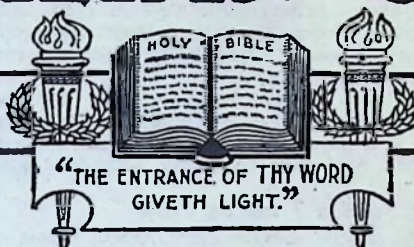


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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1946



Serving in Love

Always Ready to Help When Needed

The Friendly Hand of Social Service

★ A Retrospect and a Prospect

Will. H. Clay.

TWENTY years ago, a certain fear existed among the churches that the newly-created Department of Social Service, which was regarded by many as an experiment in church politics, might make demands in both money and service which would seriously interfere with recognised committee work and prospects.

With little money, but with stout hearts and faith in God, the committee appointed by conference, admittedly with a sense of experiment, entered into financial obligations which were peculiarly their own. Three members guaranteed an overdraft at the bank, and for several years the account of the department was never in credit. This was a cause of never-ceasing anxiety, both to the committee and the bank. The manager, on one occasion, reminded them that the account lacked stability, and he urged that some effort be made to establish a credit.

The Test of Faith

Faith at times was at low ebb, but never entirely dead. God had proved faithful, but many churches were still unconvinced. Why should we bother about the material?—our mission is spiritual. Could we not leave social work to the Salvation Army and the other churches? Would not this work seriously interfere with organised evangelistic effort and finance? These were some of the questions commonly asked. There was also much adverse criticism amongst the churches which made progress doubly hard. It was generally recognised that social service was the Cinderella of conference. In spite of these things the work grew, but the obligations increased out of all proportion to the funds which were placed at the committee's disposal to meet them. On more than one occasion there was no money to pay salaries, and it became necessary to draw on the future. The wages of the secretary on two occasions were, without the knowledge of the committee, voluntarily reduced. It was not possible to further reduce the only other member of the staff. During this period we were in the midst of the depression, and the appeals for assistance, both financial and material, were insistent and increasing. The committee tried to limit this to our members, but this was impossible. Money was spent as it was received. There was no chance of establishing a credit at the bank. Many churches which had given the committee an evening offering now withheld it for themselves, and not always for benevolent purposes. More room was needed, but this demanded more money. In looking backward the hand of God can be seen in all these things, and the committee thank him that he has regarded them as being worthy to be trusted. Being faithful in the little, he has entrusted them with much.

Real Poverty

To-day, on all sides, the fear of another depression is being discussed—not only in Australia, but all over the world. Some of us can remember the last, and we tremble for those who face the next unprepared. For a period of about fifteen years, from 1920 following the great World War, there were thousands of unemployed who were existing at starvation level. The government subsidised soup kitchens and doled out blankets to very extreme cases. Employment was found for all employable men at rates from one pound to thirty shillings for three or four days' work. Regardless of qualifications, clerks, tailors,

musicians and such as were not accustomed to heavy manual labor were given picks, shovels and axes. They often were sent to country districts, where they existed under most primitive conditions. Many broke down and health was seriously impaired. Little public sympathy was shown for the weak and aged; women and children suffered hunger and cold, and it is no exaggeration to say that many men, women and children found premature graves.

For Such a Time as This

The Social Service Department came into existence for such a time as this. Often it was asked what would we have done without it? Church local funds were depleted, and no one church was in any way equipped to meet the demands of even its own members. Apart from the Social Service Department the church had no organisation to meet the need of the brethren. In spite of this position, however, churches of Christ were even in a better position than other churches, many members of which came to us for assistance. Hundreds were found employment. Food and clothing were greatly in demand, but these could not wholly solve the problem of hunger and need. Thanks to Endeavorers and kind friends, the grocery cupboard was usually well stocked and racks and shelves were well filled with clothing, but milk and bread, vegetables and meat could not be supplied. The weekend was to be feared by the poor. Shops

would be closed, and benevolent depots also closed their doors. Thousands faced a black Saturday, and many starved. The landlord called for the rent on Monday, and the instalment on the house was due. Many home purchasers lost their homes, and some lost their farms and their means of livelihood. Money alone was the solution.

The friendly hand of social service was outstretched through all these years, and the committee is convinced that the ever-increasing support given to the department by the churches is but an expression of their appreciation of what was done and has since been accomplished.

The committee almost were in the position of the apostles who were compelled to say to one who sought alms of them, "Silver and gold have we none, but such as we have we give unto thee." They had not much money, but they helped thousands to carry on in the dark days. In the name of him who said, "Inasmuch as ye did it to the least of these, my brethren, ye did it to me," the hungry were fed (when meat was almost unprocurable thousands of rabbits were provided for free distribution), the poor were clothed (garments provided could be numbered by the thousand), the cause of the widow, the orphan, the aged and the child was taken up, and, where necessary, legal action was taken, and in a hundred ways the department helped.

The Lessons Learned

It is not surprising that out of these experiences the committee learned lessons that have not only served them in good stead in subsequent years, but have helped them to formulate a policy. They decided that, if ever they had to face another depression, it should not find them unprepared to meet it. The home for our aged which had existed in the mind of the brethren for many years must be made an accomplished fact. A better method of financing the work of the department and meeting need must be found. These ideals have been realised.

The Christian Guest Home has brought joy, peace, comfort and rest to our aged, and in proportion to the numerical strength of our brotherhood, we are far ahead of any other religious body. When the hospital for which a property has been secured is ready for service, our churches will be in an even better relative position.

The Christian Fellowship Association is meeting the other ideal in a remarkable way. No other church has a comparable organisation to meet the financial needs of its members. In a simple yet effective way, a substantial reserve is being built up to meet present needs and as a guarantee of help to members against future distress occasioned by need.

The Social Service Office is one of the leading services of its kind in the State. No other church undertakes social service on such a wide scale. There is no problem of the individual life or the home which is outside its purview.

The Social Service Department has extended the friendly hand to help for more than twenty years. With confidence the same hand is now extended to receive.



"Jesus beholding the man had compassion."

When Christ and Life Leave No Alternative

Stan. Neighbour

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD, in his beautiful poem, "The Light of Asia," has captured for us both the challenging beauty and the disappointing sterility of a faith older by six centuries than Christianity. King Suddhodana loving his son, Siddhartha, who was later to become the great Buddha, would shield the prince from contact with, or knowledge of, the world's pain. When Siddhartha expressed a desire to sally forth in his chariot to see the city, the careful king thus delivered himself:

"Yea! 'tis time he see;
But let the criers go and bid
My city deck itself, so there he met
No noisome sight; and let none blind or
maimed,
None that is sick, or stricken deep in years,
No leper, and no feeble folk come forth."

Siddhartha did contact human grief, but it was on his own and not his father's initiative.

God bade the Son he so dearly loved mingle his life with the world's life. Thus was Jesus on his own, and his Father's, initiative made familiar with the joys and sorrows of a lost world; that through him it might find God. Jesus died to save from sin; but any assessment of the personality of Jesus that omits his sympathy and sacrifice on behalf of humanity's need, is to that extent deficient.

The early church, in the spirit of her Lord, shared possessions "according as any man had need." James treated as a dead thing a profession that failed to express itself in works. "If a brother or sister be naked, and in lack of daily food, and one of you say

unto them, Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled; and yet ye give them not the things needful to the body; what doth it profit?" The early disciples chose "seven men . . . full of the Spirit and wisdom" to look after the social services of the church. When individual effort could not satisfactorily meet the need the church met it with her marshalled resources.

Was it mere accident that two of the seven—Stephen and Philip—came to be reckoned amongst the most powerful evangelists of the church? Were their "ministrations" among the powerful arguments convincing men that a new power was abroad in the world? Was it the Spirit-filled Stephen who first stirred the heart of the "young man named Saul"? The multitudes of Samaria "gave heed with one accord unto the things that were spoken by Philip."

The Christian programme provides both the physician to minister to the sorely wounded along life's way, and the prophetic message that challenges us to destroy the causes of poverty and disease.

Jesus had no alternative but to minister, and proclaim the terms of the kingdom of God. His ministry included the physical in man as well as the spiritual. The church being the body of Christ dared not pass by on the other side. The Social Service Departments in Australia have no alternative but to minister to the beaten and the wounded. They also feel the imperative challenge of the Christ to wrestle with every evil that values dividends more highly than human personality.



Stanley N. Neighbour,
President of the Victorian Social Service
Committee.

Mr. Neighbour is the esteemed minister of the church at Oakleigh and chaplain of the Christian Guest Home.

we believe the Social Service Department is seeking to do, in that it is putting into practice the Christian conception of neighborliness. In assuming the responsibility and the burdens and needs of others, the royal law of Christ is really fulfilled.



"Friendship is . . . Being a Friend"

B. J. Combridge, President of Victorian
Conference.

HENRY CLAY TRUMBULL said, "Friendship is love with the selfish element eliminated, . . . it consists in being a friend and not in having a friend." This sounds like the love that seeketh not its own. Thinking through more than twenty years of social service activity in Victoria, I can see expression of friendship like that. From the beginning its service has been of that quality, seeking to give, to help, to cheer and uplift, to alleviate and to rehabilitate. Two thousand years ago there was a hand that touched sightless eyes of the blind and the unclean brow of the leper and rested on the heads of little children in blessing. The service of this department has followed this Christ-like tradition, seeking to be a friend. Through it the Victorian brotherhood has been launched upon a mission from which there is no retreat. It is helping the church to fulfil its mission in practical terms, to do as well as to say. It is the brotherhood in action. In making this possible the church by generous support is simply expressing its own nature; it is being a friend.

SUNDAY,
AUGUST 18:
Annual offering
for Social Service
Department.

Caring For Our Own

D. Nankivell, President Victorian Women's
Conference.

AT the very beginning of his ministry Jesus proclaimed what might be termed his "manifesto." He had been anointed to preach the gospel to the poor, to deliver captives, to heal the sick and broken-hearted, and to set at liberty those who had been bruised. By deed as well as spoken word Jesus stressed the importance of caring for the needy and unfortunate.

To-day, governments with their increasing social services are helping to relieve much need. But no public agency, no matter how excellent, is able to supply what the church home alone can give. One may provide bread and shelter; the other adds love and care. I think the day will never come when unprotected childhood and frail, aged, lonely folk will not need Christian love and care. Many of these aged dear ones have carried the heat and burden of the day as they helped to establish God's cause in their community; and now in their time of failing strength they look to us. Some are needing care and attention beyond what is possible in our Guest Home. Therefore we are expecting to go on with our task by providing a hospital.

We approach August 18, then, confident that all will rally to support this cause, because we realise that the church must care for her own.

Neighborliness in Action

E. M. Washfold, Vice-president Victorian
Women's Conference.

AMONGST the many passages of scripture that bind us to our neighbors, the following one stands out in my mind: "He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves" (2 Cor. 5: 15).

Christians are called upon to express the meaning of this truth to their neighbors; this



Group of workers who packed 2 tons 6 cwt. of food parcels for Britain.



The Shack at Yarra Junction.

A Message From Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Smith and Roma

TO all who in any way helped us to acquire a home, we wish to express our most sincere thanks. Especially we would mention Mr. Clay and Mr. Buckingham, who originated the plan.

It is difficult for us to express what we feel, but what the change will mean to us is even more difficult to state. We had not expected that C.F.A. could wholly solve our problem, but it has done this, and more. We have a comfortable four-roomed cottage with every convenience of a country home; and as the house has been wired for electric lighting, when current is available we will be among the first of the district to have this convenience.

We thank C.F.A. and the Social Service Committee, and all the men and women, and especially Mrs. Gill, for the wonderful day we had when the house was erected. To the friend who donated the furniture for Roma's room, and to those who provided the food free of cost to feed the crowd, we also desire to express our grateful thanks. We have decided to name the house "Clayville."



A House in a Day

THE Social Service Department has not at any time functioned more effectively than when it succeeded in building a house in a day for members of the church who were in a sorry plight. The accomplishment won the praise of all sections of the community. Although it was expected that when the need was made known, and the brethren knew of the proposal to build, a good response would be made, the result of the appeal for workers far exceeded expectations. In one church where the appeal was stressed as many as 16 men responded. We are confident that under similar circumstances, were all our churches made aware of the need, hundreds of voluntary workers would offer their services.

The Value of the Effort

Not only have we provided a home for a deserving family, which otherwise was impossible for them, but we have shown to the people of the district, and to the whole State, that the church can take off its coat to solve a problem demanding hard work and sacrifice.

It is not enough for the church to be able to point to her orphanages, her hospitals and benevolent institutions across the seas; the homeland asks for similar evidence of Christian faith. The building of this house was

not a great accomplishment in itself, but the public seized on it as an occasion when the church merited its praise.

A Door of Opportunity

is open to the church to do some great things for God by service to our neighbors. It is not enough to meet in our buildings, to sing, pray and preach. The gospel is never more effectively preached than when it is preached in deeds. The sceptic and the unbeliever have no argument against it.

Congratulations have reached the department from many sources, and many members of our churches have expressed their sense of pride in the achievement.



Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Smith and Roma.



The House Built in a Day.

Block by courtesy "Sun."

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦ The Greatest Power ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

GREAT opportunities are granted to the church in a world now emerging from the welter of world conflict.

To secure the kind of life for which so much has been sacrificed is the privilege of

the Christian church, which is the greatest power in the land, with greater opportunities to rebuild the ruined places than can be found in politics, business or elsewhere.

The church must not fail.

I Am Certain

F. E. Buckingham, C.F.A. Field Representative

I am certain that the church must put into practice what it teaches before it can accomplish in all its fulness the purpose for which it was established.

No proof is needed of the value of works when associated with faith. It is not what we believe about Jesus Christ, but what we put into effect as a result of that belief which counts. I make bold to say that no effective gospel can be preached unless it is accompanied by works. The evangel is to me more comprehensively glorious to-day than ever before.

I am certain that fellowship is an essential part of the structure and programme of the church.

The fellowship of the early church was its strongest commendation. Men of all nations in this fellowship forgot their nationality in the new relationships they had found.

I am certain that in this fellowship is to be found the solution of many of this world's problems. The world needs a practical living out of the life and teaching of Jesus. It was his practical sympathy with the people and his willingness to share their infirmities that touched their hearts. I am certain that had he confined his ministry to words alone his love would not have been understood.

I am certain that the Christian Fellowship Association (C.F.A.) has a scriptural warrant, and if accepted and adopted by the churches, will not only solve the financial problem but would provide an outlet for the energy and service of the members.

I am certain that were members of the church to know what C.F.A. has accomplished and understood something of its potential qualities, they would become members of it. There is nothing which so inspires and encourages as accomplishment. C.F.A. has been behind all major accomplishments of the department of recent years. Were the whole church wholeheartedly in this fellowship of deeds, the possibilities would be limitless.

Yes, I am certain.



"Frogmore House."

This beautiful property of 12 main rooms and two spacious verandahs on two acres of land, situated within ten minutes of Murrumbidgee railway station, has been secured by the Victorian Social Service Department for conversion to a hospital. See ground plan.

precedent has been established which is difficult to follow. The rules of the home stipulate that such cases must be removed. The difficulties of obtaining hospital accommodation at the present time, especially for aged people, however, left no other alternative. Other bed-ridden cases and prospective cases, due to the weakness and weariness of the flesh, constitute a difficult problem for the immediate future.

We have a suitable property for the hospital, but we are faced with the necessity of bringing it up to Board of Health requirements which will involve an expenditure approximating four to five thousand pounds. In spite of this, the committee intends to proceed with the work. Not only must the building be brought up to date, but nurses' quarters must be provided, and certain consideration must be given to providing such conveniences as are considered necessary to such an institution.

At present the building is being used to accommodate some church families, but it has been decided to commence operations at the earliest opportunity. The help of the brotherhood is earnestly solicited.

The Ministry of the Master

E. Lyall Williams, M.A.

LANGUISHING in prison, John the Baptist was constrained to send messengers to Christ with the query: "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" The answer of Jesus was a description of his ministry, "Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them."

The ministry of the Master was a crusade against evil of every kind. Emphasis used to be laid upon the miracles of our Lord as signs or proofs of his divinity. They were seals upon the document. But we do better to see them as acts of mercy. They were a part of the document, an integral part of his crusade against evil. These works of mercy were expressions of his divine compassion and mission and power. He refused to work miracles as mere signs to satisfy a craving for such; but he never hesitated to respond to a cry of need. He delighted to stand before one who was afflicted and say, "Be thou whole," and send the sufferer away healed. Wherever he went he was seeking to lift burdens from depressed lives. He broke through religious conventions and traditions to get to men in need and carry through his practical crusade against evil.

By his teaching and ministry Christ has left us with the moral conclusion that virtue is love. His was a ministry of love. Brotherly love, concern and compassion for another, altruism, is a cardinal virtue. It is true that love is a sentiment with an emotional content. But we do an injustice to love and misunderstand its meaning if we think of it only in terms of emotion. It is impossible for our love of a comparative stranger in need or an enemy to have the same emotional content as our love for loved ones or friends. We are helped if we understand love as an unselfish and a positive attitude—a positive affirmative tendency which considers even an enemy as "worthful."

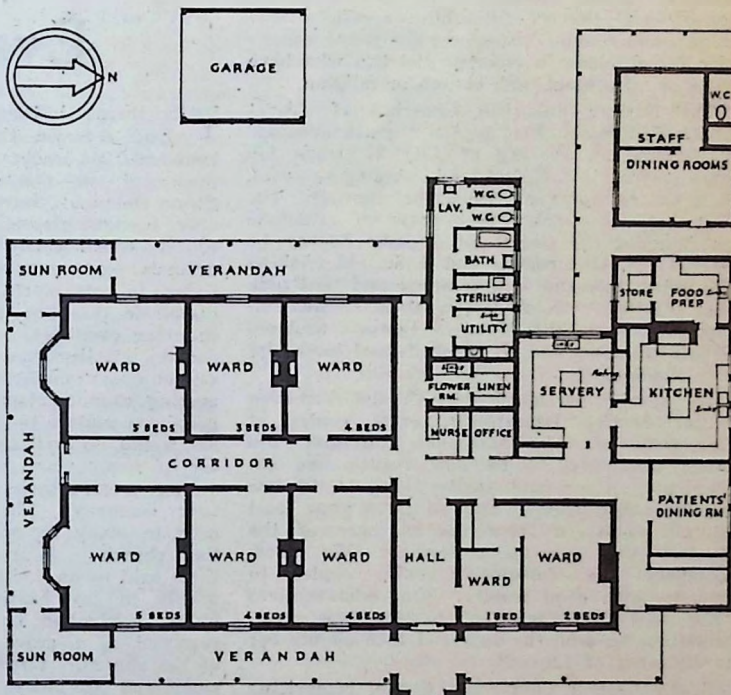
Love is also a practical attitude. It is more than a mere feeling. It may be described as a way of life. John Bright's father stood one day in a crowd which had gathered around a carter whose horse and cart had been damaged past repair in an accident. There were loud expressions of sympathy.

Turning to his neighbor he said, "I feel five pounds; how much dost thou feel?"

The ministry of the church must be inspired and determined by the ministry of the Master. We are justly proud of every record of Christian social service. In the early history of the church the active philanthropy of the Christians was freely extended to the pagans and contributed greatly to the propagation of the Christian faith.

"The emperor Julian confessed with shame that the despised Galileans were the main benefactors of the poor of the empire. During the frequent pestilences the Christians were unremitting in their attendance upon the sick, and tenderly nursed those who were abandoned by their pagan nurses and physicians."

Houses for the impotent and aged poor, orphanages, founding hospitals for exposed children, and hospitals for the sick sprang up under the inspiration of Christ. This kind of ministry rings true. We bless others and commend Christ by perpetuating his ministry.



Ground Plan of 28-bed Hospital. Nurses' Quarters to be Built Separately.

Hospital in Prospect

THE urgent need for a hospital in association with our home has recently been emphasised. A guest was "called home" a few weeks ago, who had been nursed for a period of more than three months. Not only did this impose an extra strain on the staff, but it became necessary to engage a night nurse at a cost of £5/14/- weekly. Furthermore, a

THE OTHER MAN'S PLACE

WHEN someone asked Daniel Willard, the great head of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway, what was the outstanding qualification for a successful executive, he replied: "The ability and the willingness to put yourself in the other man's place."

The Australian Christian

August 7, 1946

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**THE FRIENDLY HAND WHICH GIVES IS EXTENDED
TO RECEIVE ON AUGUST 18. £1000 IS NEEDED**

Here and There

We regret that Dr. Wm. Robinson will not be able to make the journey to Australia and share in the centenary conference.

We are indebted to W. T. Atkin, associate secretary of the Victorian Social Service Department, for gathering articles and pictures for this special issue.

We are pleased that C. B. Nance-Kivell, preacher of church at Swanston-st., Melbourne, is making a good recovery after his recent sudden illness, and is leaving hospital sooner than at first expected.

The Right Hon. R. G. Menzies in a recent address presented a plea for a return to the Bible. He urged that the Bible was written about real people. "It dealt," he said, "in real language with the real things of life."

The Australian Broadcasting Commission has arranged a children's religious session for the national network on Sunday afternoons at 5.30 p.m., E.S.T. The programme includes a story entitled "Anderson's Place" by Gwen Meredith. At 5.45-6 p.m., Mr. W. N. Oats tells "stories that still happen" to pupils of the Friends' School, Hobart. This session is designed not directly for children who attend church and Sunday school regularly, but especially for children in country districts who have little or no contact with church or religion.

The Eastern Suburban Churches of Christ Youth Fellowship, Vic., held a "squash evening" at Balwyn on evening of July 21, when 170 were present. F. Elliott led in singing choruses. A hymn and prayer opened the meeting. The first half of evening took form of a debate on "Should the Secret of Atomic Energy be Shared?" J. Abercrombie and G. Scambler taking the affirmative and I. Greenwood and G. Ogden the negative. J. Anderson then showed interesting films, Miss Frances Cowper rendered delightful solos, and K. Mitchell read the scripture reading.

By special arrangement with the Victorian Social Service Department, extra copies of this issue of "The Australian Christian" are being distributed. To new readers we extend a welcome and invite them to become regular subscribers. Enquire from your local church agent or from the manager of the Austral Co. concerning terms. We know members are forwarding extra copies to friends, with good results. One who receives "The Australian Christian" in this way wrote, "Continue to send the paper. I take off my hat to churches of Christ."

South Central Conference Group, comprising the St. Kilda, Prahran, South Yarra, Middle Park and South Melbourne churches, held annual business meeting and inspirational rally in South Melbourne chapel on Saturday, July 27. After a bright song-service led by L. E. Brooker, the president, H. Annetts, took charge of the meeting. E. J. Miles, of Moreland, gave an instructive and challenging address. Mr. McConchie, of Malvern, rendered two splendid solos. H. Annetts was re-elected president, E. H. Randall vice-president, D. F. Morgan secretary and treasurer. A time of fellowship and supper brought conference to a happy close.

"What kind of a sermon do the Empty Pews recommend? An eloquent discourse? An educated treatise? An entertaining speaker? Ah, no, all these leave us emptier than ever. We plead for a sermon that will meet the need of the human heart. We have seen generations come and go. Faces may alter and fashions may change, but the human heart remains the same. Rich or poor, young or old, great or small, at heart there is no essential difference. Each one has a burden of sin on his soul, and the only sermon we have ever heard that fully meets the need is the old, old story of Jesus and his love.—"New Life."

A fine spirit prevails at all meetings at Ormond, Vic. At morning service on July 28, a dedication of all office bearers for 1946-47 took place, Mr. Martin officiating. David McMillan was received into fellowship following baptism on July 14. Ann Miller and Gwen Patterson were baptised at evening service on July 28, and welcomed into membership on Aug. 4 along with Mrs. Clarke, formerly of St. Kilda. Girls' choir, under leadership of K. Austin, is growing, and adds a good number of young people to gospel service. Bible school has begun practice for anniversary under leadership of C. Gadge. Happy fellowship was enjoyed on July 27, when South-eastern Young People's Fellowship Association entertained officers of churches and their wives at a concert and social in chapel, also on 22nd, when Ladies' Aid held a successful evening social. Mrs. Patterson is very ill again. August is self-denial month for members. Betty Mitchell, a member of choir, accepted Christ on Aug. 4, at close of address. Mr. Martin's addresses are appreciated.

With the object in view of making the Sunday evening services brighter as a means of attracting those in the district who do not regularly attend evening service, the church at Thornbury, Vic., prepared plans for a special series of services during the winter months. The series commenced on July 14, and for three evenings in July the principal attraction was a discussion between the preacher and a guest speaker on the subject: What must the church do concerning—(a) "The working man"; (b) "The problem of rehabilitation"; (c) "Beer gardens or kindergartens?" One subject was taken each evening. The speakers in order were, Hon. J. Cain, Premier of Victoria; ex-Flying Officer Peach, of the local branch of R.S.S.A.I.L.A.; and Mr. F. L. Edmunds, M.L.A. The meetings were suitably advertised, and the average evening attendance doubled. Mr. Stewart delivered a powerful gospel sermon on each occasion as his contribution to the discussion. The usual standard type of order of service was so amended that the meetings were not any longer than usual. Many visitors were present, some coming each week. Many comments have been made about the changed type of service, most of which have been favorable.

Every Christian to his Post

THE recent industrial upheaval in Queensland revealed the activity and power of communistic leaders. They fomented and prolonged an eighteen weeks' strike which threw thousands into unemployment and probably brought depression days twelve months nearer—which conditions are fertile breeding-grounds for communistic ideas. As we are living in one world, it is not impossible to dissociate this unrest with similar movements in other countries. During the strike leaders defied constitutional authority and adopted revolutionary methods. Although unions are ousting communists as leaders, we do not expect communists to "let up." Christian leaders would do well to have a clear understanding of communism so that we will know where we agree with their ideas and where we must part company. The communists have their cells in many factories; so should the Christian church. A speaker from a public platform said to an audience of about five hundred people in my hearing that there are some unions controlled by communists where it is regarded as a grave offence to be a member of the church. Christians awake! As Nazism conquered Germany within a generation, so could atheistic communism conquer Australia. Christians awake! Every Christian to his post!

Rural Development

At school a teacher suggested to us that the Roman Empire fell because too many people congregated in the city. Practically half the population of Australia lives in the cities. This is not in the best interests of the country. We were interested, therefore, in a convention on rural development held in Toowoomba by the National Catholic Rural Movement which appears to be a Roman Catholic organisation designed to help any farmer in a district with his problems, anxieties and troubles. The convention emphasised the importance of soil preservation, irrigation, scientific farming, and putting back into the soil by fertilisation what had been taken out in previous years.

A New Age

Hayden McCallum, travelling secretary of the Australian Student Christian Movement, brought us an enlightening message on the times in which we are living. Dr. Goddard has also reminded us that we are living in the twi-

In the Queensland letter, P. C. D. Alcorn, B.A., stresses that the witness of Christians is necessary in the rising tide of materialism and in view of the developments of a new age.

light of one civilisation and another is about to dawn. Dr. Goddard envisages a Pacific civilisation of culture and mechanical strength. Forthcoming conferences may be able to make a contribution towards laying Christian foundations for the new age. The new Education Fellowship Conference, to be held in Brisbane at the end of August and the beginning of September, will debate the challenge of the atomic age to education. The National Missionary Council (Queensland branch) is also planning a conference to discuss missionary policies in the Pacific.

Developments

Congregations have felt themselves transported to the islands as they have listened to Mr. and Mrs. Finger tell of their work in the New Hebrides.

L. G. Burgin is broadcasting the plea under the caption, "Beams of Light from the Word of Life" from station 4IP every Friday night. A. E. Boettcher, a member of the church at East Ipswich, is sponsoring this move.

It is proposed to hold a district conference of Toowoomba, Ma Ma Creek, Boonah, Silverdale, East Ipswich and West Moreton churches. G. T. Millar, preacher at Mackay, is organising a northern conference to be held at Townsville on Sept. 28 and 29. We cordially commend these efforts to foster fellowship and inspire members to greater service. But it is a matter for reflection that never before have we had so many committees, and never before have we held so many conferences, and yet, if conference statistics are any criterion, progress has not been commensurate with increased organisation. Something more than machinery is needed.

News of the Churches

Western Australia

Perth.—Daily Bible readings are now published in Lake-st. bulletin. The readings have, when possible, relation to one of the following Sunday's subjects. For past three months church has enjoyed fellowship with Mr. and Mrs. O'Shea. They have returned to their home in Melbourne. On morning of July 28, F. M. Fewster gave an informative talk. In evening two Bible school scholars were baptised. J. K. Robinson preached; A. M. Bell helped. Appreciation was expressed of Cyril Cook's eleven years' service as organist.

Queenland

Albion.—Overseas mission rally on July 2 was attended by 70. An offering amounted to £14. Mr. and Mrs. Finger were speakers. Overseas mission offering has so far amounted to almost £73. On Sundays during recent Brisbane strike, gospel meeting was held at 3 p.m. instead of during evening because of lighting and transport restrictions.

Rosewood.—H. Finger paid a visit and told the church something of the mission work in which he is engaged. On June 19 H. Mundt, after a short illness, was called to rest. Sympathy is extended to his widow and relatives. F. Jackwitz is recovering from rather severe illness. J. Domrow is very ill. At half-yearly meeting W. Mundt was appointed secretary of church.

Maryborough.—S. Jenner was speaker at both services on June 30, and conducted a lantern lecture on Monday evening. Mr. Pearson Harrison, vice-president of State C.E. Union, addressed Endeavorers on July 5. He also conducted a union rally meeting on Saturday afternoon and addressed a C.E. united rally meeting on Saturday evening. All meetings were held in chapel. H. C. Spratt was elected president of union. Other officers elected from this church were E. Lecon, C. Hamann, D. Elliott and Mrs. C. Hamann. At morning meeting on July 7, Mr. Pearson Harrison gave the address. Ladies' Guild held a gift afternoon on June 26. Sunday evening meetings were held whilst lighting restrictions were on. Sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Hamann in the death of Mr. Hamann's father.

Tasmania

Hobart (Collins-st.).—During July three young women confessed Christ and were baptised. Miss Jenkins, of United Sudan Mission, was speaker at Mission Band Fellowship on July 21. Annual meeting of Dorcas Society, on July 25, took form of an American afternoon in aid of Bethany Boys' Home, £10/8/- being raised. Musical and elocutionary items were rendered by Mrs. H. Cooper, Mrs. L. Moore, Mrs. Stranger and Mrs. Watkins. Annual report was read by secretary (Mrs. Madel-Cole). All officers were re-elected: President, Mrs. Jarvis; vice-president, Mrs. Clifford; secretary, Mrs. Cole; assistant, Mrs. Stranger; treasurer, Mrs. Staples; pianists, Mrs. Stranger and Miss Speakman. On July 28 Men's Fellowship was formed. Officers elected: President, R. J. Boxhall; secretary, D. Bowes. S. Cooper addressed first meeting after tea at chapel on experiences in Japan. At annual meeting of Mothers' and Friends' Club on July 23, officers elected were: President, Mrs. C. P. Hughes; vice-president, Mesdames Boxhall and Dixon; secretary, Mrs. M. Ashton; treasurer, Mrs. L. Moore. C. P. Hughes commences his fourth year of work

with the church. There are good meetings, and all auxiliaries are healthy.

Launceston (Margaret-st.).—The loss of two very faithful members has been sustained in the home-call of Charles Best and Gordon Nelson, the latter a deacon and choir member. Three were baptised on July 17. Men's Fellowship on that day listened to an address by F. Smithies, O.B.E., who told of Tasmanian exploration. Annual F.M. offering now stands at over £132. Recent visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Duff, Melbourne.

Caveside.—On July 7 a visit by R. Edmunds, H. E. Sulzberger and G. Groves was enjoyed. R. Edmunds was speaker. After morning meeting A. Harvey, on behalf of church, presented a copy of "Streams in the Desert" to C. H. Byard, who after 30 years as secretary has, owing to recent serious illness, resigned that position. Presentation of text and book were also made to Mrs. Geo. Sinfeld, who has resigned owing to ill-health from being kindergarten teacher.

South Australia

Forestville.—Services continue with happy meetings. On evening of July 21 three Bible class girls were baptised at commencement of a splendid evening service. Mr. Russell gave an interesting chart address. Bible school has excellent attendances. Mothers' Club has had inaugural meeting, and shows promise. Young People's Club has had several meetings, and has an attractive syllabus.

Kilburn.—This cause is now 18 weeks old. On July 28, 60 attended 10 a.m. Bible school, largest attendance to date. 52 were present at 11 a.m. service. At fourth special evening gospel service 33 attended. A. E. Brown preached splendidly at all services. Assistance from A. McEwan (song-leader), F. Stone (pianist), and also Sister E. Bartlett (elocutionist), of Croydon church, is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated. Mrs. Watson and Harry were received by letter of transfer from Glenelg (S.A.) and Wagga (N.S.W.) churches respectively.

Nailsworth.—Annual business meeting of church was held on July 18. R. Green was elected a deacon. A gift evening was given to Shirley Moore prior to her marriage to Rex Shill. Bible school is practising under leadership of G. Clarke for anniversary. F.M. offering was £27. Youth service was conducted on July 28. Short addresses on Peter were given by Messrs. Fletcher, Manning and Steward. At close a young man confessed Christ. Gospel meetings are well attended, contact being made with a number of strangers. Auxiliaries are working satisfactorily.

Port Pirie.—Attendances were well maintained during July. Several visitors were welcomed. G. T. Fitzgerald has been with church for a week of meetings following up work of tent mission held last October. He took both services on July 21 and 28. Meetings were also held on July 23 to 25, when Mr. Fitzgerald faithfully proclaimed gospel. A much better attendance has been noticed at weekly meetings for prayer and Bible study. Practice has begun for Sunday school anniversary. Many scholars from Bible school sat for examination after study of book, "About the Church." Interest is shown in increase campaign for scholars.

Wampoony.—Owing to flooded condition of roads, recently formed Young People's Group has temporarily gone into recess. Overseas mission offering amounted to £27. Jim Jacobs has settled into civilian life, and is taking part again in services, and young men added to church during last twelve months are creditably taking their places. A social evening, under leadership of Mr. Baker, was enjoyed by young

people on July 17. Attendance is somewhat hampered by condition of roads, and preacher has much extra travelling owing to main road being inundated. Perce Hunt, who was an early member of church, and now of Mundalla, is seriously ill.

York.—July 21 was 62nd anniversary of church, when happy and helpful services were held. W. C. Brooker addressed morning meeting, and C. Schwab brought gospel message at night. Special singing was rendered by choir. Mrs. L. V. Mathews and L. Gehlken assisted with appreciated solos. On evening of July 24, a welcome home was given to those who have returned from Services. A. R. Jones gave the address. Supper was served at close. On July 28 L. G. Johnson addressed morning and evening meetings. At night a young man who recently decided for Christ was baptised. Those who were sick are meeting with church again.

Strathalbyn.—Work continues steadily. On July 7 Mr. Tester was received into fellowship by transfer from Mt. Compass. Y.W.L. has been revived, and children enjoy Mr. Stow's Bible talks. An Explorer Club, under leadership of K. Cross, is becoming a popular feature of youth work. Eight scholars from Bible school sat for scripture examination. J.C.E. meet each Lord's day morning; average attendance for past month, 15. On July 3, sisters' meeting was held in home of Mrs. Durdin, whose health is improving. At a social on July 18, the kitchen which is sisters' centenary effort was opened by Mrs. Pring. Building is almost free of debt.

Balaklava.—Colin Clark and Bruce Roberts have been baptised and received into fellowship. Attendances at all services have been well maintained. Church was saddened by sudden home-call of Mrs. A. T. Whiting, a loyal worker for many years, who will be much missed. Mrs. J. Curtis has been re-elected president, and Miss E. Webb re-elected secretary, of local W.C.T.U. Visitors who have had fellowship with church included Mrs. P. Roediger, Miss E. Wilson and Miss D. M. Hutson, all of W.A. Church welcomed back Mr. and Mrs. Pearl from an extended holiday in Victoria. C.E. Society held a cottage meeting at home of Misses Shepherd. A special offering for a food parcel to be sent to Britain realised 25/-. Church foreign mission offering was increased by £5 over last year's annual offering. Geoff. Whiting, of Wembley, W.A., preached at gospel service on July 14. A. Hutson has concluded a series of 19 addresses on the new order a new way of life, an interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount.

New South Wales

Marrickville.—Restricted tram and train services, and illness of several members, have affected services. On July 21 the church was addressed by Roy Greenhalgh, youth director, in connection with coming child evangelism campaign, and an appeal was made for co-operation. At prayer meeting on July 24, Mr. Thomas installed K.S.P. officers for ensuing year, Jack Ferguson being new chancellor. C.E. Societies held an enjoyable social on July 23.

Kingsford.—On morning of June 23 a brother from Chatswood church gave a helpful address, and Mr. Read preached at night. On evening of June 25 a welcome home service was held for returned Service men and women. Mr. Read presided. Mr. Crossman, rehabilitation officer, gave a helpful address. Supper concluded a pleasant evening. On July 3 an evening for Service men was given by K.S.P. An enjoyable time was spent. Other regular Sunday services during past month were held with helpful addresses by Mr. Read.

South Auburn.—July services continued on a high level. Gospel addresses were given by Messrs. A. Kallmier, MacLean (conference president) and E. Davis. At Wednesday night services R. T. Hickin, G. Gray, A. Kallmier and

Miss A. Woolley gave talks. Bible school shows improvement. A number of scholars sat for scripture examination. Dorcas Class celebrated 38th anniversary on July 30. Christian Endeavorers are training for day of sports. On July 20, at 7 p.m., Woolwich Bible College students' evangelistic team visited Auburn. At 7 p.m. an open-air meeting was held, followed by a crowded meeting in chapel. Music and addresses were appreciated for their reverent and spiritual tone.

Wollongong.—Church received a message through Mr. Williams, of Kaniva, on July 28, at morning meeting. Attendances at all meetings have dropped a little during winter, but the church is in good heart. Over past four weeks, 22 have confessed Christ at gospel services. A number of these were church members who desired a more fully surrendered life. Beth Main was baptised at gospel service on July 21. Mr. and Mrs. Candy began their second year with church on Aug. 4, and mention was made of this at morning service. A piece of land has been purchased at Port Kembla-Warrawong, and as soon as possible a school hall is to be erected. Already a healthy work is going on down there. Between 40 and 50 children attend the open-air Sunday school held amongst the Housing-Commission homes, and two C.E. societies with aggregate of 50 members are conducted each week in a private home. Local societies are taking a prominent part in district union annual convention. Girls' Club is progressing and new members are being won. Much interest is shown in gymnasium and handcraft. Tennis team is undefeated in inter-church competitions. Bible school experimented with a "pet afternoon" on July 27, which proved successful. School is growing.

Victoria

Emerald.—Young folks' activities are becoming a feature. At evening service of July 28 a delightful quartette was sung by Shirley and Cathy Legg, Lorna Hamilton and Patsy Berry, conducted by Blanche Hamilton.

Bet Bet.—Foreign mission offering amounted to £20/5/-. J. McKenzie addressed morning meeting on July 21 in absence of student, K. Dixon. Five young people who were baptised in Maryborough on July 21 were received into fellowship following Sunday. Four scholars sat for scripture examinations.

Stawell.—Mr. Collingwood was speaker on July 21, Mr. Trompf on 28th. The preacher, A. Mudford, is in hospital and progressing well after operation. Mr. Jackson is ill. Sister E. Hupfield has recovered from illness. Mrs. Jackson is improving in health. Young People's Club held a social on July 15. Christian Endeavorers are doing good work.

Oakleigh.—Evening service on July 28 was conducted by members of I.O.R. as part of their Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Capt. Doorly, Antarctic explorer, gave a lantern lecture, "With Scott and Shackleton at the South Pole," to K.S.P. members and friends on July 31. Sickness among members has depleted attendances during recent weeks. Women's Mission Band meets at Christian Guest Home during winter months.

Malvern-Caulfield.—Evening service on July 28 was a citizens' service, at which A. A. Hughes spoke to a large and appreciative audience. On July 29 a social evening was tendered to Miss Gladys White and J. Griffiths in view of their approaching marriage. G. W. Mitchell made a presentation on behalf of church. The couple were married on Aug. 3 by C. Cole. On Aug. 1 a re-union banquet and welcome home night was extended to all returned Service men and women associated with church over past years. At evening which followed several friends gave splendid items. Two former preachers of church—F. E. Buckingham and W. G. Graham—took part in programme.

Moreland.—Sympathy goes out to mother, brother and sisters of Ron King, ex-A.I.F., accidentally killed in a motor accident on July 30. J. Workman is home from hospital and recovering from serious illness. I.C.E. has commenced a service whereby sick and shut-in members may partake of the Supper; this is facilitated by presentation of a special communion tray by S. Fordham. A girls' club, under leadership of Mrs. E. J. Miles, has made a good beginning. J.C.E. had record attendance of 31 on July 28.

North Essendon.—In absence of L. A. Trezise in the country, J. W. Burns was speaker at morning service on Aug. 4. R. Thompson had charge of gospel meeting. Both addresses were appreciated. Students of Melbourne Bible Institute held a very successful evening in chapel on Aug. 3. Members were shocked to hear of death of Ron. King, of Moreland church, whose membership was at North Essendon from 1933 until 1940, when he went to Moreland to reside. Although living out of the district, he retained association with church. Prayers of church are offered for his mother and sisters.

Coburg.—On July 14 Len Crossfield was received into fellowship from Geelong. Unice Spry made the good confession on July 14, and was baptised following Sunday. G. Prittie and Mr. and Mrs. Spry, of Lygon-st., were received into fellowship, also Unice Spry. Foreign mission offering was £18. Welcome has been extended to Pte. Charlie Betts, returned from Darwin. Miss Shirley Phelan, who has been absent in Sydney for six months, has returned. Average communicants for July, 92. A special meeting of church was held on July 31 to arrange plans for a tent mission early in new year.

Reservoir.—Twelfth anniversary of church was celebrated on July 27 and 28. On Saturday a tea meeting and concert were enjoyed. There was excellent attendance on Sunday morning, also in afternoon, when F. E. Buckingham gave an interesting talk on building a house in a day. Several musical items were enjoyed. B. J. Combridge (conference president) was speaker at gospel meeting. Two anthems were rendered by choir. A men's club has been formed with Mr. Alcorn president, G. F. Johnson vice-president, K. Newstead secretary, and A. Welsford treasurer. On Aug. 4 Mr. Atkin gave a description of activities of Social Service Department.

Burnley.—Meetings have good attendances. On July 7 Mr. Buckingham gave an address on behalf of C.F.A. On July 28 Mr. Bond, of Springvale, was speaker. Mr. Long has been giving a series of appreciated second-coming addresses. Fellowship has been enjoyed with L. Cutts, of W.A. Mrs. Climas has recovered from illness and is again able to attend communion service. At annual business meeting on July 21, reports of all auxiliaries showed fair progress. Officers for year were elected: secretary, F. Barnett; treasurer, C. Newham; deacons, A. Marris, L. Cockerell. D. Grant, who has been a valuable secretary for many years, has found it necessary to resign owing to college studies and preaching services.

Brighton.—Annual meeting was well attended. Attendances reported were largest for many years. Finance report was a record. Election of official board: Elders, J. D. Lang, T. R. Morris; deacons, E. F. Baker, J. P. Hall, E. B. Hilbig, J. Krone, F. Ludbrook, A. T. Mann, jun., R. A. Morrall, H. C. Morris, R. Scott; Bible school superintendent, K. C. Hemsley; treasurers, J. H. Charlesworth, C. W. Emmett; assistant treasurer, W. R. L. Rodgers-Wilson; secretary, N. R. Arnott; assistant secretary, K. P. Balson. W. R. Hibbert on morning of Aug. 4 gave a thrilling account of activities of Young People's Department. This was first in a series of addresses during August on brotherhood committees and their work. A feature at evening services this month is brief comments on outstanding news questions.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—Good Companions' Club has completed three years of happy fellowship under leadership of Miss F. Haines. Making Christmas toys and having care of Sunday morning creche are two valued ministries. Congregations at services are keeping up well, C. G. Taylor preaching helpful sermons. At gospel service on July 28 Tui Osbourne confessed Christ.

Middle Park.—On July 28, meetings were well attended. Mr. Fisher was morning speaker and Mr. Randall delivered gospel address. Best wishes were extended to Miss T. Gardner and Miss P. Wells, who are taking up work in Sydney. Overseas mission offering amounted to £16/5/-. Church has enjoyed fellowship with Mrs. Wescombe, from Devonport, Tas. She rendered a beautiful solo at gospel service on Aug. 4.

Parkdale.—The church continues in happy fellowship and faithful witness bearing. A sustained effort is being made to bring the message of salvation to every home in the district; this is being done by door-to-door visitation. Bible school maintains interest and is improving. Young Worshipers' League recently sent useful gifts to aborigines mission fields, to India and other needy causes. P.B.P. distinguished themselves in inter-church dramatic contest by attaining to first place in presentation of "Women at War." They also favored friends of Parkdale with this presentation at a concert recently held. A useful feature of work is Thursday evening prayer and Bible study service. Attendances are good, and interest in themes discussed is encouraging. Overseas offering amounted to £38/10/-. Sisters' Snowball Society contributed £20 towards cost of thermalators for church building.

Kaniva.—Work is well maintained throughout circuit. Mr. Earle has entered into sixth year of his ministry with church. Overseas offering amounted to £169. A crate of machinery has been dispatched to New Hebrides by men of church. It included a 7 h.p. engine, a 1½ h.p. engine, a saw bench, a timber trolley, a sewing machine, a generating plant, together with harness for mission horse. It is hoped to secure a concrete mixer in Sydney for inclusion in shipment. Men's Club held a successful musical evening in chapel on July 29, theme being "A Night with Handel." Y.P.S.C.E. continues to hold its meeting in homes of church members. Good meetings were held on Aug. 4. Mr. Earle spoke at both services. In evening he continued the winter's syllabus—a teaching mission in view of centenary of churches of Christ in Australia. There were two confessions of faith, Miss Jean Hill and Richard Williams (elder son of church secretary).

Ballarat (Dawson-st.).—Some sixty students, members of faculty, and their friends, had annual conference at Dawson-st. Ladies of church provided hospitality. Dr. Button, of St. Andrews, was speaker for day. Much sickness prevails amongst members. Mrs. Methven has returned to hospital for further operation. Mrs. Oates and Mrs. Stabernach are in hospital. Will Dunston has returned from Melbourne after operation to leg. Church half-yearly business meeting, held recently, showed satisfactory progress. Financial statement: Collections, £305; credit balance, £64; collections to contributory scheme, £139; Temple Day donations, £123. A men's club has been formed, consisting mostly of discharged personnel from Services. President, Eric Steele; vice-presidents, Kevin Schonell and Harold Smith; organising secretary, J. A. Wilkie. Ladies' Mission Band members have been busy making quilts for India. An electric blower has been fitted to church organ.

East Kew.—Attendances at both meetings have been good during last few weeks. On Aug. 4 Mr. Wigney spoke in morning, and gospel service was taken by young men of church. Alf Johnson rendered two solos. At close a young man confessed Christ. Sunday school campaign had another good day on Aug. 4, when nine more new scholars were added to school.

Bendigo.—Recent services have been very well attended. Ladies' Auxiliary completed five quilts for India, and have forwarded 56 articles for "Babies in Europe" appeal. Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Jones on the occasion of their Silver Wedding. C.E. meetings have increased in numbers, several returned men having strengthened the ranks. Mr. Mathieson has been appointed Probation Officer to Children's Court. Mr. and Mrs. K. Read have recently been welcomed into fellowship. Mrs. C. T. Bailey has come from Derby and is residing at Golden Square. On July 28, the church had as visitors A. W. Stephenson and J. McG. Abercrombie, of Melbourne. Both took part in morning service.

C.E. Activities

R. Greenhalgh

THE LOOK-OUT COMMITTEE

Ours to keep a wakeful, watchful eye
For strangers, who betimes are shy;
To bid them welcome, for then they feel at home,
And by invitation given—they again may come.
Ours to do.

—"Ace," in "W.A. Golden Link."

Bridgetown, W.A., society is only small averaging six members attending, but it is very active. Its activities cover decorating the chapel for special meetings, exchange meetings with other societies. On Mother's Day they commenced a Sunday school in connection with the church. In addition they are cultivating the missionary mind. The size of the society doesn't matter; it is quality that counts.

Congratulations to Whyalla and Aldgate Valley Junior C.E. Societies for coming first and second respectively in the South Australian C.E. Union Silver Shield awards. Whyalla gained 90 points and Aldgate Valley 82 points.

Whyalla is only a comparatively new society with only ten months' record when the competition closed, and it elicited very warm commendation from the adjudicator. Whyalla also holds the banner awarded to country societies by the Churches of Christ C.E. Department.

The judging for the competition was done by Mrs. Clem Gers, better known among junior workers as Mona Jones. Mrs. Gers and her husband are now at Moruya, N.S.W., and have commenced a Sunday school there.

Congratulations to the following who received honors in the C.E. efficiency examination in South Australia:—

First Year.—Joy Riches, 2nd, Prospect, 84; Olive Moore, 3rd, Port Pirie, 82.

Second Year.—A. R. Pigdon, 1st, Port Pirie, 91 (honors).

We would urge all C.E. leaders to encourage their members to enter for the C.E. efficiency examination. Societies are stronger and more enthusiastic for the inspiration gained through this study.

Margaret-st., Launceston, Tas., has three strong grades of C.E. The Y.P.S.C.E. send out a newsy paper each month to isolated members and to members of the Forces, and to the

latter a typed news-letter of C.E. and general church news is sent. When the Intermediate Society was recently formed into Junior and Intermediate grades, one of the Intermediates became the Junior superintendent, and is doing excellent work.

Send an outline of the work of your society to Mr. R. Greenhalgh, 69 Campbell-st., Sydney, so that others may share through this column.

ADDRESSES

F. Barnett (secretary Burnley church, Vic.).
—7 Mitchell-st., Burnley, E.I.

W. Mundt (secretary Rosewood church, Qld.).—Matthew-st., Rosewood.

BOARD AND RESIDENCE

Belgrave.—Good accommodation in homely guest house, opposite park and swimming pool. Handy shops. 'Bus stops at door. Tennis court. 'Phone, Bel. 356.—Mrs. Rogers, "Stainby," Benson-st., Belgrave.

Vacancies now and September holidays. Children 12 months to 7 years specially catered for. Write Nurse O. M. Cantlay and Miss O. Bright, "Cherub Nook," Mt. Macedon, Vic.

WANTED

Small furnished house in Dandenong, accommodate five, from Sept. 2 to 16.—C. H. Robinson, 246 Highfield-rd., Burwood, E.13. 'Phone, WM3484.

FAIRFIELD CHURCH. HOME-COMING SERVICES,

AUGUST 25.

11 a.m., Mr. Alec Wilson.
3 p.m., Mr. B. J. Combridge, conference president.
7 p.m., Mr. T. A. Fitzgerald.

Hospitality provided.

BIRTH

ASHLIN (nee Pearce).—On July 26, at Royal Hobart Hospital, to Daphne, wife of G. E. Ashlin—a daughter (Kaye Margaret).

DEATHS

DONALDSON.—At his residence, 20 Margaret-st., Canterbury, James Lyall, loving husband of Sarah, loved father of Jessie, Ruby (dec.), Clarence (dec.), Leslie, Alice (Mrs. Hopkins).

STANYER.—On Aug. 2, at Castlemaine, Jemima, widow of the late John, formerly of Boort and Bendigo, loved mother of Amos, Daisy, Olive, Elida, Reby, Lily and Roy. Aged 81 years.

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

Mr. A. A. Smith and daughter, Mrs. Wordie, wish to thank all kind friends for letters, telegrams, flowers and personal expressions of sympathy in their recent sudden and sad bereavement. We deeply appreciate the time spent by Mr. Roffey; in his prayers, how he made the path so beautiful for our loved one to rest in the arms of Jesus.

IN MEMORIAM

DOWNS.—In loving memory of our dear mother and grandma, who was called to rest Aug. 6, 1945.

Resting where no shadows fall,
In perfect peace she awaits us all.
—Inserted by Harold and Lexie Annetts and Merle and Bill Whittaker.

GOLLER.—In sad and loving memory of our beloved daughter, Ida Ray, who passed away on Aug. 11, 1944. So sadly missed.

—Inserted by her sorrowing mother and father.

GOLLER.—In loving memory of Ida Ray, adored sister of Marjorie, sister-in-law of Keith. Passed away Aug. 11, 1944. Always in our thoughts.

GOLLER.—In loving memory of darling Ray, who passed away on Aug. 11, 1944. Love's greatest gift—remembrance.

—Inserted by P.J., and Barry Downs.

TAYLOR.—In loving memory of dear mother, who passed away at Bendigo Aug. 10, 1935; also father, died at Clunes April 11, 1887.

Thoughts return of days now past;

Years may go, but memories last;

Time goes on and memories stay

As near and dear as yesterday.

Love and remembrance last for ever.

—Inserted by their loving daughter May.

VIVIAN.—In loving memory of dear mother, who departed to be with her Lord on Aug. 7, 1945.

"E'en for the dead I will not bind my soul to grief,

Death cannot long divide,

For is it not as though the rose that climbed the garden wall

Has blossomed on the other side?

Death doth hide, but not divide,

Thou art but on Christ's other side,

Thou art with Christ and Christ with me,

In Christ united still are we."

—Inserted by son-in-law Colin and daughter Florrie, and granddaughters, Wendy and Dawn.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

City preacher desires accommodation as paying guest; or cottage (two adults, three children), two to three weeks January next. Willing assist Sunday services.—Write "Holiday," c/o Austral.

MINISTERS' WIVES ASSOCIATION

Next meeting of the above will be held at Swanston-st. lecture hall at 2.30 p.m., Friday, August 16.—J. Stewart, hon. sec.

BOX HILL (Court-st.),

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 8 p.m.

BROTHERHOOD WELCOME

to Miss Lynda Foreman
(Matron Dhond Hospital, India)
and Hariba Waghmodi, B.A.
(Indian Student).

Representative speakers.

Musical Programme, including Doncaster Quartette Party.

Everybody cordially invited.

NORTH SUBURBAN CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 8 p.m.,
at NORTH FITZROY.

E. L. Williams, M.A., will speak on
"Preserving Our Plea."

Soloist, Miss V. Barneden.

District Conference Choir led by Dr. Killmiller.

SOMETHING NEW!

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A Daily Scripture Promise for Every Day in the Year; with Original Verses,

By FAIRELIE THORNTON.

This book is unlike any other. On whichever page you open, you will find just the message you need. Make it your daily companion. A helpful and lasting gift all the year.

172 pages. Nicely bound; clear type,

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Open Forum

FOR "CHRISTIAN" READERS

(Correspondents are reminded that letters should not be more than 300 words in length, that names and not pseudonyms should be used, and that once a writer has had his say on a particular topic he should leave the way open for somebody else. We do not desire unsatisfactory crossfiring. The insertion of a letter does not imply editorial approval of its contents.—Ed.).

THE BISHOPS OF THE CHURCH

THE editorials of late on bishops and deacons are timely and greatly appreciated. When we consider the vital work of the eldership, and his Spirit-given relationship to the highest institution on earth, we must agree that there is a sad lack of teaching in both pulpit and print in regard to this important matter.

For many years the problem has arisen as to whether elders should be appointed or elected. In your article you have set out to show it was done by a "show of hands" by the congregation. With this many disagree. There are only two references in scripture to the appointment of elders—Acts 14: 23 and Titus 1: 5. Reading these texts in the A.V. and R.V. we are led to believe that the itinerating evangelists did the appointing of elders. They were not elected. Prof. J. W. McGarvey in his "New Commentary on Acts" gives first the text, "And when they (that is Paul and Barnabas) had appointed for them (that is the congregation) elders in every church and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, in whom they believed" (Acts 14: 23); and then this significant footnote appears: "The word here translated appointed (cheirotoneo) means primarily to stretch out the hand; secondarily, to appoint by a show of the hand; and thirdly, to appoint or elect without regard to the method. See Grimm's N.T. Greek Lexicon. Whether it designates here an act of Paul and Barnabas, or one which they caused the people to do, is not made clear. The force of the word favors the former view, while the previous act of the twelve in requiring the multitude to choose the deacons (6: 1-3), favors the latter." So it is not clear who showed the hands—the apostles or the people. "The force of the word favors the apostles," he says. It should be remembered that McGarvey, when preparing these notes, consulted Tischendorf and Tregelles, also Westcott and Hort, on the Greek text. Dr. J. Moffatt's version in modern speech, on the above text reads: "They (that is, Paul and Barnabas) chose Presbyters (elders) for them (the disciples) in every church . . . believed." (Brackets mine.)

May we be saved from the present weak democratic power of congregational voting on elders (often much abused) and leave it in higher hands of those better qualified to make the exalted and important appointment of our elders "in every church."—Cecil W. Jackel, Horsham, Vic.

[We are not unmindful of the problem raised by Mr. Jackel, but in view of the manner of

selection of the seven helpers in Acts 6: 3, we are inclined toward the possible translation of the Greek verb as being, "to appoint by election." In addition to authorities quoted we add Joseph B. Rotherham's translation of Acts 14: 23, "Moreover,—appointing (by vote) for them, in each assembly, elders,—praying with fasting,—they presented them to the Lord in whom they had put faith."—Editor.]

1946 ANNUAL SCRIPTURE EXAMINATION

VICTORIAN PRIZE WINNERS

Scholars

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Division 2.—1, Irene Gwenneth Williams, Yearlinga, 100; 2, Mary A. Beveridge, Malvern, 97; 3, Beryl Jean Swallow, Dimboola, 96; 4, Joan Methven, Castlemaine, 95.

Division 3.—1, Valda L. Morrison, Hartwell, 100; 2, Margaret Ernestine Moody, Malvern, 99½; 3, George Daniel Swallow, Dimboola, 99; 4, Leonie Joy Henshilwood, Hampton, 98½.

Division 4.—1, David Owen Williams, Coburg, 95; 2, Laurel Frances Turner, Echuca, 94; 3, Jacqueline Mary Dabb, Drumcondra, 93; 4, Lynette J. Turner, Hartwell, 91.

Division 5.—1, Irma Grace Morrison, Hartwell, 99; 2, Barbara Brown, Hartwell, 98; 3, Gwenneth Clair Foster, Fitzroy North, 97; 4, Ray Cedric Bolduan, Gardiner, 96.

Division 6.—1, Ronald Robert Myerscough, Coburg, 100; 2, Rona Lesley Davies, Mildura, 99½; 3, Valerie Rose Turnham, Preston West, 99; 4, Wilma Lee Golc, Hampton, 98½.

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Division 8.—1, Kathleen Mary Geyer, Gardiner, 100; 2, Nina Marion Pinches, Preston, 96; 3, Desley Lillian Machin, Caulfield, 95; 4, Olive Vera Laird, Hartwell, 94.

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Obituary

Mrs. Annie Flint

ON the morning of July 22, while in her sleep, Mrs. Annie Flint passed peacefully into the presence of Christ. She was present at the morning service of the church the day preceding her death, and seemed in her usual health. Mrs. Flint came into the church under the ministry of the late H. D. Smith. Most of her years were spent at Hindmarsh, S.A., where in her early life she was devoted to teaching in the Sunday school. For many years she was a faithful and energetic worker in the Dorcas Society. She also took an interest in temperance reform, and was a member of the White Ribbon Army. She was a faithful, earnest, consistent Christian woman. Like Mary of old, she did what she could. Her presence will be greatly missed in the assembly of the church. To her bereaved husband, Thos. Flint, we tender our Christian sympathy, and assure him of a reunion in God's own time in the Father's heavenly home.—J. E. Shipway.

Mrs. Margaret Pell

AT the advanced age of 91, Mrs. Margaret Pell passed to be with her Lord. She was one of the first to be baptised after the organisation of the Semaphore church, S.A., and all through her 34 years of membership she was loyal in attendance; and the things pertaining to the kingdom of God had a large place in her conversation and life. Her very firm hold on the "unseen and eternal" was a great strength and comfort in her time of suffering. For the family the parting is only "until the day break and the shadows flee away."—W.L.E.

Mrs. Isabella Saxby

WHEN Mrs. Isabella Saxby, wife of Edwin J. Saxby, passed away on Wednesday, July 10, there was removed from the Taree church, N.S.W., one of its most faithful and devoted members. Mrs. Saxby was born on the Manning River 73 years ago, and her whole life was spent in and around Taree, where she won for herself the love and respect of all members of the community who could appreciate her true worth and sincerity. She became associated with churches of Christ during the ministry of the late G. T. Walden, being baptised at Enmore Tabernacle, and throughout her whole life her constant aim was to exalt the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and to "adorn his doctrine with a meek and quiet spirit." Our sister was known and loved for her many deeds of kindness and consideration, which she so freely bestowed upon others. In her own friendly and affectionate way she won a way into the hearts of others, and because that friendship was sincere and true, she continued to live at peace with all. She was specially interested and considerate of others who were living like her with "the one hope" in the gospel. As she looked towards "the city whose builder and maker is God," which by "faith she could see afar," she encouraged others to walk in the way of peace and safety by her counsel and example. Our sister was not blessed with keen hearing; but one of the things which must have been a constant inspiration to many of the preachers who ministered in Taree, was to see her constant attendance and witness, although deprived of hearing the message herself. In recent years Mrs. Saxby and her husband generously donated aids so that those afflicted with dull hearing might have an intelligent part in public worship. She was a lover of the Bible. To her it was the inspired word of God, and by donations to the work of the British & Foreign Bible Society she endeavored to pass on its message to

others. The funeral service was conducted by P. E. Thomas, preacher of Marrickville church, and a friend of the family for over two decades. He paid a fitting tribute to one whose life was an open book, and who sought throughout her long and useful career to spend her days in the service of others. The church at Taree commends all who sorrow to the care of a loving heavenly Father "until the day break, and the shadows flee away."—A.W.B.

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What Happens in Church?

THANKSGIVING

WILLIAM LAW, the mystic, used to ask,
"Who is the greatest saint?" Then he
would say that it is not the man who prays
most; it is the man who is most thankful.
The occasion when Jesus praised one man out
of ten, who returned to give thanks, would
seem to endorse the estimate (Luke 17: 17).

It is significant that, in one of its aspects,
the Lord's Supper is referred to as the Eucharist
—the "thanksgiving." The table with its bread
and wine sets forth most dramatically the
fact of God's giving, and especially his giving
of Christ. If there is any time or place for
our experiencing the awe, the power and the
joy of Christian thanksgiving it is surely at
the Supper Table. "Thanks for the bread"
and "Thanks for the cup," offered and heard
in the worshipping congregation, ought to be
uttered in brief, heartfelt and specific terms.
Such short prayers should betoken the feeling
and the force of gratitude in all present.
"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift"
(2 Cor. 9: 15).

FOR THE BREAD: "O God, we thank thee for
sending Jesus Christ to dwell upon the earth.
For the love he showed to mankind, for the
suffering he endured and for the victory he
won over death, we thank thee. We gratefully
receive this blessed emblem of his broken
body in remembrance that his life was given
for us. Amen." ("L.T.") "Gracious Father,
no human tongue can express our love and
joy before thee as we take this emblem of
our Saviour's broken body. As we place this
bread upon our lips, we look beyond the suf-
fering of Calvary, to our Lord seated in power
at thy right hand. Our joy over sins forgiven
and the love in our hearts for the Lord Jesus
are the thanksgiving we bring thee for so
great salvation. Amen." ("F.H.") "Our Father,
who in Jesus Christ hast shared our hungers,
of body, mind and spirit, we thank thee that
in him thou hast also satisfied us. For him
who is the Bread of Life, and for the symbol
of bread in which we have communion with
him, we give thee thanks. Amen." ("F.M.")

FOR THE CUP: "We thank thee, Father,
for the holy life that was freely poured out
for the redemption of sinners; for the cup
that speaks of the blood of Christ thus shed;
and for the life that is ours through his death.
Grant us through this communion, the grace
to live in holiness. For Christ's sake. Amen."
("F.M.") "Holy Father, until we knew a Savi-
our's pardoning sacrifice, our hearts knew only
the darkness of sins unforgiven. This morn-
ing the blessing of our lives, the testimony
of our lips is that "if we walk in the light as
he is in the light, we have fellowship one with
another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his
Son, cleanseth us from all sin." Truly do we
thank and bless thee for this, in the name of
thy Son. Amen." ("F.H.") "O Lord, we give
thanks that Christ is present with us as we
receive the cup in remembrance of his sac-
rifice. May we have communion with him, find-
ing forgiveness of all sin and the renewal of
a right spirit within us. Amen." ("L.T.")

William Temple has well said, "The proof
that we have received the Real Presence is
the increase of love in our daily lives."—G. J.
Andrews.

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