit on the Lord's Day."

The Lord's House is not a temple made with hands, but a house which he himself has built and consecrated for his own habitation. Paul wrote in order that Timothy might "know how men ought to behave themselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God." In this holy temple Christians have been "built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit." The church which Christ purchased by his own precious blood is marked as his possession by the sacred name it bears.

"The Lord's Supper" is an apostolic name for this sacred feast of remembrance. His Supper, because it was instituted by him, and because he is the Host on every occasion of its rightful observance.

Every reader of the New Testament and of early church history can assure himself that these three institutions called by the Lord's name were associated. In apostolic days the Lord's people met regularly on the Lord's Day to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Here are things joined by God which man may put asunder only to his own spiritual loss. To-day even professed believers in Christ speak lightly of the Lord's House and disregard the Lord's Day. It is also common for those who urge the sanctity of the Lord's Day to neglect attendance at the Lord's Supper. No scrupulous avoidance of labor or sport constitutes a scriptural "keeping" of the first day of the week. Let us resolve ever to associate these three, and to lead others to do so. Remember—the Lord's Supper in the Lord's House on the Lord's Day.

Perfecting the Love of God.

A. G. Saunders, B.A.

"Whoso keepeth his word, in him verily hath the love of God been perfected" (1 John 2: 5).

IT is often suggested that to be strong on doctrine is to be weak in love. Many charges are made against those who insist on loyalty to simple Scriptural doctrine. They are "legalists"; they "miss the spirit of Jesus"; they "haven't the nub of the matter"; they "are a hundred years behind the times"; and, of course, they "are not loving." And so on.

The Apostle Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians that love is above all. No need to argue there. Even so, Paul never hints that love and faith are contrary. No inspired writer suggests that it is necessary or proper to be loose in doctrine in order to be loving in spirit. Anything of that sort comes from outside the New Testament.

Take, for example, the Apostle John, so often called "the apostle of love." Undeniably, his writings overflow with the spirit of love. As we learn his character we know why he became the "disciple whom Jesus loved." Men of tender, loving spirit turn to him irresistibly and quote him continually.

Nevertheless, he can be severe. Hear him: "Many deceivers have gone out into the world, even they that confess not that Jesus Christ cometh in the flesh" (2 John 7). Immediately before saying that he declares: "This is love, that we should walk after his commandments." In his first epistle he says: "And hereby we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; [rather vigorous diction this!] but whoso keepeth his word, in him verily hath the love of God been perfected." In the same First Epistle, chapter five, verse two, we have this clinching utterance: "Hereby we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do his commandments."

A child who loves his fleshly father obeys him. Obedience is the very sign and the truest evidence of filial love.

That principle must hold in our relationship with God. If we truly love God his Word will really matter to us. It is not legalistic to be obedient to his doctrine. It is altogether possible to keep the letter and fulfil the spirit. Obedience is the true, sure sign of love. Thus our Lord himself said: "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments" (John 14: 15).

OUR CONFIDENCE.

▽

HE leads us on by paths we did not know; Upward he leads us, though our steps be slow;

Though oft we faint and falter on the way,
Though storms and darkness oft obscure the day,
Yet when the clouds are gone
We know he leads us on.

He leads us on through all the unquiet years;
Past all our dreamland hopes, and doubts, and fears,

He guides our steps; through all the angled maze
Of losses, sorrows, and o'erclouded days
We know his will is done,
And still he leads us on.

And he at last—after the weary strife,
After the restless fever we call life,
After the dreariness, the aching pain,
The wayward struggles which have proved in vain,

After our toils are past—
Will give us rest at last.

—Selected.

Quicksands.

Les. E. Snow.

"Our life is like, a stormy sea,
Swept by the gales of sin and grief;
While on the windward and the lee
Hang heavy clouds of unbelief."

"Fearing lest they should fall into quicksands they strake sail and so were driven."—Acts 27: 17.

THERE were many dangers to be faced by the travellers bound for Rome in the story recorded in Acts 27. The frail vessel may not stand the strain of the fierce storm; precautions were taken against this, the sailors binding the vessel together with ropes. Even strong vessels may be swamped or wrecked; and precautions were taken to guard against this danger, encumbrances were cast overboard. Even if the vessel kept together and kept afloat there was this new danger—where would the storm leave them? Precautions were also taken against the quicksand danger.

In the crises of life we bind ourselves together with fortitude and courage; we meet opposition by concentrating our forces on important issues, casting aside smaller interests; but supposing we survive the actual storm, we still have to guide against the quicksands. Where will the crisis leave us?

The Danger is a Real One.

Here is a woman who in her crisis lost her husband. He had been a man of faith and good works, a clergyman, loved and honored by all who knew him. The loss was sudden and disastrous. It was over a year before the immediate crisis passed in this woman's life. Her health that had been undermined, now improved, she began to face life again with courage, she had survived the storm itself, but the reality of her faith was gone. Doubts filled her mind on spiritual issues. The church meant little to her now. She has thrown herself with zeal into social work, but actually she is struggling to get out of the quicksands. The solid basis of life is missing.

Here is a man, and his name is legion. He faced the dangers of 1914-1918 and returned whole in body and sound in mind. But that great crisis shattered many of his earlier beliefs. Life is not the same again. He found out that small answers do not solve big problems. He has not yet seen that Christianity is a big answer to all life's problems. He says he has no time for religion, but he doesn't know what he really believes and he can't bear to think about it. He's on the quicksands.

The danger of the quicksands is that once you are on them it is difficult to get away. In other words, it is too late to wait until the end of the storm to guard against the quicksands. While the storm is at its height, while our vessel itself is in deadly peril from other dangers, that is the time to set the sails as a precaution against the sands. Delay is dangerous.

The Danger is a Personal One.

We are all concerned with civilisation, but one can be so anxious to save the ship of state that in the process he loses his own soul. This happens especially when in defence of civilisation we resort to methods that in themselves are wrong. It happens when, in a crisis, we throw overboard weights and hindrances to lighten the ship and allow moral and spiritual resources to go with them. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

The Danger Can Be Avoided.

The sailors in Acts 27 could not prevent their boat from being driven on by the storm, but they could set their sails to avoid the quicksands. In the crises of life we seem so helpless, yet we are never really so. We are

carried along with the winds that blow, carried on often in spite of ourselves; those who give in are left on the quicksands but they can generally be avoided. "The set of the soul decides the goal, and not the storms or the strife."

When heart and mind are directed to some

worthwhile object or cause, when first things are placed first, when the Lord Jesus Christ is Lord of all life, we need not fear the quicksands. "With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm."

"Live for something, have a purpose
And that purpose keep in view;
Drifting like a helpless vessel
Thou canst ne'er to life be true;
Half the wrecks that strew life's ocean,
If some star had been their guide,
Might have long been riding safely,
But they drifted with the tide."

A Notable Jubilee.

ON Tuesday, Feb. 18, Bro. and Sister A. E. Illingworth, of Essendon, Vic., celebrated their golden wedding. The day marked also the jubilee of Bro. Illingworth's work as a preacher of Churches of Christ; for, though he had done some speaking earlier, it was not until his marriage that he began preaching; to use his own words, "Marriage and ministry go together." The conference executive committee joined with Essendon church in the celebrations. A representative company had dinner together in the church hall, and afterwards there was a large gathering in the chapel. A large number of speakers—including presidents of the Sisters' and General Conferences, and representatives of Essendon church—bore eloquent testimony to the love and esteem in which our brother and sister are held, and to the great value of their splendid united service to the cause throughout Australia. A presentation was made to them to mark the occasion.

Bro. Illingworth's ministry has been a very fruitful and blessed one. The high quality of his preaching is known to most of our readers, and his beautiful Christian character and disposition are worthy of the gospel of Christ. Throughout, as he himself loves to testify, he has had splendid assistance by Mrs. Illingworth, who also has loved the church and spent herself in its service.

A. E. Illingworth was baptised by his father at Lygon St., on Feb. 3, 1883, and was received into the church at South Melbourne. The first office held by him was that of secretary of the Sunday school at the Tabernacle, Fitzroy, in 1889 and 1890.

Of his fifty years' preaching ministry, 20 have been spent in Victoria—Malvern (honorary), 1891-1894; Malvern-Caulfield, 1919-1926; North-

cote, 1928-1931; Essendon, since 1936. 17 years ministry were given to New South Wales—Petersham, 1902-1908, considered by our brother as the most fruitful period of his ministry; Paddington, 1908-1911; Mosman, six months in 1912; Enmore, 1912-1919; City Temple, 1926-1928. Eight years were spent in Western Australia, during which time he was deacon and preacher (in an honorary capacity) of Lake St. church for 2½ years. He was the first organising secretary of the W.A. Conference, from 1898 to 1901, during which time he preached at Subiaco and Fremantle. For the eight years he preached every Sunday. For five years (1931-1936) Bro. Illingworth served the church at Hindmarsh, S.A.

Our brother has filled many offices. He served our Victorian S.S. Union as secretary (1891-2); vice-president, 1892-3; and president (1893-4). He was president of our N.S.W. S.S. Union from 1902 to 1906. For some time he was Victorian as well as National Chaplain to the K.S.P. organisation. In addition to giving splendid service as a member of conference committees—home and foreign missions, Preachers' Provident Fund, etc.—our brother has filled and adorned the presidential chair of many conferences. He was vice-president and president of our Federal Conference from 1912 to 1916. Earlier (1907-9) he was Federal Conference secretary. He has been twice president of our N.S.W. conference, and also has been president of conferences in Victoria and South Australia. In 1923-4 he was president of the Victorian Council of Churches.

We congratulate our brother and sister on their happy and successful ministry. They have the love and best wishes of their brethren throughout the Commonwealth. May their lives ever be full of blessing.



Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Illingworth.

The Home Circle.

Conducted by J. C. F. Pittman.

"GONE EAST."

SAY not, "Gone West,"
Where sinks the setting sun:
For he that falls for freedom's sake,
His day has but begun.
Say not, "Gone West,"
Presage of nightly gloom;
For he that sounds the depths of death,
He sleeps not in the tomb.
But say, "Gone East"—
East, where the rising sun,
Symbol of the Eternal Love,
Proclaims that day begun!

—Selected.

WHY THEY HATE IT.

THE real reason why so many hate the Bible and the faithful preacher of the gospel is well illustrated in the following from an American paper:—"Look in the mirror, and if you are cross-eyed, pug-nosed, wrinkled, faded, yellow, freckled, pimpled, etc., how faithfully you are photographed. Now get mad and smash the glass and you will be just like some folks who look in the gospel mirror and behold the thousand and one uglinesses that sin makes in them. They can't hurt the Bible, it is used to being cuffed, but smash the preacher for holding the mirror so that you could see your real self."

RESTORING THE NEW TESTAMENT.

WHAT reverence we should have for New Testament scriptures when we remember that this is the casket that contains the jewels of our hope. In restoring the New Testament teaching, we must restore the Book itself to the place from which it has fallen. There is an infallible remedy for the divisions and weaknesses of our day. Take the Bible in its own terms, disregard matters of opinion and

unite upon the clearly outlined doctrine of the New Testament church. Here are the doctrines of God's love, of the forgiveness of sin, of the adoption into the family of God, of our justification, of the help of the Holy Spirit given to those who obey, of the resurrection of the dead, of the efficacy of prayer, of the reward of those who serve them when they stand at the eternal judgment. In our admiration for the inspired record, may we close this address by quoting from one of the best writers of the fathers:

"Oh, Book of God! Thou sacred temple! Thou holy place! Thou light-giving, gold candlestick! Thou gold incense altar! Thou heavenly showbread! Thou cherubim-embroidered veil! Thou mercy-seat of beaten gold! Thou Shekinah, in which the Divinity is enshrined! Thou ark of the covenant! Thou new creation! Thou tree of life, whose sacred leaves heal the nations! Thou river of life, whose waters cleanse and refresh the world! Thou new Jerusalem, resplendent with gems and gold! Thou paradise of God, wherein walks the second Adam! Thou throne of God and the Lamb! Thou peace-promising rainbow, encircling that throne unsullied and unfallen! Image of God and of his Son, who sit thereon, what a futurity of dignity, kingly majesty and eternal glory is hidden in thee! Thou art my comfort in the house of my pilgrimage. Let the kings and counsellors of the earth, and princes who have got gold and silver, build for themselves sepulchres in solitary places, but mine! Oh, be it mine to die in the Lord! Then 'earth to earth, and dust to dust,' but the great mausoleum, the word of the Lord, be the shrine of my soul!"—Geo. P. Taubman.

Magistrate (to motorist charged with driving without a licence).—"What have you to say for yourself?"

Motorist.—"I'm very sorry indeed, sir. It was pure foresight on my part."

The Family Altar.

TOPIC.—"BY THE WAY OF EXAMPLE."

Monday, March 3.

AND the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground.—Ex. 14: 22.

"Lift up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea," said God to Moses, who did as commanded; hence the stupendous miracle of the dividing of the waters.

Reading—Exodus 14: 13-31.

Tuesday, March 4.

They were all baptised unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.—1 Cor. 10: 2.

Thus the Israelites' baptism unto Moses in the cloud and sea is typical of the penitent believer's baptism into Christ, and emergence therefrom into a new life and into new territory, to walk henceforth in newness of life.

Reading—1 Corinthians 10: 1-10.

Wednesday, March 5.

And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.—Ex. 16: 15.

"This," says the psalmist, was "angels' food"; and Paul compares it with the spiritual food which is bountifully supplied to all pilgrims journeying towards the heavenly Canaan.

Reading—Exodus 16: 11-17.

Thursday, March 6.

Thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink.—Ex. 17: 6.

In this way men's thirst was quenched; which suggests to the apostle the quenching of the soul-thirst of all Christian pilgrims, for he writes, "the rock was Christ."

Reading—Exodus 17: 1-7.

Friday, March 7.

And the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.—Ex. 32: 6.

Which appears perfectly harmless, until we note Paul's comment, which suggests that they substituted eating and drinking for sacrifice, play for service, idolatry for the worship of the true God.

Reading—Exodus 32: 1-14.

Saturday, March 8.

And there fell of the people that day about three thousand souls.—Ex. 32: 28.

Moses asked, "Who is on the Lord's side?" and afterwards called for a division, which resulted in the sons of Levi gathering themselves unto the Lord. To them he committed the task of slaying the three thousand idolaters.

Reading—Exodus 32: 15-35.

Sunday, March 9.

Now these things happened unto them by way of example.—1 Cor. 10: 11.

They were figures, held up before us as a warning, lest we also sin. They are written for our admonition, illustrating the frailty of human nature, and calling attention to the need of divine protection, lest we also fall.

Readings—Exodus 14: 13-31; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13.

Those Who Worship.

Psalm 24.

Prayer Meeting Topic for March 5.

H. J. Patterson, M.A.

WHO shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? Worship is not a mere ceremonial and ritual. David demands something within the worshipper. It might be well for us to consider the qualifications. Too many people come lightly to the house of God and do not consider sufficiently him whom they approach, and also the fact of their own unworthiness. "Let a man examine himself." "God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

Four-Fold Qualification.

What are the things demanded by David? First: clean hands. This indicates that the conduct must be right. The life of action must be unstained and righteous. What does it profit the man if he say I love God and he does the unkindly and unrighteous thing? What is it that has brought dishonor to the church and the name of Christ more than the wrong living and action of the professing follower? "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say?" None can be a true worshipper whose life is not in keeping with the profession. And we may be sure that God will not deal kindly with the hypocrite, for not only is he guilty of sin, but he causes the name of his God to be despised and many of his "little ones to offend."

Second: a pure heart. In addition to pure conduct there must be pure thoughts and affections. Indeed we cannot have the one without the other. Many a man has harbored in his heart the unclean and the impure and thought to keep them hidden, but failed. The pressure became too great and folk were surprised when in outward conduct he failed. But the heart was not pure. "Not that which goeth into a man defileth him but that which cometh out of him." "The pure in heart shall see God."

The third qualification is that the soul shall not be set "on vanity," not on vain things, the passing show, the earthly good. Do you belong to this group, and are thereby unworthy to come into the presence of the Lord? When one considers the amount of money spent on things that are unnecessary and that appeal only to the vanity of man, there is much reason for a serious disturbance of mind. Who is first, Christ or self?

The fourth requisite is that of pure speech. The sanctity of an oath is supported and upheld in the word of God. Jesus would have us keep our word. The true worshipper shall not have sworn deceitfully. Do you tell the truth irrespective of the cost to yourself? "Let your yea be yea and you nay, nay," Jesus said.

Their Reward.

"He shall receive the blessing from the Lord." Those who go to church as a matter of form and without fulfilling the conditions do not receive, and this is the reason why occasionally we hear folk say there is no good to be obtained in going to church. But every sincere worshipper will receive and that abundantly. A part of the blessing he receives is in an increase of righteousness. His life is more and more blessed of God and openly and obviously righteous. He shall also seek the face of God with increased earnestness. Worship will not be a mere duty but a joyful privilege. This comes because of the sincere effort in qualifying for worship. After the conscious effort there comes the joy in worship. To seek his face then is a reward and not a duty.

TOPIC FOR MARCH 12.—"IN WANT."—Luke 15: 11-24.

Our Young People

Conducted by Keith A. Jones.

WIMMERA CHRISTIAN SERVICE CAMP.

TWENTY-TWO churches were represented in the Young People's Leadership Camp held at Hall's Gap, February 12 to 19. Unfortunately there was a smaller number of campers than usual from the Wimmera and Western districts, the reasons for this being the severe drought in some areas and requirements for military training. There was a good response from Melbourne young people, and altogether we had 46 campers.

Weather conditions favored us, for every day was fine and sunny. The location of the camp at the foot of the Grampians Peaks made an instant appeal to everyone. The quietness and the beauty of the place are aids to study, devotion and reflection. Perhaps the most impressive moments each day were those during "morning watch." In the fresh, early morning seated among bracken fern, with tall, sunlit white gums for a canopy, and cradled between massive peaks, we looked down into the blue mists of the valley. There, in that lovely setting, we began our days in reverent praise and supplication. One of the favorite hymns of campers seemed to be specially appropriate.

"Dear Lord, who sought at dawn of day
The solitary woods to pray;
In quietness we come to ask
Thy guidance for the daily task."

One evening after tea we climbed to Chat-auqua Peak and held a moon-rise service. The night was perfect, and from our vantage point we watched the glow of the moon as it approached the horizon, and then rising, shed streams of light across Fyan's Lake, touching with silver the tall mountain peaks, and saturating the valley beneath with its friendly light. We joined for a time in singing, meditation and prayer, and then to close our service one of the campers sang most impressively the hymn wherein are found the words:—

"Heaven above is softer blue,
Earth around is sweeter green!
Something lives in every hue
Christless eyes have never seen."

We will not soon forget that exalted and inspiring hour or so at the moon-rise service, for God was very near. The closing camp meeting, too, was another high spot in our week of fellowship. Our last meeting together is usually a hallowing experience. This year's service was no exception. Feeling keenly the bond of fellowship in Christ, and the big demands upon us in these very perplexing days, we made our covenant anew with God. That meeting uplifted, strengthened, confirmed.

Each morning was devoted to studies of particular interest and value to young people who must take their places in Christian leadership in coming days. The group discussion subject was along devotional lines, "The Problem and Power of Prayer" being chosen. This proved to be a most fruitful study. In addition there were classes in Bible Study, Youth Building a New World, C.E. and Youth Leadership, Historical and Missionary Studies. The class leaders were Bren. A. A. Hughes, K. A. Jones, and A. E. White. Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Newell, of Minyip, were camp secretary and camp mother respectively. They have rendered unselfish and efficient service for a number of years in making the Wimmera camps a success.

Our afternoons were spent in strenuous hikes to points of interest in the Grampians, and our evenings in social and devotional programmes. For the full round of a glorious week we thank God.

Your daily duties are part of your religious life just as much as your devotions.—H. W. Beecher,

Western Australian News-letter.

Roy Raymond.

I KNOW of nothing that stirs the religious life of our State at the moment upon which I might comment. I could wish I had some heartening word of some new work, some spiritual drive, some coming revival. I see no signs of anything like this. Listen as one will there is not yet "a sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees." But God's few faithful ones live and pray hopefully. We know that our God is the God of optimism, and we shall dare to hope, too. He sees the end from the beginning, and is still "The God of Hope."

Bequests.

Our late Bro. C. J. Garland had always a great sense of his responsibility as a steward of God. He gave generously in his lifetime to all departments of the work of our Lord. His interests went further than his local church and State work, both of which he supported most liberally. The far-reaching nature of his interests is further revealed by his will. I have been informed that among other things his will provides for the following:—£1000, spread over five years, to the Associated Churches of Christ in Western Australia; £1000 for a ward at Dhond Hospital; £250 to the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, Victoria; £100 to the Aged Preachers' Fund. Tasmanian churches of Christ, our own W.A. Church Extension Building Fund and the Social Service Department also benefit by the will.

The Drink Bill.

The State's drink bill has gone up from £7/18/3 per head of the population in 1938-9 to £8/18/3 in 1939-40. This is an alarming state of affairs. It means that Western Australia with its less than half a million people spent last year not less than £4,162,832 on strong drink. One sad feature of the business is that women drinkers are on the increase. Drunken females are not an uncommon sight upon the streets of our fair city. One seems to look in vain for signs of a public conscience on the matter. Only one or two voices were raised against this iniquitous waste. The majority of Western Australians appear to be pleased that we have broken another Australian record. One writer to the press (I saw only two letters, one by our Bro. Wiltshire) asked whether this was our reply to the Prime Minister who appealed to Australians not to let any selfishness of ours block the path to victory. Mr. Menzies asked: "Are we to leave Britain smiling bravely amongst her bomb-wrecked ruins and the wreckage of her lives and homes, to pay to the last farthing, while we have our pleasures, our profits, and our strikes?" He might have added, "and our huge drink bills."

Queensland News-letter.

H. G. Payne.

Y.M.C.A.

THE annual report of the association refers to the peculiar difficulties of the past year, among which are enlistments in the defence forces; the compulsory training of young men of ages offering the best field for Y.M. activities; and the restricted economic field. These factors had meant decrease in membership and attendance, and difficulty in financing the general work of the association. 92 members had enlisted. There are 11 Australian representatives with the A.I.F. in England and the Near East. The Queensland association gave £1,000 for overseas work, and in addition has conducted extensive operations in R.A.A.F., A.I.F., and militia camps in Queensland. The newly elected president of the association is Colonel F. W. G. Annand.

Hotel Hours.

There is considerable speculation as to what the Labor-in-Politics Convention, which is now meeting in Southport, will do about the trading hours of hotels. There is a move to alter the

hours, making them from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (they are now 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.), which is expected to cause much discussion. If this change be made, probably it will become the Government's policy for the State elections, which are expected about the end of March. It is likely that a referendum may be suggested. This would let the people decide the matter, and also relieve some politicians from the embarrassment of making a decision as to hours. The law is being strictly enforced both as regards week days and Sundays, thus showing that any failure of enforcement in the past was not due to lack of power in the Government but of inclination.

R. L. Arnold.

Queensland welcomes the appointment of Bro. Arnold to Ann-st. church, to fill the vacancy created by the unfortunate illness of Bro. R. L. Williams. The church has had a bad time since Allen Brooke went overseas seven months ago, being without a preacher, excepting for the month of November when Bro. Williams was there. Bro. Arnold was the guest speaker at the last annual conference, and impressed the brotherhood so favorably that there is a general sense of satisfaction at the news of his coming. N.C.R.E.

The Queensland branch of the National Council for Religious Education is endeavoring to arrange for a Sunday afternoon broadcast period by a national station, the subject of the session to be religious education and teacher training. A sympathetic reception to the proposal has been given by the manager of the Broadcasting Commission; and the council is to present a scheme for consideration.

The council is calling a meeting of representatives of each denomination's youth organisations to draft a constitution for a Council of Youth. A couple of years ago there was a youth organisation formed of young people's organisations, religious and secular. This has ceased to function. The proposal for the new body comes from the Presbyterian Fellowship, and is designed to combine, in careful consideration and active effort, the youth of the churches.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE, S.A.

ON Feb. 18 the churches in the southern district held their 41st annual conference at Strathalbyn. The churches represented were Goolwa, Milang, Murray Bridge, Mt. Compass, Strathalbyn, Stirling and Aldgate Valley, Victor Harbour and Point Sturt.

Bro. A. H. Wilson led opening devotional services, after which Bro. M. Jacobs, of Mt. Compass, presided over all sessions. Bro. B. W. Manning read the obituary report, and Bro. N. G. Noble, Murray Bridge, gave morning address.

In the afternoon reports from the various churches were read, showing a steady work. Officers elected were: President, Bro. T. Butler; vice-president, Bro. F. Halliday, M.L.C.; secretary, Bro. J. Yelland; treasurer, Bro. R. Pearce; committee for one year: Bren. C. E. Verco, J. E. Pearce and S. H. Goldsworthy; committee for two years: Bren. B. W. Manning, M. Jacobs and P. B. Shipway; home mission committee representative, Bro. M. Jacobs.

Sisters R. Knight and Bowden rendered delightful messages in song. Bro. Schwab's address on "The Church in the World To-day" was well received. Representatives from general conference, home and foreign mission committees, young people's department, C.E. department, sisters' conference, and united social service reform board outlined briefly the work of the various departments. Miss N. Yelland presided at the organ for the session.

Evening meeting was a continuation of Strathalbyn anniversary services, and Bro. Will Beiler delivered the address. Special singing was rendered by Strathalbyn choir. Bro. T. Butler was introduced as the conference president for the ensuing year, and presided over the closing session.

Here and There.

We learn that Bro. A. W. C. Candy has resigned his work at South Yarra, having accepted an invitation to labor with the church at East Kew, Vic.

The following telegram from Sydney reached us on Monday afternoon:—"Hinrichsen-Morris mission had largest meeting in history Kingsford church, last night; five adults decided.—Baker."

A telegram received on Tuesday morning from Launceston, Tasmania, reads as follows:—"Macnaughtan-Barber began tent mission Invermay, Sunday; excellent attendances first two nights.—Morgan."

Last month Lawrence, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Bowes, of Collins-st. church, Hobart, who is serving on one of His Majesty's ships, received a surprise send-off by about 26 young people of the church.

The next quarterly group meeting of Victorian Churches of Christ Girls' Fellowship will be held on Wednesday, March 5, at 8 p.m., in the church hall (1st floor), Independent Church, Collins-st., Melbourne. All girls will be welcome.

We are glad to learn that Miss Amelia Scarce, of South Yarra church, Vic., has been awarded the Walter Kirby Scholarship at the University Conservatorium of Music. By her sweet singing our sister renders valuable help to many of our congregations.

Bro. E. W. Peet, a member of the Adelaide City Council and a deacon of Grote-st. church, has been appointed secretary of the Morialta Protestant Children's Home, succeeding Mr. B. P. Neville, who died suddenly a few weeks ago. Bro. Peet has for many years taken a deep interest in the home, which is supported by various religious bodies.

On Feb. 23 Bro. J. Shaw gave two addresses at Prahran, Vic. The church sympathises with the loved ones of Mrs. Kent, who has been called home. Bible class has commenced a series on loyalty to Christ in all phases of life. C.E. society has produced a fine pamphlet entitled "My Programme for 1941." Bro. Methven commences his ministry there on March 2.

Special offerings for very worthy causes are to be taken next Lord's day, March 2, in churches of Christ in several States of the Commonwealth. In New South Wales and Queensland, the offerings are to be taken for the work of the Young People's Departments; in South Australia the appeal is being made for home missions; while in Victoria the Church Extension Committee is making its annual appeal. In each State a liberal offering is earnestly requested.

The week of special meetings at Thornbury, Vic., in connection with "back-to-church" services ended on Feb. 23. The excellent addresses of the seven speakers (Bren. F. T. Saunders, T. Hagger, T. H. Scambler, B.A., A. W. Stephenson, M.A., A. L. Gibson, K. A. Jones and Wigney) and also the helpful messages given in song, were greatly appreciated. On Feb. 22 the C.E. societies held their anniversary. Many visitors attended from the surrounding churches, some from as far as Ringwood and Black Rock.

At the close of two months' ministry the church at Lane Cove, N.S.W., has invited Bro. Lloyd Reed to accept an engagement for 12 months. Appreciation has been expressed of his work and preaching. Renewed interest with increased attendances after several months without a regular preacher are noted. We regret to report that Sister Cooper, sen., who with her daughter was recently received from the church at Maysfield, has since been in hospital at Chatswood. A K.S.P. chapter is being formed. Bro. and Sister Long and daughter from Parkdale, Vic., had fellowship on Feb. 23. At gospel service a young lady from girls' club and Bible school confessed Christ. Two others and a young man were baptised during December.

A cable message from San Francisco, U.S.A., announced the death early in February, at the age of 75 years, of Mrs. Kate Philip, sister of Mrs. Will Hall and Mrs. Harris. Our sister was from early life, until her departure for America about 25 years ago, a member of Swanston-st. church, Melbourne. She was bereaved of her husband in early life. There are two daughters—Mrs. Albert Eaton, of Wellington, N.Z., and Millicent, in San Francisco. Our sister, belonging to one of our esteemed pioneer families, will be remembered by older members.

The London "Christian World" recently reported that American Congregationalists had expressed a kindly desire to send Christmas presents to the children of British Congregationalism. The offer materialised in a gift of 2,500 dollars, cabled to Dr. Berry by Dr. Douglas Horton and Dr. Boynton Merrill. The money was given by some of the larger American churches through the agency of the Congregational Churches Committee for Assistance to War Victims. Dr. Berry proposed to apply it to the purchase of toys for evacuee children.

"It was a wonderful bond of fellowship between us. It was our subject of conversation every time we met." The speaker was a young man from the country, visiting the College of the Bible, and speaking of the Correspondence Bible Course. He was one of a group of four in a country town who were members of the correspondence classes last year. The second year of the correspondence course is due to begin in the first week of March. Prospective students are asked to enrol promptly, and to write to the principal of the college for particulars.

Dr. James Black, of Edinburgh, began a recent article with the following passage:—"We used to have an old rime, chiefly employed in gentle satire, which, so far as I recall, ran like this—'Bring your own bread and butter, And your own tea and sugar, And come to our tea-par-tee.' As unfeeling or even vicious boys, we applied this cruel little rime to some occasion when we had not been too generously entertained! But nowadays, in asking people to come and stay with us, we can almost use it seriously. This no reflection on our ration, which most of us agree is generous enough; but I find it is quite another matter in a minister's house when three or four people 'drop in' of an evening and we try to give them coffee or tea. Being sweet-toothed people, it is the sugar that bothers us most—so we feel inclined to say to these young folk whom we really welcome, 'And your own tea and sugar, and come to our tea-par-tee.' I quote this only as an instance of the fundamental upset that war brings to the ordinary accepted living of normal times. It may be a small point, but it is the small things that so often irritate average folk. I imagine that some people grumble more about these things than they do about their income tax!"

The 35th year of the College of the Bible opened on Feb. 19. A happy service was held at the college, a number of visitors being present to welcome the students, and brief addresses of greeting being made. For this year 33 students have been enrolled (29 men and four women), the number of new students being the greatest of any year since 1929. On Monday night last members of the Board of Management, the faculty and students, with some other friends, were entertained at dinner by the officers and Dorcas sisters of Lygon-st. church. This annual function was, as usual, a time of happy fellowship. Bro. S. R. Baker presided, and Bro. Raisbeck extended a welcome on behalf of the church. Numerous responses were made. Later in the chapel a large company assembled for the public inaugural service, presided over by Bro. R. Lyall, chairman of the Board. The conference president (Bro. G. L. Murray) offered prayer, and Bro. C. H. J. Wright read the scrip-

ture lesson. The combined choirs of Lygon-st. and Swanston-st. churches rendered anthems, and the college students a chorus. Miss A. Scarce favored with two solos. Dr. A. Law delivered a very helpful and practical address on the theme, "Problems and Privileges of a Preacher," which was much appreciated. Principal T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip.Ed., presented scholarships and prizes for 1940 work as follows: L. C. McCallum Memorial, Mr. G. T. Ellis; Special Scholarship, Mr. A. R. Pigdon; Morton S. Noble Memorial, Mr. D. H. Pike; F. G. Dunn Memorial, Mr. J. C. Cunningham; Old Boys' Club Scholarship, Mr. H. E. R. Steele; F. M. Ludbrook Memorial, Mr. B. V. Coventry; Miss E. C. Hovey Memorial and College Women's Prize, Miss B. J. Saunders; Miss E. F. Winter Memorial, Mr. H. J. Finger; Wm. Grindrod Memorial, Mr. C. H. J. Wright; Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Rofe Scholarships, Mr. W. H. McCallum, Mr. I. W. Nixon.

ADDRESS.

J. C. F. Pittman (preacher Colac Church, Vic.).
—7 Scott-st., Colac.

RETURN THANKS.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Illingsworth desire to thank the conference executive and the Essendon church for the honor conferred upon them in the thanksgiving services for their golden wedding. They also wish to express gratitude to brethren and friends from near and far, for telegrams, greetings, letters and gifts. They ask that this be accepted as their acknowledgment.

BIRTH.

BOOTH (nee Tippett).—On Feb. 24, at "Nooralie," Ulupna-rd., Ormond, to Mavis and Roy, a son, Robert Roy. Both well.

DEATH.

CLARKE.—On Feb. 2, at Pt. Elliot (suddenly), George Alfred (late Norwood and Mile End), loving husband of Clara A. and father of Lena, Muriel (deceased), Fred and George. "He lived the life."

IN MEMORIAM.

CORDY.—In loving memory of our dear friend and co-worker, Mrs. J. Cordy, who passed away on Feb. 18, 1939, at Footscray.

"When all my labors and trials are o'er,
And I am safe on that beautiful shore,
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore,
Will through the ages be glory for me."
—Inserted by the Footscray Church of Christ Ladies' Aid.

PEDERSEN.—In loving memory of our darling son Bruce, who passed away on Feb. 24, 1939, aged 4½ years.

A cherished memory of one so dear,
Still clings to us from year to year.
Our darling little son.

—Inserted by his Mummy and Daddy.

TOMKINS.—In loving memory of Annie V. Tomkins, called to higher life on February 27, 1937. Rest after weariness.

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Hampton, Melbourne.—For holiday visitors. Bright, furnished rooms with separate kitchen, comfortable home, minute beach, station, shops. —Mrs. Featherston, 23 Orlando-st., Hampton. 'Phone, XW 1438.

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News of the Churches.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Perth.—On morning of Feb. 16 Bro. W. Paget gave an excellent exhortation on "The Background of a Divinely Blessed Life." Visitors included Bro. Cliff Burminster, Canberra. At night Bro. J. Wiltshire delivered an uplifting address on "A Message of Joy." Sister D. Ewers was soloist. Good-bye was said to Bren. Harry Smith and E. McKinley, who leave, respectively, for military service abroad and South Australia.

Bassendean.—Attendances have recovered after holidays, between 70 and 80 breaking bread. Four of our young men are away on National Service. At church annual meeting on Feb. 12 much good work was reported by church and auxiliaries. Finances have been faithfully sustained. Chapel and hall have been renovated and paid for. Bible school held a successful annual picnic. Mr. Hugh Gray, after seven years' happy service, will shortly terminate his work with the church, and will be open for another engagement. Y.P. Endeavor Society has resumed meetings after recess.

Harvey.—Sunday school annual picnic was held at Australind on Feb. 8. Lack of accommodation will prevent the enrolling of many new scholars. An aim of 100% attendance has been set for attendance campaign. Mr. Burgin is planning a two weeks' mission at Bridgetown, commencing March 23. Harvey helps Bridgetown members with a visiting speaker every other month. At a young people's rally on 11th Feb. 34 were present. Mr. Burgin's gospel messages continue to attract good congregations. 35 were present on Feb. 9, 12 being non-members.

Victoria Park-Carlisle.—Annual business meeting was held on Feb. 12. 22 confessions were recorded for the year, eleven at each place. Bro. J. Pearce continues faithful preaching at Carlisle in an honorary capacity, seven conversions being reported since Christmas. Carlisle members have formed a self-governing church, Bro. C. Jackson being elected secretary. The two churches continue to form a circuit with Bro. Maiden as preacher. Attendances have improved. Seven have been received by transfer at Victoria Park. A C.E. recognition service was held at each place on Feb. 16, including graduation ceremony and installation of new officers. A spirit of optimism prevails.

QUEENSLAND.

Charters Towers.—Wet weather lessened attendances for a few weeks. On Feb. 9 Bro. Giezendanner visited Townsville. There were good meetings on Feb. 16. Young Worshipers' League held a successful picnic in Lissner Park. Attendance at services of its members continues good.

Ma Ma Creek.—At annual business meeting on Feb. 7 all office bearers were re-elected. Morning attendances are well maintained, but gospel service attendances are disappointing. The three Sunday schools are very encouraging, another teacher being appointed at Fordsdale. Red and blue rally was finalised with a social on Jan. 31.

Gympie.—On Feb. 15 Bro. A. J. Fisher addressed district C.E. union rally. Bro. W. Evans exhorted on Feb. 16, giving a farewell message prior to entering College of the Bible. The officers are planting a three months' "Loyalty" Campaign, covering all the auxiliaries of the church. Attendances at gospel services are most encouraging. Bro. Fisher has been appointed citizenship superintendent for C.E. Union.

Zillmere.—On morning of Feb. 9 Bro. Bartlett (Baptist) exhorted on "The Character of Two Kings." In the evening Bro. C. R. Burdeu preached on "The Other Prodigal." On Feb. 16 Bro. Dunn spoke in the morning on "Without Me Ye can do Nothing." In the evening two young men of Q.E.B. conducted the meeting; subject, "A Mystery." Meetings are very well attended. On Feb. 16 Bro. and Sister Voss, daughter and son, were received from Fernvale church.

Monkland.—J.C.E. society held a successful games night on Feb. 18, proceeds being presented to Bible school prize fund. Bro. W. J. Evans gave a farewell exhortation on Feb. 15.

Roma.—Church work is in good heart, and all services are well maintained. Much interest is manifested in C.E. Society and the newly formed young people's choir is doing good work. Bible school teachers have devoted one night a month for special prayer and discussion of the subject of bringing the young people to Christ. On morning of Feb. 16 Bro. Boettcher gave a fine address on the responsibility of parents and members toward the young people. Bro. A. Waldron, who has been ill in hospital, is now making good progress.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Forestville.—Bro. Wilkie Thomson, of Glenelg, addressed the church in interests of home mission work on morning of Feb. 16. Harvest thanksgiving services were celebrated on Feb. 23. Bro. K. M. Leak gave the address at morning worship, and Bro. Theo Edwards spoke at gospel meeting.

Maylands.—On morning of Feb. 16 Bro. H. R. Taylor presented the claims of home missions to the church. Bro. Wakeley was speaker at evening service. On Feb. 23 Bro. Wakeley was speaker at both services. There has been one decision for Christ during the month. Record Bible school attendance for many years on Feb. 9—307 present.

Dulwich.—Bro. A. Anderson gave H.M. exchange message on Feb. 16. Bro. Collins spoke at night on "Our Bounden Duty." Bro. Rudd has been appointed acting treasurer. After several months' absence on military service in Northern Territory, Bro. Ron. Graham has returned. On Feb. 23 Dr. Crosby spoke in morning and Bro. H. R. Taylor at night.

Owen.—The annual church business meeting was held on Feb. 11. On Feb. 2 Bro. Bartlett, Balaklava, was speaker morning and evening. Bro. J. E. Shipway (conference president) spoke on morning of Feb. 9 in interests of home missions. Bro. Baker, of Long Plains, was speaker for Feb. 16. Harvest thanksgiving services were conducted on Feb. 23. Bro. Train, of Adelaide, was speaker for the day. Balaklava choir helped at evening service.

Glenelg.—Church half-yearly business meeting was held on Feb. 19. Reports were interspersed with items from I.C.E., Y.P.S.C.E., Girls' Bible Class and Young Men's Bible Class. Supper was served by the young people. Reports from church and the twelve auxiliaries showed good condition. Porch repair fund has made good strides due to work of Bren. Ding and Pritchard. Bro. Theo. Edwards addressed church on Feb. 23. Bro. Thomsen's subject at night was "Paul at Antioch."

Berri.—P.B.P. entertained K.S.P. at a social evening on Feb. 9. Mr. L. A. Chapple was morning speaker on Feb. 16. Gospel meeting took the form of a special C.E. meeting. At conclusion of service three members from Moorook were baptised. Opportunity was taken to bid farewell to Bren. Dud. Marr, N. Mitchell, A. Worrall and R. Crook, who have enlisted. Bro. A. Chapple brought the message on Feb. 23. Bro. Patching's subject for gospel meeting was "The Measuring of Jerusalem."

Cowandilla.—The work generally is in good heart. Attendances at morning and evening services are good. Bible school is progressing under leadership of Bro. J. Dixon, acting superintendent. Harvest thanksgiving services were held on Feb. 23. Bro. J. R. Hemer spoke at morning service. Bro. F. Hollams preached to a large congregation at night. The choir rendered anthems. A fine display of produce testified to the goodness of God. The harvest gifts were later sent to the Morialta Homes. Fellowship has been enjoyed with many visitors during last few weeks.

Murray Bridge.—On morning of Feb. 23, Sister Mrs. E. O. Allan was received by letter from Mile End. Bro. N. G. Noble gave "echoes" of fine Southern District Conference held at Strathalbyn, Feb. 18. Bro. Colin Mitchell was added to diaconate. At Men's Fellowship tea at 5 p.m., subject was "Soldiers and Christ." A men's chorus was sung at gospel service, and a solo by Bro. A. C. Page. During Bro. Noble's in memoriam service to late Sister Mrs. J. M. McKenzie, a married woman accepted Christ. Subject, "If a man die, shall he live again?"

Hindmarsh.—On Feb. 23 harvest thanksgiving services were held with a very fine display of vegetables, fruit and groceries arranged by Y.P.S.C.E., J.C.E. and kinders. The gifts are being sent to Morialta Protestant Children's Homes. At morning service Bro. W. L. Ewers spoke on "Sowing the Gospel Seed," in the interests of home mission offering. Attendance of 123 was best this year. Evening service had 105 present, Bro. Ewers speaking on "The Three Joyful and Three Sorrowful Harvests." The choir assisted both services with special anthems.

Queenstown.—On Feb. 16 Dr. Trevor Turner gave the members a splendid address on "The Church." Bro. Cox gave an appreciated address at night on "The Potter and the Clay." On Feb. 23 Bro. Oram, from Semaphore, exhorted the church. In the evening Bro. Mossop, from Flinders Park, gave a powerful address on "Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ." A large number was present. It was pleasing to see Bro. Brooker at morning service. His health is slowly improving. On afternoon of Feb. 20 the Sisters' Bright Hour meeting had a large number present, and a very nice time was spent.

Mile End.—Work has been going along nicely. The church has held its annual business meeting. In absence of an evangelist's report, a comprehensive report of the year's work presented by the secretary showed a profitable year financially and spiritually. Over £660 was contributed for all purposes, and 17 were baptised in the first six months. The meetings have revealed a fine spiritual tone under the charge of Bro. Anderson, whose messages have been greatly appreciated. The address on evening of Feb. 23, "So Near and yet so Far," was very forceful. Male quartette greatly helped in the service.

Strathalbyn.—At half-yearly business meeting on Jan. 29, auxiliaries' reports showed a good interest in the work. On Feb. 2 Bro. C. Schwab spoke in morning on behalf of home missions, and Bro. Crosby at night for the Alliance. Mr. Jackling and Bro. Wanke were speakers on Feb. 9. Church anniversary was celebrated on Feb. 16 with Bro. Beiler as special speaker. The choir (conducted by Sister S. Bartlett) assisted with singing, and two beautiful solos were rendered by Miss Spurr. The 41st Southern Conference met here on Feb. 18 with large meetings and helpful fellowship. Luncheon, tea and supper were prepared by ladies of the church.

Adelaide (Grote-st.).—On Feb. 16 Bro. Ewers spoke at the morning service on "Home Missions." At night Bro. R. J. Manning, of Regions Beyond Mission, gave a splendid address on "The Sword of Goliath." On Feb. 19, a social was tendered Bro. and Sister R. J. Manning, who are leaving shortly for the Congo again. About 70 friends gathered to say good-bye to them. Bro. Hurren spoke at both services on Feb. 23. Morning address was on "The Weaker Brother." At night he gave a soul-stirring message on "The Two Open Gates." Sister R. Cotton rendered a solo. At last officers' meeting Bro. H. Gladstone was appointed organist.

Unley.—Fine display of fruits, vegetables, cereals, etc., at harvest thanksgiving services on Feb. 23 included gifts from Endeavor societies and kindergarten class. Bro. Nankivell preached powerfully to large congregations; special music was provided; and after evening address two young girls from Bible school confessed Christ. Fellowship was enjoyed with Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Harry, from Northam, W.A., and Mrs. McCann, from Gardiner, Vic. Reference was also made to the presence at Lord's Table of Mrs. T. J. Gore and Mrs. Poole, both over 90 years of age. Miss Alice Jones, a former mem-

ber, now of Glenelg, paid welcome visit to Junior Endeavor Society and Bible school. Pleasant and profitable after-church gathering of young people was held at home of Bro. and Sister Jessup, North Unley. At C.E. Young People's meeting on 17th, Mr. P. S. Messent gave a helpful talk on "Seeking Satisfaction through the Intellect or Pleasure," and the spiritual values of life.

Fullarton.—On Feb. 16 the church celebrated harvest festival services. Bro. Train, on behalf of home missions, gave a splendid address on evangelism. There were 60 present. At gospel service Bro. Rankine spoke of "God's Goodness to Man." Special singing rendered by choir under Bro. Cliff. Thorpe (conductor pro tem), was much appreciated. The harvest gifts were distributed between members and Fullarton Home for Incurables. There were good meetings on Feb. 23 and splendid messages from the preacher. Bro. and Sister Rankine leave this week for a fortnight's holiday in Melbourne. Bro. Cliff. Thorpe underwent a slight throat operation last week and is progressing satisfactorily.

VICTORIA.

Lower Heytesbury.—The church is heartened by the fact that a married couple and their eldest son have been added by faith and baptism.

Middle Park.—The church is indebted to visiting preachers for filling the pulpit. Addresses by Bren. Barclay, Lawrence and L. Enderby have been much appreciated.

Portland.—On Feb. 23 Bro. Rowe, of Kaniva, gave an inspiring address from Mark 12: 17. Fellowship was enjoyed with many visitors. 52 broke bread at morning service.

Ararat.—The Ladies' Aid recently held a successful American tea at the home of Mrs. Welsh. Sister Mrs. Chenoweth died on Feb. 24. The church extends loving sympathy to the bereaved.

Dunolly.—Attendances at Lord's day meetings are well maintained. On Feb. 23 a married lady confessed her Lord, and with two brothers from the Bible school was baptised. Bible school attendance of 48 was reached.

Ormond.—At prayer meeting Bro. J. Ritchie gave a good address. On Feb. 25 at worship service, Bro. Farmer, of Bambra-rd., gave a fine address, and at gospel service Bro. F. W. Bradley spoke on "Living Water of Life."

Red Hill.—The senior Christian Endeavor held annual rally on Feb. 20, Mr. R. C. McLean being speaker. Representatives from Frankston, Balnarring, Hastings and Carrum Downs were present. Greetings were also received from Fiji. Over 80 attended.

Gardiner.—On Feb. 23 Bro. K. Jones exhorted the church. In the morning a Phi Beta and a Kappa briefly gave their ideas of "A Successful Life," and Bro. Hagger chose the same subject for his gospel address. Miss Winnie Lee, from Swanston-st., was soloist.

Essendon.—Bro. and Sister Frank Thornton have returned from Malvern-Caulfield. Bro. Thornton has entered the College of the Bible. At morning service on Feb. 23 Bro. A. E. Illingworth spoke on "The Love Stream." His evening theme was "The Enduring Word."

South Yarra.—Homecoming services were held on Feb. 23. The morning service was taken by Bren. Gibson and Alec. Wilson, of Swanston-st. church, and evening service by Bro. Cliff. Taylor, of Parkdale. Both meetings were very well attended. Soloists were Miss Amelia Scarce and Mrs. Gove.

Echuca.—Bro. and Sister Hargreaves are spending a vacation. On Feb. 16 meetings were conducted by Bren. A. C. Mudford and W. B. Payne. Bro. A. Smith spoke on morning of Feb. 23, and at night Bro. Payne was the preacher. Two converts from Cumeroogunga were baptised.

Doncaster.—Harvest thanksgiving services were held on Feb. 22 with a good display of fruit, vegetables, groceries, etc., afterwards distributed to Austin, Children's and Women's Hospitals, and the Guest Home at Oakleigh. Bro. Connor changed pulpits with Bro. Clark, of Box Hill. Sister S. McDowell is at present in hospital.

Melbourne (Swanston-st.).—On Feb. 23 Bro. Hughes preached at both services. Visitors from Hamilton and Echuca were present. Women's Mission Band was addressed by Mrs. Oliver, president of Women's Conference. Dorcas Society has resumed work.

Kaniva.—Ladies celebrated the 90th birthday of Sister Daniels with an afternoon at the home of Mrs. L. Goldsworthy. Six of our young people attended the camp at Hall's Gap. Recently attendances have been reduced owing to absence of members on holiday, but special C.E. service on evening of Feb. 23 was well attended and much enjoyed.

Preston.—Bro. Ray Fisher gave a helpful message at week-night prayer service on Feb. 20. During absence of Bro. Robinson, services are being conducted by Bro. R. Hindman, of the College of the Bible. His addresses on Feb. 23 were appreciated. Bro. Geoff. Garth, Bible school secretary, is laid aside in hospital as the result of an accident.

Boort.—The resignation of Bro. Percy Stocks from the Bible school is regretted. He had been on teaching staff for over 20 years, and faithfully filled many responsible positions. Mr. Wright continues to give the church interesting addresses. Recent appointments are Sister G. Lacy, Bible school secretary; Sister Penno, treasurer; Bro. Don Streader, J.C.E. leader.

Northcote.—On Feb. 16 Mr. Atkin was speaker at both services. On 23rd Mr. Nicholson, of Local Option Alliance, addressed morning meeting, and at night Mr. Keith Jones conducted the service. On Feb. 12 the half-yearly church business meeting was held, when reports of auxiliaries were presented. Mr. Atkin commenced his annual holidays on Feb. 17.

Brunswick.—During the absence of the preacher, Bro. White, Bro. Plummer ably conducted services on Feb. 16. Bro. Hagger delivered a forceful address at morning service on Feb. 23. The hand of fellowship was extended to Bro. and Sister Harris and Jim, transferred from Ballarat, and to Sister Walters, from Moreland. Bro. Dawson, from Bambra-rd., was also recently received into fellowship.

North Williamstown.—On Feb. 23 the church anniversary was held. Bro. J. E. Thomas delivered appropriate addresses. The choir sang an anthem at gospel service, and Bro. Howard Williams rendered a solo. At recently held annual church meeting Bro. Roy Kemp was elected secretary, and Bren. Parson, Pitcher, Griffith, Lane, Kemp and Haskell deacons. Bren. Jas. E. Thomas and R. McDonald were appointed elders.

Cheltenham.—Morning meetings are well attended. On Feb. 23 Bro. Allan spoke on "Effective Service." Interest is keen in a Bible school rally being conducted by Mr. White. A very successful kitchen evening was tendered to Sister Ethel Hayes (member of the teaching staff) prior to her marriage. The serious illness of Sister Eva Bruton is reported with regret. Special building fund appeal amounted to approximately £31.

Camberwell.—Services have been well maintained during temporary ministry of Bro. Scamhler. His services have been very much appreciated. Bro. J. Turner commences on March 2. Intermediate C.E. is being formed. Mr. E. Peters is leading combined eastern suburban churches choir. On Feb. 16 Mr. A. Sindrey was farewelled prior to leaving for overseas. Bro. and Sister L. Stirling were received on Feb. 16 by transfer from Kyneton.

East Kew.—The ministry of Bro. Turner, who has been with the church for a very successful term of four years, has closed. On Feb. 23 he gave final addresses. Both services were well attended. February has been one of the best months for some time, last Saturday being the climax to three months' special loyalty campaign. The day commenced with prayer at 7 a.m. Bro. Turner attended during the day to receive temple day offerings, which exceeded the aim of £99. Ladies subscribed £35/5/- towards this amount. At 7.30 p.m. a meeting for prayer and thanksgiving brought a wonderful day to a close. A farewell evening to Bro. and Sister Turner and family was held on Feb. 26, at which expressions of appreciation of their work were made.

Ballarat (York-st.).—There were excellently attended meetings on Feb. 23 and eloquent addresses by Bro. Ritchie. Sister Mrs. H. G. Feary has undergone a major operation; her condition is satisfactory. The question of a second tennis court is being considered. All auxiliaries are busily planning for fair.

Carlton - (Lygon-st.).—J.C.E. held a happy picnic at St. Kilda on Feb. 22. On Feb. 23 Bro. Baker spoke in the morning on "Practising Hospitality," and at night on "The Conversion of Cornelius." Bro. Enniss continued his addresses on the Sermon on the Mount, at 3 p.m. Many interstate and country visitors were present. 75 copies of the booklet, "The Witness of Churches of Christ to the Christian Message," have been sold.

Footscray.—On Feb. 15 a kitchen tea was tendered to Miss Ruby Allen and Mr. A. Cameron who are shortly to be married. C.E. society made a presentation also. At last C.E. meeting Bro. R. J. Anderson gave an instructive talk. On Feb. 16 Sister Weymouth, from Mildura, was received into fellowship. On 18th Bro. A. Burdeu gave a fine lantern lecture on the aborigines of Australia. Miss Vonthoff and Mrs. Kaye are ill in hospital. Bro. Halstead received the sympathy of the church in the loss of his father.

Blackburn.—Meetings on Feb. 23 were well attended. Bro. Hodgison was morning speaker, and H. C. Bischoff at night gave an impressive address on "Jesus on Trial in Blackburn." Mr. and Mrs. Ferris and family, from S.A., were visitors. In morning Bro. Gale spoke a few words after the meeting. On Feb. 22 a special prayer meeting was held for the mission at Blackburn. Bro. Bischoff will conduct a mission at Ringwood. Sunday school work and attendance are very good and auxiliaries are in good spirit.

South Richmond.—During February a slight increase in attendances was noted, and keener interest among members. Mr. C. Cole gives helpful and inspiring addresses. Weekly prayer meetings increase in numbers, and Biblical problems and questions are often discussed. The church has launched an increase campaign taking every department of church work. Among many visitors has been Sister Mrs. Arnott, from Invermay, Tas. Bible school and Women's Sunshine Circle have maintained interest.

Caulfield (Bambra-rd.).—There were large attendances on Feb. 9. Bro. Clipstone's address at gospel meeting on "God Can" was an inspiration. Sister Mary Clipstone gave a farewell greeting to the church prior to her departure for New Hebrides. Bren. J. Machin and C. Smith rendered a duet. Large parcel of linen and books was collected to help Islands work. During absence of Bro. Clipstone on holidays, the church is indebted to Bren. R. T. Pittman, Geyer, W. A. Brown and J. Methven for services on Feb. 16 and 23.

Frankston.—At church annual business meeting on Jan. 30, officers for following year were appointed: Secretary, R. J. Hinde; treasurer, F. W. Bentley; deacons, J. McRoberts, J. Fletcher and R. N. Jackson; deaconesses, Sisters P. and N. Ellis. Reports showed good work in all departments. Christian Endeavor recommenced on Feb. 4. On Feb. 11 they attended a rally at Hastings and on Feb. 20 one at Red Hill. Attendances have been good, with several visitors. Bro. H. Finger spoke on Feb. 23 and at night Bro. Retchford, of the College, was preacher.

St. Arnaud.—On Feb. 20, at annual business meeting, reports from all auxiliaries were very favorable. Present officers were re-elected. Evangelist's report revealed great loss by removals to city churches. Gratitude was expressed to Bro. and Sister Pratt for their splendid work. Bro. Pratt is giving of his best to the work, and his messages are of a high standard and very encouraging. Bro. A. H. Pratt was re-elected superintendent of Bible school, Sister Pratt kinder superintendent, and Bro. M. Smith was elected S.S. secretary. Mrs. Hurren, sen., and Mrs. H. Hurren were elected deaconesses. Y.P.S.C.E. has resumed meetings, and is doing splendid work for the maintenance of church finances.

Geelong.—At a social evening on Feb. 13, members from Latrobe-terrace, Drumcondra and Belmont united at Latrobe-terrace chapel. A musical programme and supper were enjoyed. Bro. K. Macnaughtan gave impressive messages on Feb. 16 before his departure for Tasmania, where missions are to be conducted. Bro. E. Hering was morning speaker on Feb. 23. Many visitors were welcomed. At gospel meeting Sister Callanan gave an interesting address and a delightful message in song was rendered.

Ballarat (Dawson-st.).—Tennis club, which has gained a place in final four, held a moon-light concert on Lake Wendouree on Feb. 11 in aid of funds. At annual business meeting of church on Feb. 12 good reports were presented by all auxiliaries showing work accomplished. Losses for 1940 by transfer, removal and death, totalled 36, and gains by faith and obedience 11, of which four were at Doveton-st. Treasurer's report showed excellent giving, total being best for some years. Bren. Black, Davey and Wigley, retiring deacons, were re-elected, and Bro. W. Reid added to fill a vacancy. On Feb. 16 Bro. D. C. Ritchie, of York-st., addressed morning meeting. Bro. W. W. Saunders conducted service at Mt. Clear in morning and at Dawson-st. at night. Speakers at Doveton-st. were Bren. W. Wigley and W. Benson. Both services on Feb. 23 were addressed by Bro. Saunders. Nine were received into fellowship—Jeffrey Batch, Will Dunstan, Albert Gaylor, Gordon and Douglas Holloway by faith and obedience, Mrs. Barnett and Joyce Shepherd by transfer, and Mrs. Dunstan and Mr. Barnett as baptised believers. Bro. T. Maxwell addressed both meetings at Doveton-st. and Bro. W. Reid conducted evening service at Mt. Clear. Sympathy of the church is extended to Sisters Mrs. Beaton and Mrs. Henderson in the loss of their mother.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Enmore.—Bro. Alan Cremin has left for Glen Iris. On Feb. 22 Sarah Ann Wright, an early member, aged 103 years, passed away. Bro. Frank Hunting, Youth Director, preached at night and was well received. Bro. Stuart Stevens becomes general superintendent of the school.

Rockdale.—On Feb. 23 there were good attendances, several visitors being present from Taree, also Bren McIlhagger and McCann, from Melbourne. The church was pleased to have a message from Bro. McIlhagger. At night Bro. Hinrichsen preached. A delegation attended the mission at Kingsford.

Chatswood.—On morning of Feb. 2 Bro. F. C. Hunting, Youth Director, spoke on "Spiritual Values." There was a fine attendance at gospel service, Bro. Youens giving an excellent exposition on the subject "Lost." Special midweek services are to be featured in March. Gospel services during February have been very well attended.

Mosman.—R. Greenhalgh exhorted on "Opportunities for Witness" on Feb. 9; G. E. Burns preached on "A Conflict of Kings" at night. Bro. Thomsen, foundation member, passed away on Feb. 14; loving sympathy is extended to Mrs. Thomsen. Teachers' tea and conference on 15th arranged by Mosman-Cremorne Sunday School Council was very successful; all Protestant bodies represented; Mr. Dyster, Presbyterian minister, Crows Nest, spoke on "The Teacher and His Task"; discussion followed. On Feb. 16, Bro. Burns' morning and evening discourses were "God's Ability" and "A Fool's Foundation" respectively.

Burwood.—Sister Mabel Blanch, an active worker for many years, has accepted a position at Springwood. Mission Band recommenced meetings on Feb. 6 with a good attendance. Sister Mary Clipstone addressed Bible school on Feb. 16 and gave a greeting at gospel service. Bro. Arnold's term of service with the church will close on March 30.

Marrickville.—Good meetings continue. On Feb. 16 five were received into membership by letter. On 22nd a very enjoyable Bible school picnic was held at Bronte. On Feb. 23 there were 75 at the Fellowship tea, including delegations from other centres. A fine message was given by Mr. F. Hunting, Youth Director. At gospel meeting a number of young people took part, and two lads made the good confession.

Canley Vale.—On Feb. 23 an "every-member-present service" was held. 95 were present in the morning, and 107 at gospel service; there was one decision. Bro. S. H. Wilson conducted both services. Fellowship was enjoyed with several isolated members. The sisters held an installation service on Feb. 20, Bro. Wilson installing newly-elected officers. Intermediate and junior departments of Bible school arranged a social evening on Feb. 22, proceeds being in aid of piano fund.

Bankstown.—On evening of Feb. 23 Bro. Crossman spoke to a good meeting; two Bible school scholars were baptised, and one confessed Christ. Fellowship was had with Bro. Ken. Hemmsley, an air force trainee, from North Brighton, Vic. Special mention was made of the late Bro. Len. Black, who is reported to have died of wounds received in service overseas. Heartfelt sympathy goes out to his loved ones. Sunday school attendance keeps up well, Bro. Ron. Dawson is carrying on prior to appointment of a new superintendent.

Wagga.—On Feb. 16 Bro. Stow addressed the church and at night conducted gospel service. In the morning a young lady, immersed the previous Sunday morning, was received into the church. C.E. has resumed meetings. On Feb. 23 Bro. Stow spoke at morning service on "The Man from Cyrenaica." Visitors included Mrs. Neill Coventry, Cottonville, S.A. Bro. Butler, who was on leave, was also present, and at gospel service sang a solo. Bro. Stow's subject was "The Church in Prophecy." The church is looking forward to a mission to be conducted by Bro. E. C. Hinrichsen.

Lismore.—The whole church is preparing for a special effort extending from March to end of May. In May a tent mission campaign is to be held with Bro. Acland as missionary. Bro. Acland has left for six weeks' chaplaincy duty at Rutherford Camp, and during that period the church will have the services of Bren. R. Wilson, from Mayfield; Bro. S. Stevens, Enmore; and Bro. A. J. Saunders, Taree. The monthly service was held at Ballina on Feb. 9, at the home of Bro. and Sister Dave McDonald. Several of the younger brethren are in training camps, of the R.A.A.F. and A.I.F., while some have gone overseas.

Belmore.—On morning of Jan. 12 Bro. Weir delivered an excellent message. There were two decisions for Christ at gospel service, and one (a married woman) was baptised the same hour. On Jan. 19 there were three decisions for Christ, and 162 broke bread for the day. At gospel service on Jan. 26 the address by Bro. D. Nichols, from Northcote, Vic., was greatly appreciated. Bro. Nichols also sang a duet with the wife of one of the aboriginal missionaries. P.B.P. and K.S.P. clubs competed again in annual sports of P.C.F.O., and were successful in winning the senior shield for the second year in succession. On morning of Feb. 16, 164 broke bread, and Bro. E. C. Hinrichsen delivered a splendid message. 179 broke bread for the day. The church has decided to release Bro. and Sister Corlett for approximately two months to assist Bro. Hinrichsen in the mission to commence at Wollongong in the near future. Miss Winnie Everett has resigned the position of Junior C.E. superintendent which she has most capably filled for eight years.

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COMING EVENTS.

MARCH 3.—Reserve this date: Monday, March 3, 8 p.m., for the Sarah Meyer Memorial Concert by Churches of Christ Ladies' Choir, and assisting artists, in Lygon-st. Chapel. Tickets, 1/3.

THE HOME MISSION TENT VOLUNTEER MISSION, RINGWOOD.

February 26—March 31.

Meetings every night except Monday.

Missioners: H. C. Bischoff, R. J. Anderson.

Delegations from sister churches invited. Week-night meetings, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 7.15 p.m. Tent situated Whitehorse-rd., opp. Ringwood Post Office. Train leaves Melbourne 7.8 p.m. week-nights, returning from Ringwood 9.23 p.m.

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ANNUAL OFFERING

is invited from all Churches in Victoria on First Sunday in March,

MARCH 2.

R. Enniss, Secretary.
J. E. Austin.
Robert Lyall, Treasurer.

BIBLE SCHOOL WORKERS TEA and CONFERENCE

To be held at LYGON ST. LECTURE HALL
on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4,
at 6.15 p.m.

The Y.P. Department desires to contact all superintendents, secretaries and "key" people in the Bible schools. Subjects of importance will be dealt with and a conference will follow.

Let every school send delegates.

Tea, 1/3. R.S.V.P., 3/3/41.

Keith Jones, sec.

Foreign Missions.

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

DHOND NOTES.

MISS FOREMAN reports having spent a month at Dhond since her return to India, and every day being extremely busy. The hospital is fuller, on an average than usual, with increased numbers of maternity cases. Extra work has been placed on those in charge because of the Indian nurses leaving Dhond for a further course of training.

Miss Wiltshire had planned to take out her midwifery certificate before leaving Australia, but because of Miss Foreman's furlough, left for India to take up the work at Dhond. Miss Wiltshire has now been granted leave of absence to go to Poona and complete this extra course. Owing to the increasing opportunities now presented, it is essential that she complete these studies.

Sisters in Australia will be interested to know that the money contributed (£24/10/6) through the Women's Federal Conference will now be used to buy some necessary furniture. This money has been available for a considerable time, but owing to Miss Foreman's furlough the matter was deferred. This move will serve as an added link between the homeland and our Australian nurses who live in the Mary Thompson Bungalow.

Dr. Oldfield has been kept busy too, for in addition to the hospital work, plans are being made to carry on a wider evangelistic work in the surrounding areas. Mrs. Oldfield has been appointed to take charge of the women's evangelistic work, and will thus have ample scope to exercise her influence among the Bible-women, Christian women and those who are becoming interested in the villages.

INDIAN PREACHER'S TESTIMONY.

MR. T. V. PAPANI, who is located at Wadgaon, has been associated with other preachers in the village evangelistic effort in charge of Bro. R. Bolduan. In one of their recent tours a young educated man tried to persuade some village people not to listen to the preaching. Among other things he said: "Does anyone know anything of their Jesus? Have they seen him? Do they give any proof? I entreat you, don't listen to these people. Don't invite them again to our village." Some of the preachers were thereupon called to give a testimony of what Christ meant to them. The following story is sent by Bro. R. Bolduan and contains the gist of what Mr. Papani said:—

"I was born a Hindu. I was only a small boy when a terrible famine came upon the land. My father and I were forced to leave our village because there was nothing to eat and no work was available. We travelled from village to village, but eventually my father died. I did not know where to go. For a time I lived on such scraps of food as I found by the side of the roads. No one took me in. Then, someone told me that if I went to the missionaries they would give me something. I went, and they took me into the home where many other boys had already found food and shelter. They fed me, clothed me, educated me. They told me they did it because they wanted to show the love of Jesus to the world. Was it any wonder that I learned to love the Jesus of whom they told me? My own relatives did not want me; my own caste would not help me, but these followers of Jesus cared for me and loved me. More than forty years have passed since that time, and during all those years I have found Jesus to be Living Bread and Living Water to my soul."

CHINA UNDER FIRE.

Students.

AN important part of the new responsibilities of the missions in the "far west" of China

is to students. Nearly all of the colleges and universities in eastern China have been destroyed. Their students and faculties have "gone west." Some of the most heroic stories of modern times can be told of their fortitude under the incredible dangers and hardships of mass migrations on the long trail. One college, which was formerly located in northeast China, was forced by successive bombings to move eight times, each time farther west. It is now located in a city in southwest China and is again under fire. When it started its long journey, it had 1,200 students. It still has 700. But this school, like many in West China, meets under enormous difficulties. The students are hungry and in need of adequate clothing. Their classrooms are often inadequate and their dormitories crowded to suffocation. There is a great lack of books and other educational equipment. Teachers and students are far from home, living among Chinese who do not speak their dialect. Many grow homesick and discouraged. Some believe their condition is hopeless and abandon their efforts to get an education. But they cannot go back home, for they would be killed. So they go to the northwest of China and join the communist armies. The missions find an eager welcome among these students for their workers. They gather them into classes for the study of Christianity and organise fellowship groups to develop friendship. One student said that until he got acquainted with the Christian group he had lived in a dormitory room with thirty students for six months and knew only about a half dozen of them by name.

A Generation of Tribulation.

No matter how the present war between China and Japan comes out, Christian missions in both the east and the west of China confront at least a generation of great tribulation. In that time every principle of the Christian faith will be tested again and again. The bearers of the gospel in China will also be tried, "as by fire," as indeed they have already been. But through the grace of God they have endured, and by their fortitude have preached a more effective gospel than all their words could ever have done. After having seen them at work in the midst of incredible dangers, daily wrestling with problems of the most appalling difficulty, serene while every earthly reason for hope is gone, courageous and full of faith, I thank God for the "power that is made perfect in weakness," for the unarmed love which breaketh the bow and shattereth the spear asunder, for the might of the gospel which confronts the worst that man's inhumanity can do, and makes even the wrath of men to praise God. Our missionaries are writing in China to-day a new chapter in the Acts of the Apostles, and every one of us should thank God and take courage because we are privileged to help them.—Harold E. Fey.

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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 D. M. Wilson.

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Obituary.

Peter Christensen.

THE church at Bundaberg, Qld., has been called upon to part with one its oldest and much loved members in the person of Bro. Peter Christensen, who received the home call on Friday, Jan. 31. Our brother had reached the ripe age of 82 years. He was baptised by Bro. Alf. Hinrichsen during his ministry here. From that day he was a faithful member in the church. He was a great lover of the Bible. Just a few weeks before he passed away he had read the book for the sixteenth time. It was a pleasure to meet him in his home and talk of things divine. Christ, the book, and Christian fellowship were to him a great joy and comfort. We commend to the God of all comfort his sorrowing wife and family.—L.L.

Mrs. Robert Lyall.

THE words of Prov. 31 have rarely been spoken more truly than in the case of Mrs. Robert Lyall, who at the full age of 78 years passed into the beyond on Tuesday, February 11, and was laid to rest at the Melbourne General Cemetery. "For her price is far above rubies . . . Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also . . . saying . . . But thou excellest them all." There were abundant tributes paid to the memory of Mrs. Lyall; her



The Late Mrs. Robert Lyall.

place as wife, mother, grandmother, friend and follower of Christ all being mentioned on all sides. Further testimony was borne by the beautiful flowers sent by the many friends to whom she had endeared herself. All her life Mrs. Lyall had been associated with Swanston-st. church, being a daughter of the late C. G. and Mrs. Lawson, earliest members. Reared in such an atmosphere, it is not surprising to find her a devoted member and supporter of the work in every respect. It was a rare thing for Mrs. Lyall to miss a regular or a special service. Illness or absence on some other work of the Lord were the only reasons that would cause that customary place to be vacant. Her interest was more than a local matter. She was a true companion to her husband in his many interests, and made it a rule of her devoted life to be always at his side. So her life was marked by an exceptionally well informed interest in every branch of the work of the Brotherhood. The Lyall home had ever an open door. Missionaries on furlough have had reason to bless her for her kindly hospitality; interstate and overseas visitors can all tell the same story, a Christian home with a Christian mother presiding as a gracious hostess. It is no wonder that the story of her life is filled with kindly thoughtful deeds for others, gifts for the Lord's work far beyond calculation, and a ready appreciation of all genuine needs. The natural sorrow of her passing is greatly softened by these facts, for the many sacred memories of such a life, with its basis of profound faith in God, added to the

sure hope given by the living Christ, are God's source of comfort in sorrow. The whole church joins in loving sympathy, and thanks to God for her life.—A.A.H.

Church in the Front Line.

EVERY church is to-day in the front line; every citizen a soldier; every person a "Chaplain to the Forces." Homes have been destroyed, families shattered by bereavement. All this has presented a big challenge to the church. It has been splendidly met.

The heroic service of church workers of all denominations in the bombed areas will long be remembered. Wherever the need was most urgent the churches stepped boldly into the gap. In the heart of dockland ministers evacuated many cases to the country by their own efforts.

A great catering centre was bombed; two hundred hot meals were served in the church hall in an hour or so when even their gas, water and electricity were "off." Halls have been turned into havens of refuge for the homeless multitudes. Mobile canteens have appeared as from heaven in areas threatened by cold and hunger.

"I'll never laugh at those people again," said a Coventry man when he saw the work of the Salvation Army. The Church Army have run all-night canteens at busy stations; one of their women workers was glad to protect her head from flying fragments by using a meat cover as a tin hat.

In the shelters many have found new strength in a familiar hymn, or an all-but-forgotten prayer brought to mind at an informal service. In reception areas the churches have been busy with their welcome for the bombed, the aged, and the young.

The church, and the country too, may well be proud of women like those Methodist Church sisters who lived for days in Anderson shelters in the East End, bombed out of their homes, but unwilling to leave those who still had to face the "blitz" at its worst.

—R. R. Williams, M.A., Home Education Secretary of the Church Missionary Society (Supplied by the Department of Information).

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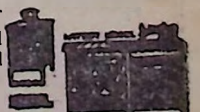
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"THOU shalt not steal."—Exod. 20: 15. "Pro-
viding for honest things, not only in the
sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of
men."—2 Cor. 8: 21.

⊙

Save us, O God, from the life bent on taking
and holding, or getting—regardless that "the
earth is the Lord's"! neglectful of thy counsel!
careless of the rights of others! and heedless
of the Christ, who came not to be ministered
unto, but to minister and to give his life a
ransom for many. Of thy-grace, let us repent
and make restitution if we have taken aught
wrongfully. Guide and enable us day by day,
to "provide things honest in the sight of all
men." For thy name's sake. Amen.

⊙

O God, give us grace, so that there be no
robberies within the home. No defrauding of
the full-orbed blessings of wedded love; no
withholding of natural or spiritual ministries
needful to a little child. O God, give us grace,
so that there be no robberies within the church.
No keeping back of due loyalty and service; no
detraction from the worship atmosphere or the
good name of a brother. Do thou hasten the
day, when men everywhere shall do justly, love
mercy and walk humbly with their God. For
thy name's sake. Amen.

⊙

O Lord, who searchest us deeply with a pen-
etrating question—"Will a man rob God?"—
Forgive, we beseech thee, our withholding of
tithes and offerings, and our refusal that thou
shouldst have full possession of our hearts. We
are thine, for thou didst make us! We are
thine, for thou hast redeemed us! Henceforth
we would be thine in responsive love! Hear
and receive us as we come to devote ourselves
anew to thy holy service. In the name of
Jesus. Amen.

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wills."
—Dr. B. M. Adams.

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