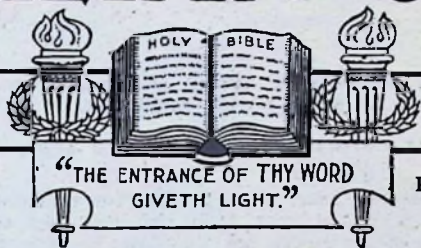


# The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## The End of the Age

THE proverbial ostrich buries its head in the sand to convince itself that it is not beset by an enemy. The smile prompted by such a bird trying to escape in that manner is curved with contempt, perhaps pity. But can citizens of this modern age claim to be better judges of real life than the ostrich? Within their own realm men are taking a limited view and are living as though this age of modern civilisation were the end and means of salvation for the human race. If men are not trying to hide in the sand, they are certainly trying to find security within the Tower of Babel they are vainly attempting to erect by their own efforts.

### I.

At one time learned men of the age recognised that man was compelled to live with an eye upon eternity and not just upon the span of mortal life. "For nearly 2000 years the underlying trend governing the springs of action in the life of western civilisation has been what might be termed—for want of a more expressive, less hackneyed term—a 'spiritual' one." This view of life has been silently and subtly changing. Something has been going on within the last one hundred years that has passed unnoticed except by the more thoughtful students of history. Instead of men considering life against the background of an eternity in which individuals will, at an appointed time, be brought before the judgment seat of God, they now take a limited view and see life as something existing only on, and for, this world. Within this narrow, egotistical order of mortal life "man is the measure of all things"; God is ignored. This changed outlook has been, therefore, from something we may call spiritual to what is termed materialistic. The popularity of Marxism can be appreciated when this changed viewpoint within the mind of western man is understood. Bernstein wrote: "No one will deny that the weightiest element in the foundation of Marxism is his special theory of history, which bears the name of materialistic conception of history." This view of life suggests that nothing lies outside of the mortal existence. All that matters is the securing of better social conditions to relieve the immediate pains of the human race. To do this men are bent on pulling down the "old barns" and building "new." Their prevailing cry, in point of fact, is like the foolish man's in the parable who said, "Let us eat, drink and be merry; for to-morrow we die!"

At one time men were driven forward by the urge to live adventurously for God, but now such a driving force has been lost. The spiritual motive has given way to the materialistic urge for human self-satisfaction. Men think they can secure for themselves a heaven on earth. They believe this is possible by human orders. They dream of a "world community" and a "world government." Dr. Reinhold

Niebuhr warns us of the foolishness of such vain hopes. He says, "Modern technical civilisation is bringing all civilisations and cultures, all empires and nations into closer juxtaposition to each other. The fact that this greater intimacy and contiguity prompts tragic 'world wars' rather than some simple and easy interpenetration of cultures, must dissuade us from regarding a 'universal culture' or a 'world government' as the natural and inevitable end (*telos*) which will give meaning to the whole historical process."

### II.

The egotistical dream of modern man, in which he plans his own destiny without reference to God, will never be achieved within history. This sin was the fatal error that moved the Jewish community to reject the Man of Galilee and to crucify the Messiah. These people, high and low, were deceived by a false viewpoint of life. They set their hearts upon an earthly messianic kingdom in which they would solve social and individual problems. They sought, as men seek to-day, a materialistic utopia; and disregarded the spiritual and eternal nature of man. That false viewpoint caused the Jewish community to turn from the Christ who pointed men to God and to eternity. The end of their vanity is recorded in history. Their sorrows in the destruction of Jerusalem and their plight in the dispersion are too well known to be emphasised.

### III.

Will this modern desire of nations for an earthly messianic utopia in which man is raised to the level of God be realised? Will it not be the means of their downfall as it was of Israel's? Is this one of those delusions referred to in scripture whereby men will be allowed to believe a lie because of wilful disregard of the eternal order? We answer that this modern pride in technical achievements will have its fall. The wonders of science may be the means by which modern civilisation will suffer the judgment that descended upon the leading nations of other days. While science makes life comfortable and easy, it also endangers the future of all life on this planet. The very success of science has become a threat to the world. The atomic bomb proves that truth. Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr says, "Modern technical civilisation may perish because it falsely worshipped technical advance as a final good. One portion of a technical society may harness techniques\* to the purpose of destruction and vent its fury upon another portion of the civilisation, which has grown soft by regarding the comforts yielded in such great abundance by a technical age, as the final good." When men lose sight of heaven in their desire to enjoy a material existence, danger is before them. No wonder a recent writer declares, "This

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# The Call of the Future

*J. Wiltshire, of Parkdale, Victoria, gives reasons why, in the coming year, Christians ought to demonstrate a greater zeal in the gospel.*

**T**IMES and seasons are under God's authority, and the things of the future are disclosed only as he wills. Yet man has a capacity for thinking ahead. With more or less certainty he forecasts the future from the past. By the gift of imagination he envisages possible events to come and accordingly disciplines himself to meet them. God's velling of our days is done in kindness. He would say to us, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way that thou shouldst go; I will guide thee with mine eye." From the uncertainty of our guesses of the future, we wisely turn to the certainty of God. He will be to us more than sight and surer than a known way.

Yet there is a manifold call of the future about which we need have no misgivings. Listening will be costly to those who will hearken, but to fail to listen or to refuse to hearken will be cowardly and ruinous. The future calls for a deeper conviction.

## A Deeper Conviction of God

There is a common deception abroad and too often God is mocked. Nevertheless it is true still that whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. Moral and spiritual standards are regulated not by divine authority, but by the conduct of the majority. God stands by to see his bands broken and his cords cast away. Men need again to learn that God is a reality, and although clouds and darkness may be round about his throne, his throne is nevertheless there, and it is the throne of unimpeachable justice. The race can never afford to forget that God is love: men and women are too lonely for that, and the world is too cold.

## A Deeper Conviction of Sin

Nothing has happened since the days of the apostles to mitigate sin. Drunkenness will still clothe a man with rags. Wrong living will still bring shame and contempt. The warnings of the word of God have never been effaced, and God has never revoked the word which says that the wages of sin is death. The strong words of the Son of God about the sorrows of the impenitent in the world to come have never been mitigated. Men must still repent or perish in conscious abandonment from the presence of God.

## A Deeper Conviction of Christ

We need to study again the word which sets him on high as the Lord of David and the Holy One of Israel. It is his train that fills the temple, and his glory is destined to fill the whole earth. He was wrapped around with the glory of the Father before the world was. He was the creative instrument in the beginning, and in the person of Jesus of Nazareth he dwelt among us.

## A Deeper Conviction of the Gospel

What is the gospel? The good news of God spelt out in the Christ crucified, buried and resurrected for the sins and the justification of all who will believe it. This is above all things essential to the salvation of men. Only when we are so convicted of its utter

and indispensable essence are we likely to see again its power on the multitudes.

## The Future Calls for a More Separated People

Nothing more than the Saviour prayed for: "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil." This is enough, and no more than enough. The world must see a difference between its conduct and the conduct of the people who are called out from it, or it will not know why there is need for any change. There came under our notice a case where the wife, who was a professed Christian, spoke to her husband about the Saviour, and asked him to become a Christian. He asked her why. He said: "You are a Christian, and you play the same games as I play. You dance as I dance. You go to the same shows as I visit. Where's the difference, and what difference will it make if I become a Christian such as you?" The Holy Spirit of God is too often expected to condone his being carried by some worldly professor into the atmosphere of worldliness with no opportunity to express himself, and his witness is suppressed.

Then took he him up in his arms and blessed God.—Luke 2: 28.

She spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.—Luke 2: 38.

**A**LTHOUGH there was no room for Jesus in the inn, the situation was brightened by the warm welcome given him by Simeon and Anna. May we, also, give him an entrance into our hearts. Features associated with our reception of him are suggested by these aged ones.

## A Devout Man

The same was devout. His relationship to God is here referred to favorably. Long before the exhortation of Philipians 1: 10, "That we may be sincere," was given, it was practised in the life of Simeon. Hence it is not surprising that such a man should await the coming of Jesus, being glad to take him up in his arms. Always, to all who are spiritually minded, Christ's presence will be assured and men will desire that he should abide with them.

## A Spirit-filled Man

"And the Holy Spirit was upon him." The heart, purified by being filled with the Holy Spirit, prepares the way for great things to happen. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Simeon's life is an illustration of this truth. This great man of God saw the Lord's Christ. It is equally true to-day that all who live cleanly and wait patiently for the presence and blessing of Christ will never be disappointed.

## The Future Calls for Aggressive Evangelism

By this we do not mean only the finding of experts for the platform presentation of the gospel, but a people, like those of old, who will everywhere speak the word. The call is for churches given up to the constraint of the Holy Spirit to make the Christ known. World-war standards should not remain. Poorly attended and desolate Lord's day evening meetings, relieved by an occasional "special," are a distressing commentary upon our high profession. Unless we can bestir ourselves to interest the stranger and to make our faith a living thing in the community, it will not be right to expect men to spend their whole time in the work. Our inertia in the gospel must never become chronic.

## The Future Calls for a Missionary Church

For a season the world has respite from war. How long this will last nobody knows. The perpetuation of peace for which the councils of the nations are working is of no greater concern to anybody nor institution than it is to the church. The world exemplified a marvel of sacrificial concentration for the overthrow of a common enemy. Nations gathered up their treasure to ram it into the guns. The flower of the nations was plucked for the fray. If a suggestion of this effort were made by the Christian church in worldwide evangelism, a few millions of money spent in this way, material force at the cost of thousands of millions would be averted. And beyond all this the multitudes would be turned to the Lord.

# Age Welcomes Youth

*F. Cornelius, of South Australia, gives a topical word for Christmas season.*

## Love's Service

Anna "served God with prayers and fastings." Her love to God led out to faithful and useful service to man. Night and day she served, through evil and good report.

When steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, we can rest assured that our labor will not be in vain. Into zealous hearts the Lord will come and make his abode. He is always welcome by such.

## She was Christ-centred

"She spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Israel." Her life was so God-possessed that out of the abundance of the heart her mouth spoke. She gave thanks to God for the birth of Christ. So should we.

To as many as receive him he becomes comforter and redeemer. Simeon waited for the consolation of Israel. Nobody ever spoke such comforting words, did such loving and helpful deeds or displayed such an understanding spirit as Jesus.

Anna realised that redemption is to be found in him. To-day many hearts are thankful because Christ has redeemed them, and desire greatly to show forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvellous light.

"Heaven is not reached by a single bound,  
But we build the ladder by which we rise  
From lowly earth to the vaulted skies,  
And we mount to its summit round by round."



# The Parable of the Compass

THE parables of the Gospels are taken in the main from the everyday life of the Palestinian countryside; they reflect a simple economic system, and they show us now the shepherd seeking his one lost sheep, and now the visitor at the door at midnight, and the problem of entertaining him. Is it possible to find parables of the kingdom in our complex modern civilisation? I am sure that it is, and I would look for one in the very instrument which has done so much to spread that civilisation around the world. I mean the compass. Previous to the invention of the mariner's compass, it was only possible to travel far by sea as one hugged the coastline or, if one ventured out, it was in reliance on such direction as could be got from the pole-star. The one exception was the Indian Ocean, where the monsoon blew at a certain time in the year so regularly that a ship could make a steady course by it.

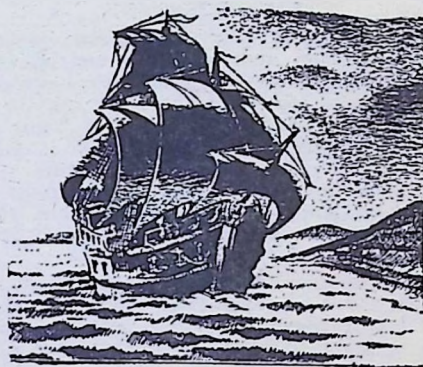
With the invention of the compass, however, it was possible for Columbus to cross the Atlantic and for Magellan's men to circumnavigate the globe; since then multitudes have followed where they were the first to go. Yet if the compass is a guide, it is clearly a very imperfect one, and is attended by all sorts of defects. To begin with, it does not point to the true north, but only to the magnetic north, which is some distance away. I understand also that the extent of this deviation is by no means a constant quantity; it varies from point to point on the earth's surface, with the passage of time, and even from one part of the day to another. But what is perhaps its most serious drawback only became evident when iron was used in the construction of ships; the metal had a magnetic effect and interfered with the working of the compass.

I want now to use this invaluable, but most imperfect, instrument, as the basis of three parables. The first is that of *the moral law*. The question that is continually being asked is whether morality is, after all, anything more than a mere matter of individual opinion: is there any absolute standard in morality? If there is more to it than private fancy, is that more perhaps just social convention, so that what is right for one period may be wrong at another and vice versa? Justice, as Pascal put it, is one thing on this side of the Pyrenees and another on the other side: in the wide variety of moral judgments, is there anything that is fixed and certain?

It is just as though a navigator, having seen to what influences the compass is subject and how its reading can seldom, if ever be accepted without correction, were to doubt the existence of the true north. But, of course, he would not do that: he knows that he can only steer by his compass because there is a true north, though his instrument never quite gives it to him. In much the same way we may think of our differing human conceptions of good as so many endeavors to approximate to the eternal and absolute good which is for ever with God. It is true that we continually fall short of, continually misjudge, his righteousness, but it abides as our final standard and by it all our moral ideas are judged.

Then there is the parable of *conscience*. If we were without this capacity for independent moral judgment, we should be in the position of seafarers before the invention of the compass; we should have to adhere to the conventions and rules of our society. But with it we can act on our own responsibility, we can venture into quite new situations; as we say, we can sail uncharted seas and find our way into port at the end. Yet how defective conscience is as a guide! It depends to a

Dr. E. L. Allen, in "The British Weekly," suggests how we may find a sure path for the future by trusting the highest motives God has planted within us.



great extent on our early training what it will bid or forbid: what one person thinks dishonorable another regards as quite permissible. Many of us, too, have uneducated consciences; there are whole areas of duty to which we are still oblivious. And some, we know, have perverted consciences, which provide a sanction for the most horrid cruelties.

We must trust our conscience, as it is the best guide we have; but we must be prepared all the while to correct it, so that we may not be led astray. Conscience should be checked by the example and advice of persons whom we respect, by the reading of the Bible, by the stored-up wisdom of the race, and by the moral insights of certain individuals of outstanding worth. Yet in the end we must accept responsibility for our own lives and act as we ourselves believe we ought to act, for we may not surrender conscience to any human authority. Conscience is our best guide, so we will follow it; but it is not an infallible guide, so we must never think that we alone are right and all others wrong.

Then the third and last parable, that of *human life*. I understand that just because the compass is so defective it is now being superseded by the gyro-compass. That is of such a character that wherever it may be placed it will set itself parallel to the earth's axis and will give the true north and south. God has not willed so to improve upon conscience: he will never furnish us with some means of guidance which will save us the trouble of thinking for ourselves or relieve us of the responsibility for the conduct of our own lives. He will always work with the law according to which we never in this world have direct access to God's perfection but only to some imperfect human representation of it, with which we must do the best we can.

Illustrations of that law come crowding into one's mind at once. Here is a young man who wants to give his life in the service of the gospel, and he soon finds that he has to accept some congregation with its buildings and budget or some institution with its settled policies and do his best to bring these into line with the gospel. Here is another who burns with the desire to work for humanity and who finds that humanity as such simply is not accessible to him; he must work for a nation, a society, a family, or some other

group, and use its purposes as far as he can for the general human good. Or a young woman wants to prepare boys and girls for life, and finds that she can only get a chance to do so as she is willing to put them through an examination syllabus and use the opportunities which come to her in that way. Nor is it any good for us to grumble when this happens to us, too. There is simply no exception to this law of life; we do not serve God directly, but always something which falls far short of God and which we must endeavor to bring more into accordance with his will.

If now we analyse our lives, we shall find in them two poles: one is the divine intention which we are here to carry out, and the other is the job by which society allows us to earn a living. For a fortunate few, the distance between these two is but slight, but for many they are widely separated. Yet we may not surrender either; a man must work with a compass which gives him the magnetic north even while what he ultimately sets his course by is the true north. In other words, the only service of God which is open to us is that which consists in accepting our place and our work within society, and seeking all the while to bring these into closer conformity with his will.

## The End of the Age

(Continued from front page)

changed viewpoint is the crisis of the age, and will determine the shape of things to come more radically than anything else." In view of that statement, the warning comes to modern man as to the Jews of old, "Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish."

### IV.

The Christian church must recover the emphatic viewpoint of the scriptures and declare that man faces an eternal destiny. Messengers of the truth must announce to the people of this age, "It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment." The end of the age is not to be found in time, but in eternity. It does not come until the human race stands in judgment before the throne of God. Wishful thinking on the part of the sceptic will not save him. The desire to enjoy pie on earth will not prevent the Lord coming suddenly and saying, "Thou fool, this night thy soul is required of thee: then whose shall those be which thou hast provided?" This blindness of modern man to the great peril he faces in eternity must be removed by the fearless preaching of a church that views the living God as Lord of life and eternity.

### NEW YEAR WISH

I WOULD have this New Year bring  
The budding miracle of Spring;  
And I would have it give again  
Bright sunshine and soft showers, to men.  
With later fruits of autumn sweet  
For all who would to pluck and eat.  
And I would have for all to know  
The gift of winter's kindly snow.

I would have this New Year spare  
The feathered creatures of the air,  
And feed the hungry where they roam  
And care for beasts that have no home.  
This New Year, that is born to-day,  
I would have it find the way  
To heal all pain, bid suffering cease  
And bring to men the gift of peace.

—Lalla Mitchell Thornton.

## The Australian Christian

December 25, 1946

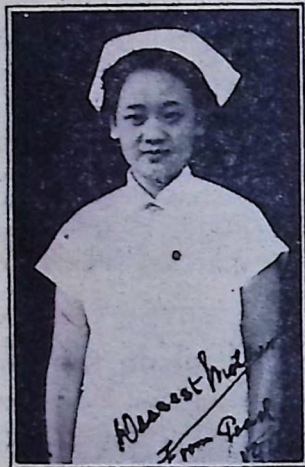
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# At a Mission Hospital, China

THE following letter has been received from Pearl Anderson:—

"I am still working in the mission hospital in Kunming, but just for the time being I've been asked to give a little help in Kutsing C.M.S. Hospital. I am enjoying my work here better than anywhere else. This hospital has been in difficulties, for they have been unable to get a matron, so the F.A.U.S. captain came to see me at the airfield, and I've



Pearl Anderson.

promised to go and help them until they can get a matron from Kie-yang; but I cannot stay long, as I have special permission to leave the Air Force for a little while. I would like to be able to continue doing work in the mission hospital. I was quite happy in the Army work; but after five years, I would like to go back to mission work that I was doing before the war. There are so many homeless and needy ones, and mothers and children have no one to look after them. Since being at this hospital 126 babies have been born. Some of the women wanted me to go to their own homes but I refused, and told them it was much more convenient if they could come to the hospital, though sometimes I could not refuse, and so had to go to the home.

"A very interesting case came last week. There was a family that were very rich in the city, and they had a baby son, but did not know the best way to look after him. This baby was only two weeks old, and he was very sick. After the doctors had treated him there was still no relief, so one old person told the mother to give the baby opium and this would heal him. The mother did so, and the baby nearly died through poisoning. They came to the hospital then, but the baby's face was black and blue, and it was hopeless to do anything for him, but they begged to give some injections. The baby had no clothes; only a dirty old ragged cloth covering him. I asked the mother why they did not care for the little baby, as they were very rich, and he was their only son. They told me that they had the child's fortune told, and he was not fit for good clothes, as he did not have much chance of life till he was over twelve years old. I asked the nurses to change him into hospital clothes, and started to give him baths every day, and told the parents that I wanted them to let us have the baby in the hospital for some time until he got better. We saved the baby's life, and the parents thanked us, and wanted to do anything we wanted; but the important thing we wanted them to do was to keep the child as clean as he is now, and to give him a bath every day, and not to listen to any other

person's advice about him; and if they would not give him the bath, to come to the hospital and the nurses would do it. They were very thankful, and said they would do as we wished. How foolish folks are! I hope I will be able to be useful, and give needy folk all the aid and help they need."

## A WELCOME SPEECH BY A MEMBER OF BARAMATI CHURCH, INDIA, TO GREET THE FEDERAL F.M. SECRETARY

"Mr. Chairman, Christian brothers and sisters, and boys and girls, you are all aware why we are gathered together here to-day. We are gathered together to return thanks to our Father in heaven for granting journeying mercies to Mr. Anderson over land and sea, and bringing him safely to our midst. On behalf of the Baramati church I welcome Mr. Anderson heartily into our midst, and relate very briefly the history of the Baramati Christian church.

"1. There are 325 members on roll, out of which 112 live at Baramati at present. About 100 gather round the Lord's table every Sunday. 231 live outside of Baramati, in Bombay, etc.

"2. The Christian community at Baramati number 375, including children.

"3. About 75 adults and children live in the neighboring villages not far out from Baramati.

"4. Baptisms. There were 15 baptisms during the present year.

"5. Every Tuesday Miss Caldicott conducts a women's meeting in which the scriptures are studied.

"6. A weekly prayer meeting is held on Wednesdays in the church building.

"7. The Sunday school has 126 pupils and 16 teachers. There is also an adult Bible class for men and women.

"8. There are five C.E. groups. They help in the work of the church.

"9. The church observes all the Christian festivals in the year. In the Easter week men and women take part in witnessing for Christ round about Baramati.

"10. For the last two years the church was able to employ and maintain a pastor. At the present time the church has no pastor.

"The economic condition of the Christian community is not good at present. For this reason the parents are not able to give suitable education to their children in order to enable them to take their place in the rapidly-changing Indian society. Without education the Christian community cannot rise to the level of the other communities. Taking this into consideration, the churches of Christ mission is giving primary and English education up to standard III. free. For this we are very thankful to the mission. The need for secondary education is great. For this financial help is required. We are confident that you will do your best along this line for the good of the Christian community in the future.

"In conclusion, once more, on behalf of the church, I extend to you a hearty welcome to our midst."

## HUNGRY FOR DANIEL

In "Western India Notes," the following item illustrates the hold that the Bible, has on simple-minded villagers.

"SATURDAY morning, about 10 o'clock, as the missionary is returning from a meeting of session, he is greeted by Krishnaji, one of the poorest of the poor, who walks along

with him to his house, and finally says he has come to speak to him. Proof sheets for music edition of the Marathi hymnal must be got off by eleven; so the missionary gives Krishnaji some Bible pictures to look at that have recently been mounted for use of the school children. Proofs completed, he tells Krishnaji about a few pictures, and then offers to begin the conversation for which this Christian man has come. 'I am hungry,' says Krishnaji. The statement does not surprise the missionary, who rather wonders whether there ever is a time when he has plenty to eat; but he waits to see what request is coming. 'I am hungry for some Daniel. That book of Daniel you cut out of a worn-out Bible and gave to me has been eaten up by rats, and I am hungry to hear some of Daniel again.' 'Shall I read you about the king's dream and the prayer of Daniel and his three friends?' asks the missionary, knowing that this is a favorite chapter. So that wonderful second chapter is read, with its many expressive sentences, its record of the place of prayer, and its bright outlook on the kingdom that is to fill all the earth; and Krishnaji goes away with hunger satisfied and with promise of another book, this time a whole Bible, for which he asks a box to keep it safe from rats."

## The Human Judge

WAS it for this that Christ was crucified, And these the lives for which he lived and died?

Has Eden's fateful sin stretched out its hand Even to our gay souls in this a modern land? Has unrepentant sin thus borne its consequence? And does it go on bearing suffering, not sense?

That one stark sin should bear such woe, And sorrow's sad company be burdened so! Is there no recompense, no winning free, No lightening of the cross, or shall it be That man until eternity shall bear The mark of sin's continued wear?

This world, these lives, these manners that they use;

But yet is this the way they choose. Choose! Is theirs a choice, and do they know, Have they been told they need not go Into unknown spaces, afraid, alone, Can they recognise another than their own?

Not even to Nirvana do their nerveless eyes glance,

Not nothing's sleep nor heaven's vivid day give chance

Of life's immortal meaning to their starved souls!

Christ, dear Lord, you died to make it plain; And we in our ignorance allow the Cross again!

Forgive our judging, Lord, in judging them Further we drive the nails—but then, but then—

Too weak, humanity has fallen, so shamed, so broken

From that bright morn that gave first token Of grace to Adam and his progeny.

We are those children, Lord! formed of thy love to be.

Forgive in love, dear Father, so to learn More of Christ's love, and in love to turn Our heart's minds to thee—our own and those we love,

And those whom in humanity we do not love— Unto the coming of the Christ's glad law, Remembering it was ourselves that he lived for.

—St. Clair Saunders, Taree, N.S.W.

## The Australian Christian



# The Peacemakers

## PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY.

Call to Worship.—"God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God dwelleth in him" (1 John 4: 16).

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal No. 428, "O Gracious Father of Mankind."

Prayer.—"O God, who art Peace Everlasting, whose chosen reward is the gift of peace, and who hast taught us that the peacemakers are thy children, pour thy peace into our souls, that everything discordant may utterly vanish, and all that makes for peace be sweet to us for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Scripture Reading.—Col. 1: 1-14.

Solo.

Devotional Meditation for February.—*The Peacemakers.*

When Jesus said, "Happy are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons of God," the Jews were more ready for militant teaching than that of peace. It took courage in such an atmosphere for Jesus to preach this doctrine. Having emerged from the worst war in history only a little over a year ago, we can appreciate how difficult it is for a person to stand out from the masses and to preach peace.

Probably there were many who heard Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount who would turn away with a shrug of the shoulders and say of him that he was "an impossible idealist." Throughout the centuries men have had the same idea, and this beatitude has been one of the hardest for men and nations to put into practice.

We are told to-day by scientists and military leaders that, unless we walk the road to peace, there will come annihilation. We must admit that over the past few decades the voice of the church has been heard more on the side of war than of peace. If the annihilation of which we have been warned is to be averted, it means that the church must be in the forefront in preaching and living this beatitude. Christians will need to learn the causes of war. They will also need to learn to be emotionally stable and not be coerced by propaganda. Now is the time for us to be diligent in preparing for peace, and to become more pronounced as peacemakers.

Anomalous as it may seem, this will not be without conflict. There is the inner conflict of self. We all have powerful appetites. These can be harmonised to fit in with society—living peaceably with others—or hate, greed and vindictiveness and other unchristian attributes can be in evidence. Let us remember that "more wars are waged within men than without."

Then there are the conflicts between man and his social environment which are basically the same as within the individual; there are, too, the larger fields of conflicts between groups—race hatreds, economic strife, class bitterness and antagonisms between nations. Fear, anger and greed are at the root of all these inner and outer conflicts. Jesus by his life taught that peace-making consists in dispelling such unlovely attitudes, and helping men to rise above injustices and antagonisms without rebellion or strife.

The story is told of Dr. Theodore Pennell, an English missionary doctor, who travelled alone and unarmed among the war-like tribes on the north-west frontier of India. He

ministered to the enemies of his country often at the risk of his life, until he won their confidence and affection. He was so successful that a high military authority said of him, "He was worth a couple of British regiments" to the peace of north-west India.

Whenever and wherever this beatitude has been put to the test, the truth of it rings out: "Happy are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Prayer.—"O God, who callest the peacemakers thy children, we beseech thee that, as thou didst send thy Son with the heavenly voice of peace on earth to be the Prince of Peace to men, so thou wilt keep our hearts and minds in his peace, and make us both to love and defend the same. Guide the counsels of the King, establish unity and concord among the nations, that all mankind may render thee the fruits of peace and righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal No. 559, "O Peace Divine and Pure."

Business Session.

Programme.—

Home Mission Notes.

Overseas Letter.

Prayer.

Address.—"Among Aborigines."

Discussion.

Prayer.—"O Lord God, who wilt have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, grant that thy whole church may readily obey the command of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to go and teach all nations, so that the gospel of thy grace may be known to the uttermost parts of the earth."

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal No. 172, "Breathe on Me, Breath of Life." This to be sung as a continuation of the prayer.

Benediction.—"Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no man evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all men; love and serve the Lord; rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

## WOMEN'S FEDERAL CONFERENCE

THE conference books are soon to be sent on to Western Australia from South Australia, and the new officers are preparing for active work early in the new year. The officers are as follow: President, Mrs. I. Digwood; vice-presidents, Mrs. A. E. Jeffries, Mrs. J. Gorden; secretary, Mrs. F. D. Pollard, 54 Subiaco-rd., Subiaco, W.A.; assistant secretaries, Mrs. Carpenter and Mrs. Humphreys; treasurer, Mrs. W. Beck, 221 Charles-st., North Perth, W.A.

## EXECUTIVE NOTES

### Victoria

THE final meeting for the year was held on December 6, with the president, Mrs. Nankivell, in the chair. Mrs. A. E. Hurren led the devotions, and Major Mary Anderson, J.P., gave a talk on facts and incidents connected with her work in the Salvation Army. A number of delegates were absent through illness. A request from the Chaplaincy Committee was received asking ladies to knit socks for Servicemen now located in Japan. Cost of wool to be met by the committee. An interesting report of the functions of the United Nations Association was given by Mrs. Brough. It was decided to forward a protest to the Premier re the abolishing of the State Poll

in connection with the liquor trade. Seasonal greetings were extended to all by the president; Mrs. Oliver reciprocated on behalf of council.

### Tasmania

At meeting on December 3 Mrs. Hughes presided, and Sister Jessie, of City Mission, gave an interesting talk on work of the mission. A splendid donation of groceries was brought for City Mission Christmas cheer. Mrs. Sulzberger reported £32 collected for Indian Christmas cheer gift. At close of meeting Mrs. Watkins spoke words of appreciation of the fine service rendered by Mrs. Hughes as president, and expressed regret of conference that she was leaving the State, and wished her much joy and blessing in the future. In October the annual fellowship meeting was held in Collins-st. chapel. Mr. Goldsmith, Methodist preacher, gave a splendid address. Musical items were given by Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Tuck. There was a good representation of local church women's auxiliaries.

### New South Wales

At December meeting, devotions were led by Mrs. Lawther, assisted by representatives from Belmore Women's Guild. Mr. Crossman gave an interesting address, and Mrs. Maxwell, home missionary superintendent, stressed the home mission appeal. Foreign missionary superintendent, Miss A. Maxwell, announced that aim of conference had been reached and £250 collected. The Social Service women's committee has been busy in procuring groceries for committee's Christmas effort. There will be no January meeting, and Mrs. J. J. Bowie, B.A., will speak at February meeting.

### South Australia

Monthly meeting of Sisters' Auxiliary was held at Grote-st. on December 5 at 2 p.m. Devotional leader was Mrs. Fax. President welcomed Mrs. Scott, a visitor from Nedlands, W.A. 78 were present, 51 being delegates. A letter was read from Mr. Taylor stating that proposed churches of Christ home will be named "The Christian Rest Home." It was decided that the £35/18/3 received at town hall meeting at conference be handed over to committee for the rest home, also £254/13/9 previously collected. A committee of three women was appointed to plan meetings among young married women of churches. It was recommended that president and secretary of Federal Conference be placed on Federal Conference Executive. Women's World Day of Prayer service will be held in Flinders-st. Baptist Church. Mrs. Thomas, hospital superintendent, stated that 71 visits had been paid to hospitals and institutions.

### Western Australia

Monthly meeting of Women's Auxiliary was held on November 5 in Lake-st. hall. Fifty members were present. Devotions were led by Subiaco ladies, Mrs. Hutchison leading. Mrs. Hammer and Miss Schurmann sent greetings from Carnarvon aborigines mission station. An interesting letter was read by Mrs. Curtis from Mrs. Hammer. Hymn and prayer brought devotions to a close. Mrs. Nightingale reported on civic reception to Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, Baptist Women's annual conference, Wheatbelt Conference, and a visit to Harvey and Bunbury. Mrs. Humphrys reported on half-yearly conference at Fremantle. Many sisters were deprived of attending district women's rally at Maylands on November 21 owing to the strike and lack of transport. Home mission rally, November 26, was held under difficulties which were overcome by a band of willing workers. Mrs. Eaton's cheerful and willing service with catering has been a tower of strength. Mrs. Tilbee (superintendent of home missions) has given loyal and faithful service throughout year. Mrs. Arthur (superintendent overseas missions) thanked auxiliary for twenty rugs

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# Here and There

F. Redford, of the church at Nailsworth, S.A., came to Melbourne for surgical treatment and has undergone a successful operation in Epworth hospital.

At request of Board of Management of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, the Victorian conference executive has appointed a representative committee to promote a Principals' Memorial Fund.

Dr. F. W. Borcham, who has been a regular contributor to several religious journals, has intimated that he cannot continue his regular articles. Dr. Borcham's work has been a very helpful feature for 30 years in Australian religious journals. Many readers have had their faith strengthened by his loyalty to God's word.

Two fine addresses were given by Mr. Sherman on Dec. 2 at Inglewood, W.A. Dr. L. Michael spent a day with church, showing pictures to school in morning and at gospel service, giving information of our work in India. At a combined meeting of C.E. and Bible class about 40 attended, and three girls from Lawley Ladies' College were baptised. Scholars, parents and friends had a happy time at Bible school picnic. Mrs. Brown and Walter Brown have been received into membership.

On evening of Dec. 11 Doncaster (Vic.) Christian Endeavor, Band of Hope and Boys' Club held a combined social. Mr. Nicholson, of Local Option Alliance, entertained with a picture programme, and items were given by young people; ladies provided supper. On previous Sunday evening Mr. Nicholson visited congregation and explained aims of Alliance. An offering of £6 was realised toward Alliance funds. Home mission offering amounted to £28/4/5. Mrs. Vern Clay has been in hospital undergoing an operation, which has proved successful.

The Macnaughtan-Saunders tent mission at Ormond, Vic., closed with well-attended meetings on Dec. 17. Thankoffering so far is £80. Twelve have been added to church roll, and much interest has been aroused. The church was greatly helped by Mr. Macnaughtan's teaching, and with reluctance says farewell to two fine Christian personalities. All auxiliaries are in recess for Christmas season. Bible school kindergarten Christmas tree was held on Dec. 21 with large attendance. Explorers held a break-up night on Dec. 20 by entertaining parents and friends.

Several members of church at Red Hill, Vic., visited Frankston church on evening of Dec. 11 and spent a helpful and enjoyable time. S. Ryles spoke at morning service on Dec. 15. Attendance was good. A party of church and Endeavor members visited Christian Guest Home on afternoon of Dec. 15. R. Holmes provided transport. Evening service was conducted at chapel on Dec. 15, Endeavorers taking charge. L. Brown was chairman. Mrs. O. Holmes is in hospital at Mornington, and all wish her a speedy recovery. R. Holmes is preparing to enter College of Bible in new year.

There was a good attendance of Eastern Suburban (Melbourne) Christian Youth Fellowship at a concert held in Camberwell Town Hall on Thursday, Dec. 12. K. Sturgess was chairman, and an excellent programme was enjoyed. Mr. Banks introduced Mr. Huntsman, who presented attendance shield to winning church. Two representatives accepted the shield on behalf of Doncaster young people. C. Berg, new president for 1947, spoke, encouraging young people to attend functions for next year, and congratulated Mr. K. Sturgess on his work as president. At close of evening Mr. Elliott thanked artists who provided such fine entertainment. Proceeds of concert were divided between Monbulk camp site, Dhond

hospital, and a missionary launch for New Hebrides.

At Hurstville, N.S.W., from Nov. 10 to 24 an evangelistic mission was conducted by P. E. Thomas, of Marrickville, whose expounding of the word was an inspiration. Many members did not miss one meeting. Three scholars from Bible school made their decision. Numbers of parents of scholars and friends were present at final gospel meeting on Nov. 24, and church building was full. Church and Bible school anniversaries in October were successful, and singing of scholars and church choir was of a high order under leadership of N. Hooper. Attendance of teachers and scholars at Bible school is maintained. Church has had fellowship with S. R. Knapp, en route from Japan to Nelson, N.Z., who spoke to Bible class on Nov. 24 and Dec. 1, and preached at gospel service on Dec. 1. He returned to New Zealand on the "Ormonde" on Dec. 11, taking with him greetings of Hurstville church to Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Flood, of Christchurch.

At Melbourne (Swanston-st.), Handel's "Messiah" was sung by choir on Dec. 15, under leadership of H. T. S. Brown. Soloists were Misses M. Ruddell and P. Collett, and Messrs. R. Hardy and H. Helmore, and trumpet obligato



The Chapel at Swanston-st., Melbourne.

was played by W. Scattergood. Len. Davies was organist. On Dec. 17 "junior church" held usual Christmas tree night, when a happy evening was spent with items by children, moving pictures, gifts all round, and supper. A number of adults attended, but some children were absent on account of illness. All recent services have been addressed by C. B. Nance-Kivell. At Mission Band's final meeting for year, special speaker was Mrs. A. Lewis, of Collins-st. Baptist church, and Mrs. L. Chapman, of Hampton, sang a solo. Mrs. A. H. Hedley contributed an enjoyable reading. On Dec. 16 the wedding took place of Joan Simpson and Max. Walker, both members of pioneer church families. Miss Simpson is daughter of church secretary. Ceremony was performed by C. B. Nance-Kivell. Best wishes go with the young couple.

R. Raymond writes: "Maston Bell's article on 'Carnarvon is Ours' makes more than ordinary reading. This is such a wonderful opportunity to show that we really mean business in this matter of caring for the aborigines. If we miss the purchase of these buildings 'expected to become available within a practical distance of Carnarvon,' we shall later have to pay £3000 for what can now be done for about £1000. There are three buildings of standard design 80 x 18, £125 each, and others. Maston Bell did a wonderful piece of organising for the Norseman building drive, and he will do it for Carnarvon if these buildings can be purchased. Voluntary labor will be found to go

300 miles to dismantle and a further 300 miles to re-erect these buildings. The thought that inspires this note is that some brethren may appreciate the opportunity this offers to purchase a building as a memorial. What better way to perpetuate the name of a dear one?"

C. L. Johnston, secretary of church, Unley, S.A., writes: "In reading over the first minute book of the church of Christ at Unley, which commenced meetings in the Unley Town Hall on Dec. 10, 1882, I found this interesting paragraph as recorded by the then secretary of Unley, Wm. Burford: 'In June, 1886, Mr. Andrew Rankine, a young man, brought a letter from Bro. Gordon, of Belvidere, to Bro. Colbourne, requesting him to baptise him on the confession of his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our young friend was accommodated at Bro. Colbourne's house, and on Wednesday, June 2, was immersed by Bro. Colbourne in the chapel at Park-st., and on the Lord's day morning he was received into the fellowship of the church. He was gladly welcomed and encouraged by many of the brethren, especially as he has determined to study for the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.'"

## CAN WE THINK TOGETHER?

It is a common affirmation that people are normally unable to agree in their thinking. It is said that we are all individuals and that our cogitations can no more be brought into harmony than our fingerprints. Such statements contain only enough truth to make them dangerous. Instead of being unable to agree in our thinking, we are unable to disagree if we think correctly. All science, and especially all mathematics, derives its authority from the fact that straight and accurate reflection in these fields is necessarily unanimous. There are no divergent opinions as to whether two and two digits make four or as to whether the sum of the angles of a triangle is equivalent to two right angles. We disagree in our thinking only when outside elements such as prejudices, emotions, and other irrational considerations warp our mental machinery. As far as we think at all in the correct sense, we think together. This is a necessity because the divine Mind, in whose operations we share, is a unity and cannot be anything else. If it were otherwise, there would be no such thing as science, art, or education. We move toward universal harmony and culture in human relations when we strive to achieve more perfectly the identity of the individual with the Divine Reason. Alexander Campbell, following Thomas Reid and the Scottish Common Sense school in general, identified this Universal Reason with the dictates of ordinary judgment and "common sense." The early church stressed this agreement in thought as a part of the essential fellowship of the group, and strove to make it more perfect in the educational schedule which as disciples of Christ they endeavored to carry out. As long as they followed this programme, they grew in harmony and in the consciousness of their oneness with each other and with the Master who had become for them the Way, the Truth, and the Life.—Dr. F. D. Kershner, "Christian Evangelist," Sept. 11.

## ADDRESSES

L. J. Butler (secretary Hartwell church, Vic.).—23 Celia-st., Burwood, E.13. WM2825.

A. W. Stephenson, M.A. (editor, "The Australian Christian"), 38 Auburn-pde., Hawthorn East, E.3. Tel., WA1242.

## The Australian Christian



# News of the Churches

## Queensland

**Mackay.**—Most auxiliaries of church have had breaking-up and are in recess. Bible school had Christmas tree and prize distribution on Dec. 14. Children gave items, and Santa arrived in time to hand out gifts off tree. Mr. Wyeth gave a present to those children bringing most new scholars to school. Miss Anderson entertained young people at a breaking-up party for Junior Fellowship. It was held at residence of Mr. and Mrs. Wyeth. A huge bon-bon suspended from ceiling contained a gift for every child. Prizes for winners of Bible quiz contest, which the fellowship had run during last quarter, were presented to the five winners, Faye Carr being first. Ross Nielsen also received a book for best attendance at all church services for year. Mr. Birt and Miss Anderson rendered a duet at evening service on Dec. 8. The church will miss services of Mr. and Mrs. Birt, who have been transferred to Brisbane. Both have helped in many ways. Sympathy of church goes out to Mrs. Shaw and family, who were suddenly bereaved of husband and father. Mr. Shaw ably filled position of deacon and treasurer for number of years. Mr. Millar leaves to minister with church at Rockhampton in new year.

## Western Australia

**Perth.**—Scholars of Bible school had enjoyable outings which included a barbecue tea. Kindergarten Christmas tree passed off successfully. Both services on Dec. 15 were broadcast. J. K. Robinson was preacher. In evening E. R. Berry rendered a solo.

**Maylands.**—November meetings were well attended. Mr. McRoberts' addresses are an inspiration. It is good to see many young folk at services. Dr. Michael entertained with lantern slides and a talk of his mission work in India. Members enjoy fellowship of him and his wife during their furlough. One of the young men, Harry Heyhoe, exhorted church on Nov. 30. Visiting speakers have included F. Ewers and E. R. Sherman; soloists, Sisters Cosh, Fryer, Hollett and Messrs. Short and Gillam; duet by Mrs. Harris and Betty, and quartette by girls. Mrs. McRoberts held a social afternoon at manse on Dec. 5, and £1/12/- was donated to making of garments for church's two adopted girls at Carnarvon mission. Good Companions and Boys' Clubs gave a concert in hall on Dec. 9, followed by supper. Guild break-up party took form of a garden party at Mrs. Moyle's residence on Dec. 12. £9 was added to guild funds for mission work. On Dec. 14, in afternoon, a successful function was held for kinders and parents, and in evening S.S. held Christmas party. All auxiliaries are now in recess for Christmas. Members welcome Frank Digwood back from Navy. At close of Mr. McRoberts' address on Dec. 15 a boy from S.S. made the good confession.

## South Australia

**Cowandilla.**—A successful Christmas party was given to kindergarten and cradle roll department on afternoon of Dec. 14; 65 children enjoyed themselves under co-superintendents Mrs. J. Grigg and Mrs. Arnold. At 6 o'clock Father Christmas (Ray Mitchell) arrived. Everyone received a gift, donated by interested friends. A large number of parents attended. On Dec. 14, a large number of friends came to a party given in honor

of Pat Hossack's birthday. N. Gavros on Dec. 15 addressed morning and evening services, his addresses being appreciated. At evening service Mrs. D. Hemer sang a solo.

**Flinders Park.**—On Dec. 1 Bob Williams was received into fellowship following baptism, and on Dec. 15 Mr. and Mrs. Smith, sen., were received by transfer from Whyalla. During holiday of F. Hollams, G. Wilson, M. Smith and H. Francis helped. Sympathy of church is extended to G. Frost and family on death of his mother. Phyllis Parker has been an inmate of hospital at Port Lincoln, where she was holidaying, and from reports received is much improved. H. Brand, of Bible School Department, visited school on Dec. 8 and addressed scholars. Visitors during the month have included L. Jelbert, of Long Jetty, N.S.W.

## THE PEACE OF GOD

**PEACE? PEACE?** Who dares to speak of peace

While nations wrangle over seas  
And lands they covet for their own,  
Seeking themselves alone to please?

**PEACE REIGNS?** Again, who speaks of peace

While industry with hate is torn,  
And man and master fight for power,  
The world meanwhile looks on forlorn?

**PEACE REIGNS?** Who glibly talks of peace

With robbery and murder rife,  
And in our legislative halls  
There rages one continual strife?

**PEACE? PEACE?** There surely is no peace

Save to the one with trustful heart,  
Who, having seen the One unseen,  
Chooses with him the better part.

So may the PEACE which God alone

Can give to every troubled mind,  
Be yours throughout the coming year,  
And closer you to Jesus bind.

—Ira A. Paternoster.

**Kilburn.**—200 adults and children were present at Christmas tree celebrations on Dec. 13, and 155 gifts were distributed. F. Lawrance, of Prospect, was Father Christmas. 48 kinders were seated, and given sit down party, whilst remainder were waited on with refreshments. Home Mission offering amounted to £5/17/-. Dec. 15 was a record day both for Sunday school and church attendance, 65 children being at school, and 18 adults and 4 young worshippers at church service. Letters had been sent to members inviting them to service, with great success. After an inspiring address by C. Schwab, two made the good confession and one a reconsecration vow.

**Prospect.**—Kindergarten held Christmas tree on Dec. 7 with large attendance of parents. This department has grown during past year under leadership of Mrs. Mackenzie. On Dec. 8, at evening service, R. Smithers was baptised. On Dec. 14, the marriage of Evelyn Purdie and Gordon Burns was conducted by R. Vincent. Miss Purdie was in charge of Y.P.C.E. and superintendent of junior department in Bible school. At morning service on Dec. 15 R. Vincent exhorted. Fellowship was enjoyed with Mr. and Mrs. R. Burns (Bible College, Sydney), Miss Davies, missionary (Palestine). Every service had good attendance. Inspiring addresses have been given at all services.

## New South Wales

**Inverell.**—Ladies' Guild held a salmagundi evening on Nov. 29, when £28 was cleared. Church Christmas tree was held on Dec. 13 with a very good attendance. There were toys for 65 children (tinies) and book prizes for 18 older children. Soft drinks, sweets, and Christmas cake were provided for all.

**Broken Hill.**—On Dec. 15 Mr. Clark conducted morning service at Wills-st., and Mr. Paddick was speaker at Wolfram-st. at 11 a.m. A splendid Christmas service was held at Wolfram-st. at 7 p.m. in form of a service of song, when solos were rendered by Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Zchorn and Mr. Evans. Bryan Hosking was baptised, and received into membership at communion service following meeting.

**Marrickville.**—At request of church officers, and with a view to formation of a branch in connection with school, local Baptist branch of Boys' Brigade gave a display outlining their activities. Zest (junior girls') Club held a Christmas party before going into recess, and Girls' Club was entertained by K.S.P. boys' club at an excursion to Harbord. On Dec. 14 kindergarten and cradle roll staff invited mothers and children to a Christmas party. Each child received a gift from Father Christmas, and afternoon tea, ice cream and sweets concluded a delightful afternoon. Mr. Wingham, of B. & F. Bible Society, on morning of Dec. 15 gave a stirring account of work amongst Services. In afternoon Mr. Ladbrook was speaker at Bible Class Fellowship tea. "Food for Britain" totalled £17/17/- and not £1/17/- as printed recently.

## Victoria

**Warragul.**—Attendances have been affected recently by sickness. Mrs. Francis has been visiting. Ladies' Guild held a social afternoon, when a number of ladies from other churches were invited. Items and games combined to make a successful and pleasant afternoon.

**Portland.**—Speakers during November were T. Davey, A. Rivett and Mr. Curtis. The address of Mr. Curtis on 24th was appreciated. A number of visitors have been present in recent weeks. Three new scholars have been gained for Bible school. Midweek meeting has average attendance of eight.

**Warrnambool.**—On Nov. 24 first broadcast was made of a church service. This was conducted by Mr. Weir. Bible school held annual Christmas tree and break-up party on Dec. 14. Children of Bible school and kindergarten had an enjoyable time. School closed on Dec. 15 for four weeks' vacation. J.C.E. will not hold meetings for four weeks. Mr. and Mrs. Weir have completed third year of ministry with church.

**Stawell.**—On Dec. 1 Mr. Jackson spoke in morning and Mr. Mudford preached at night, also on Dec. 8. Bible school anniversary was held on Dec. 15. Mr. Mudford was speaker. Anniversary continued on Dec. 16 with children's tea and social and prize-giving. Mrs. Jenkenson is laid aside in hospital. On Nov. 10 Lois Mudford, who made the good confession at Ararat mission, was welcomed into fellowship with church.

**Surrey Hills.**—Attendances over last few weeks have been increasing. Temple Day offering amounted to £80 and for home missions £25. Church had fellowship with Mrs. T. Perry (Miss Beryl Carter), from Queensland, on Dec. 8. Evening service on 15th was conducted by young people, with choir and soloist rendering Christmas carols. Young men's club held gymnastic display on Dec. 13, attended by 150 people. Boys' Explorer Club finished on Dec. 16 with a "father and son" night. The club has had a successful year, having 55 boys enrolled. The club raised £17/10/- with its "smiles" campaign. Bible school started vacation on Dec. 15. Kinders had Christmas party on Saturday before.



**Hampton.**—Christmas parties were held in connection with Sunday school. On evening of Dec. 21 the men's society entertained young people of church. C. L. Lang led an open-air service on sea front on afternoon of Dec. 22. At night the chapel was full for an enjoyable candlelight carol service arranged by choir under conductor Mr. Maunder.

**Emerald.**—A fellowship tea for young and old was held on Dec. 21. A happy time was enjoyed over the tea-cups, after which all joined in singing choruses. There were also items by young folk, and the story of Jesus' childhood told by Mr. Wain was followed by distribution from Christmas tree of a gift for all present. Supper was served.

**Haven.**—Attendances have kept at good average. Bible school anniversary was successful, and each scholar received a prize. C. W. Jackel trained children for singing, and gave a flannelgraph message on Jesus feeding the multitudes. A fair to help in furnishing prospective new building returned £76. Mrs. F. Olier led a fine band of workers in this enterprise. Building proposals have been brought to a standstill because of restrictions. C. Sherriff and B. Berry assist in teaching. On Dec. 18 a Christmas tree was held, when Santa Claus presented each child with a gift. There were carols and items. The function was a happy and well attended one. Scholars who entered annual Bible school examination received very high marks.

**Bendigo.**—On Dec. 11 Miss Pearl Treasure, outgoing missionary under Central Asian Mission, gave a lantern lecture in connection with work of mission. On Dec. 12, Sunday school gave a Christmas treat to kindergarten. Items were given by members of kindergarten. Annual Christmas treat was given to inmates of Blind Home on Dec. 14 by Y.P.S.C.E. They also visited Bendigo Chalet on Dec. 17, sang carols, and distributed gifts. Ladies of church made 17 Christmas cakes and distributed them together with other gifts to many sick folk. Good Companions and Explorers completed a successful year with a combined social evening on Dec. 19. Prizes awarded during year were presented. Evening was concluded with singing of carols by candlelight. Church regrets that Mrs. Ruston is very sick.

**Preston.**—Morning speaker on Dec. 8 was Mr. Nicholson, representing V.L.O.A. Church Men's Society distributed Christmas parcels to several elderly people. Acknowledgments received indicated that these were much appreciated. On Dec. 14 kindergarten Christmas tree was held in afternoon. Bible school scholars were entertained in evening at an enjoyable picture show provided by assistant superintendent S. W. Gray. At evening service on Dec. 15, anthems and carols by church choir and young people combined were interspersed with specially prepared messages by Mr. Combridge. Soloists were Miss Betty Salisbury and F. Lang, jun. A Bible school scholar, Linda Morffew, rendered a solo which was included in the carols. Auxiliaries have now gone into recess over the holiday period.

**Horsham.**—Women's Mission Band has forwarded towards brotherhood interests record sum of £15. On Dec. 8 a young man was baptised, and he was received in following Lord's day morning. The sacred drama, "For He had Great Possessions," was presented in excellent manner to an appreciative audience. The party presented the drama at Dimboola two nights later, and were highly commended for the effort. W. B. Payne conducted a special series of services from Dec. 1 to 8. This was of a voluntary nature. The addresses were helpful and appreciated. Vocal items were rendered each night. C. W. Jackel

presented the plea of home missions at Horsham and Dimboola illustrated with a map. H.M. offering was £36. Offering for local hospital was £7/7/-, including one guinea from C.E. Society. An effort for Christmas cheer for Guest Home returned £6/17/-. Mr. Jackel conducted Bible school anniversary at Ararat on Nov. 17.

**Gardiner.**—Mrs. Waterman visited Men's Fellowship for November meeting, and told some of her experiences among people of Islands. Combined mid-week meetings for past five weeks have been held in local Presbyterian Church, ministers taking charge of one meeting each. On Nov. 28 K.S.P. club, assisted by Peter Leonard, presented a concert in aid of Old Folks' Hospital. On Dec. 6, church officers entertained church sporting clubs to a social evening. Presentation was made to R. Anderson. Mr. Bolduan continues to give good addresses at both meetings on Sundays. Women's Mission Band meeting for December took form of a luncheon, Mrs. Nankivell being visiting speaker and Mrs. Wheatland soloist. Gifts were made to Mrs. R. Anderson, shortly to go to Boronia to live, and to Miss H. Richards on her approaching marriage. Over 100 parents and children gathered to annual Christmas tree for kindergarten on Dec. 14. Offering for "launch" appeal for New Hebrides was taken on evening of Dec. 15, when Mrs. Waterman assisted in service.

**Ivanhoe.**—All auxiliaries of church report good progress. Following were appointed at Bible school annual meeting: Secretary, N. A. Fisher; treasurer and assistant secretary, R. L. Green; kinder superintendent, Mrs. A. Harris; kinder pianist, Miss S. Gibbons; organist, R. L. Green; birthday roll, Ruth Prentice; librarian, Leon Best; "Pure Words" agent, Mal Launder; Dhond Hospital agent, Miss G. Dummett; C.Y.F. agent, Miss V. Bell; "News Reel" agent, Miss N. Gibbons; safety flags, Keith and Gwen Thompson. The superintendent, A. Launder, was appointed by church. A successful Christmas tree for kindergarten was held on Dec. 14, preceded by a party for children. Church reports £19/6/- given so far for local building fund offering. One new member, Don Jones, was welcomed into fellowship on Nov. 10 by letter from Wangaratta. On Dec. 22 a baptismal service was held, Miss Cynthia Clemens being the candidate. Special carol singing, under leadership of Miss J. Milne, formed part of service. Ladies' Guild and Mission Band held closing meeting for year at home of Mrs. F. Gibbons on Nov. 13. A happy time of fellowship was enjoyed.

**Essendon.**—On Nov. 30, Temple Day was held. In evening a thanksgiving meeting was held. Amounts received during day reached £170. A youth tea was held on Dec. 1. Reg Bye (Pahran Mission) was speaker in evening. Sunday school rendered two hymns; Doris Dodd sang a solo. Mr. Crisp was speaker at both services on Dec. 8. Mr. Fordham (Moreland) presided at morning meeting. C.M.S. held monthly tea meeting; 30 men were present to hear Capt. C. Bleazby, 3XY, speak of experiences in Middle East. A good congregation was present in evening, when a choral and lantern service was held. Mr. Summerton was meeting with church after long absence through illness. A wind-up social of clubs was held on Dec. 12. All have gone into recess till new year. On Dec. 14, kindergarten children enjoyed a Christmas party in evening. Father Christmas visited kinders and cradle roll babies, and presented each with a toy. Mr. Crisp conducted both services on Dec. 15. A baptismal service was held in evening. At close of address Margaret Lee responded to invitation. At evening communion Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson (Ormond) were welcomed into church, also their son and daughter (Mrs. Walker), baptised during evening meeting. Sympathy of church is extended to Misses McGregor and Mr. Dalton in passing of loved ones.

## Decline in the Value of Life

*Our N.S.W. correspondent, Ethelbert Davis, reports on discussion on decline of faith and on a Book Week Exhibition.*

A WEEK or so ago a most thought-provoking article came from the pen of Alan Walker on the subject, "Does Eternity Matter?" It appeared in the "Sydney Morning Herald." "A new commandment has appeared in this twentieth century—thou shalt not appear to be 'other-worldly.' The mind of modern man attempts to explore every world except the next world. He talks much about education for life, but not of education for eternity."

Mr. Walker claims that men to-day dream of a kingdom, but it is a kingdom of earth, not of heaven. In other words, the doctrine of immortality, so central in the Christian gospel, has come to be quietly ignored. And a reason for that mood is found in the one-time over-emphasis on the "sweet by-and-by." He thinks that in too many minds an exaggerated emphasis on immortality did cut the tap-root of reform. But it is difficult to say which is most to be feared—a period in which men are over-conscious or under-conscious of eternity.

The effects of the decline of faith in immortality is stated thus: "It is at least significant that during the very years when the eclipse of eternity as a vital faith has taken place, far-reaching changes of mental attitude have taken place. It has been during this century that the value of man's life has greatly declined. Racial massacres, the destruction of the unfit, the concentration camp, have written a new story of ruthless terror for the history books of to-morrow. It is during these years that strange theories of government as expressed in totalitarianism have disturbed the peace of the world; and human values of tolerance and freedom and charity which, a generation ago, seemed so impregnable, have almost disappeared."

The writer of the article asked if there is any connection between a decline of faith in immortality and the collapse of certain of these standards which we have come, theoretically at least, to accept, and answered: "I am going to claim that there is a link between the two. More has followed the dropping out of view of eternal life than this world dreams of."

Concluding, the writer affirmed that the doctrine of immortality enhances the dignity and the worth of individual men and women, and quoted Professor Baillie in support: "If we think it right that man should not count with God, are we likely to go on believing that he should count for his fellow-mortals? Human life becomes infinitely cheaper if death has the last say." Human values do perish with immortality, for its belief cuts deep into every man's mind, and far into the structure of society. It is one of those crucial, fundamental attitudes which determine our whole interpretation of the meaning and the mystery of life.

### A Change When Christ Comes

From a press report we learn that Archdeacon J. Bidwell, of St. Andrew's, Summer Hill, preached a sermon on a recent Sunday on Romans 13: 12, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light." The archdeacon sees no change for the better until Christ comes. "We are living," he said, "in days of learning, science, civilisation, commerce, freedom and knowledge. We see things quite unknown to our forefathers—gas, electricity, wireless, aviation, and the atomic bomb, but sad to say, in the things of God the world is still in a state of gross darkness."



"Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ sigh and cry for the abominations they see around them—drunkenness, gambling, immorality, robbery and murder. How much sin there is; how little God!"

"The day of the Lord is at hand. The world must undergo a mighty change. It cannot continue in the darkness of sin and ignorance. That change shall be made when Christ shall come. To the ungodly world that will be a catastrophe. To those indifferent it will be a sore amazement. To those who believe this appearing will be a glorious day."

#### "One Book is World's"

"Most Striking Library" was the headline of an article in the "Sun," by Padre G. Stuart Watts. He mentioned the fact that at a recent Book Week exhibition in Parliament House, Canberra, a vote was taken on the ten books which have had the greatest influence on mankind. A few sentences from the article will be helpful even to those who "have known from childhood the sacred writings." "The Bible headed the list, followed by the works of Shakespeare. . . . It is not surprising that the Bible should have been placed first. It is the most ancient library in existence. We say 'library,' for it is not always remembered that the Bible is a 'collection of books.' He claimed that 'The widespread ignorance of the Bible to-day is a moral and cultural disaster. . . . It is only when we apply the ordinary canons of criticism to the Bible that we see how extraordinary it is in its moral and spiritual insight. Only when its books are studied in the setting of their own age will its ageless appeal be felt. And only then will we understand Jesus saying: 'The words that I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life.'"

#### Christmas a Puzzle

In a Chinese cafe in Sydney there is a chef, a Cantonese, by the name of Chun King Sing. He is sad, so he says, because he cannot understand the Christian season of Christmas. He says that he has been told that the season is one of good will toward men, and when there is peace on earth. The thing that puzzles him is that while people are talking about a Prince who brought peace and goodwill, there is a gas strike, with thousands of strikers and thousands of others thrown out of work. He remembers, too, that at the same period last year we suffered in a similar way.

It must certainly puzzle many people as they try to reconcile the bitterness and hate and tumult in the world to-day with nearly 2000 years of preaching the gospel of peace. The explanation is that men are saying as they did of old, "We will not have this man to rule over us." Men will not accept the will of God revealed through Christ Jesus.

#### WANTED

Suitable location for Bible school picnic on Australia Day, Jan. 27, within 15 miles Cheltenham (Vic.). Information appreciated by W. F. White, 6 Viola-cres., Highett, S.21.

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#### "CHERUB NOOK"

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#### BIRTH

MORGAN (Lacy).—On Dec. 7, at Korumburra B.N.H., to Grace and Hugh—a daughter (Wendy Grace). Both well.

#### DEATHS

FRANDSEN.—A tribute of love and respect to our Bible school teacher, Mr. Harry Frandsen, who passed away on Dec. 10, 1946 (result of accident).

"He being dead yet speaketh."

—Inserted by his class of girls, Betty Williams, Mavis Selby, Dorothy Williams, Beth Sheppard.

FRANDSEN.—On Dec. 10, 1946 (result of accident), Harry R. Frandsen, loved choir leader of Dandenong church.

"God holds the key of all unknown."

—A tribute of love by the choir members.

McGREGOR.—On Nov. 26, Henry Alexander, Albert-ave., Boronia, dearly beloved husband of Edith M., and loved father of Don, John, Alec and Jessie (Mrs. V. Symes, Harcourt), father-in-law of Gladys, Isabell, Jean and Vic.; grandpa of Barry, Janet, Ian and Roy. Resting.

#### IN MEMORIAM

DEED.—In loving memory of a dear son and brother, F/Sgt. Cyril, R.A.A.F., and the members of his gallant crew, who passed to higher service at Oortlebeer's, Holland, on Dec. 24, 1944.

A wonderful son only lent,  
One of the best God ever sent;  
His gentle voice keeps whispering,  
"Be patient, kind and true;  
At the end of the land of shadows  
I'll be waiting for all of you."  
Duty nobly done.

—Inserted by his loved ones.

McPHERSON.—In loving memory of our dear sister May, who was called home on Dec. 24, 1945.

"God watched you as you suffered;  
He knew you had your share;  
He gently closed your weary eyes  
And took you in his care."  
"Some time we'll understand."

—Inserted by her loving sisters, Millie and Elsie.

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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.).

## ROCKET TESTING

I AM greatly disturbed that the Federal journal of the churches of Christ, "The Australian Christian," has not featured a strong protest against the use of Australian territory for a rocket testing range, especially as the particular site chosen cuts right through the Central Aborigines Reserve, thus destroying its usefulness as a native reserve. This is the more surprising when we note the prominence given recently to the work of UNRRA, a project which, unfortunately, has developed into a gigantic racket.

Is it that we have become so indifferent to the sufferings which our natives have endured during the whole period of the white men's supremacy, that any new outrage scarcely disturbs our conscienceless complacency? Or is it that not many people realise the full significance of the scheme, both in regard to the doleful prospect it holds for the natives, and also in the further evidence it provides of the complete lack of sincerity displayed by the Federal Government.

It is another link in a sinister chain of events which present a searing indictment of our Federal authorities.

In 1935, 1936 and 1937 large numbers of Japanese were caught fishing illegally in the protected waters of the Arnhem Land reserve. They landed in the reserve ostensibly for food and water, but they stayed for long periods and had contact with native women and spread disease. Although advised repeatedly of this, the Commonwealth Government took the extraordinary course of encouraging the Japanese by establishing a base at Elcho Island, right in the centre of the most sacred ceremonial area in Arnhem Land.

Again, when the flying boat route from Great Britain was being surveyed, a fuelling base was constructed at Groote Eylandt in the centre of a native population which was thus ruthlessly and needlessly sacrificed.

The proposed rocket testing range is the crowning effort in the systematic betrayal of our unjustly despised and cruelly persecuted native race. The danger to life and limb caused by the actual firing of these diabolical missiles is not the greatest menace. The roads for communicating with and provisioning the observation posts will go right through the heart of the reserve, and this means that the sad history of the production of our present half-caste population will inevitably be repeated. As if this were not enough, we believe that the latest suggestion is that the military authorities do not want the natives

removed because they will be needed as laborers (I should have written slaves) to perform the heavy work which their white lords would find inconvenient in such a trying climate.

But the sinister features of this project are too many to enumerate here. I simply appeal to Christian people to do something to stop it. I suggest that you write to your representative in the Federal Parliament, and hold him personally responsible for this wanton sacrifice of the natives living in this last piece of Australian territory which they can really call their own.—H. L. Davie, Grange, S.A.

(We believe the writer of this letter had not received his copy of issue Dec. 4, when he wrote. In leader we expressed ourselves clearly on this problem and others. We endorse much that has been written above.—Ed.)

## Our Young People

W. R. Hibburt.

### LET'S GO CAMPING

"LET'S go camping!" This is the mood of many young people at this season of the year. It is the work of the Young People's Department to function within the experience of young people. The camping mood and medium presents an unusual opportunity to minister to vital interests of youth. The community spirit, the team work, sharing responsibility, afford an excellent opportunity to relate the Christian religion to life. Wise leaders cause campers to build the camp into a kingdom of God community, urging youth to make the camp a model of what they want the world to be. This makes great demands on translating youthful vision into practical action.

There is no other activity in the life of the church that discovers so much leadership ability. No camp should be conducted in the name of the church that is without strong and wise leadership. Churches prepared to release their minister when called up by the department to serve as camp leaders will be helping to build to-morrow's brotherhood.

### Victorian Christmas and New Year Camps

120 will be encamped at the Waterman Memorial Camp Site in the Dandenong Ranges. It has been necessary to disappoint a number of applicants. The camp song-book has been reprinted and enlarged. A study booklet of 20 pages has been prepared on the theme, "Christian Global Strategy." The following comprise the leadership team: Director, W. R. Hibburt; padre, V. C. Stafford; hostesses, Mrs. D. Kent, Miss D. Reynolds; co-leaders, C. Cole, S. F. Davey, C. J. Robinson, F. Langford; cook, Mrs. E. Trew; meal supervisor, C. Waters; transport officer, G. Daff; medical officer, Dr. W. A. Kemp.

A Murray Valley camp takes place for the first time at Mildura. The camp will be held at Mr. Mansell's fruit block, near Murray River,

about a mile from the city. Campers are expected from Swan Hill, Mildura, Merbein, Red Cliffs (Vic.), Berri (S.A.), Dareton (N.S.W.). L. E. Snow will serve as director, and be supported by I. J. Chivell (padre), W. Marshall (Bible study and song-leader), H. I. Walmsley (discussion leader), J. Smith (quartermaster). Mrs. G. Waterman has consented to serve as hostess. This camp venture gives promise of meeting a fellowship need of young men and women attached to churches over a wide area.

### The Fun of Building a Camp Home

Building a camp home in the Dandenong Ranges is without doubt hard work. What makes it fun to teams of men, young and old, who constantly return for more hard work? It is a kingdom enterprise. What a test match is to a cricketer, the camp project is to this team of workers. It is a game that brings durable satisfaction. It is a test of seeing a job through. On Saturday, December 14, a team of thirty men commenced the game at sunrise. Some were still enjoying the innings at sunset, and continued the game by electric light. Members of the team included preachers, a councillor, business men, tradesmen.

As a result of this unselfish service, the dining hall and kitchen annex will be completed sufficiently to house Christmas campers. Mr. F. Haycraft is in charge of the building project. The work will continue until the community hall, dining room and kitchen are a complete unit.

### WOMEN'S WORK

(Continued from page 637)

received. Mrs. Curtis is giving devoted service to patients at Woeroloo Sanatorium. She would like to hear from any sister willing to help regularly with this work.

#### Queensland

December meeting of Women's Conference Auxiliary, held in Ann-st. chapel, opened with devotional session led by Mrs. Payne. President, Mrs. Lade, took chair for business session. Quarterly reports showed work in good heart, especially that of Prayer Meeting Committee led by Mrs. Mills. These meetings are helpful, inspiring and very well attended. Resignation of Mrs. Bates, recording secretary, for health reasons, was received with regret. Mrs. Burgin has been appointed to this position. It being final meeting for year, Mrs. Lade wished all sisters compliments of season. On behalf of all present, Mrs. Alcorn reciprocated with good wishes to Mrs. Lade. Next meeting will be held in February.

### PARENTS

PARENTS desiring to encourage their children 14 years and over in regular study of the Bible and in literature with a Christian content should arrange for a copy of the "Christian Youth Fellowship" to be addressed to them quarterly. It is a 64 page study manual and magazine on youth interests. Annual subscription, post paid, is 4/-. Order from Austral Publishing Co., 528, 530 Elizabeth-st., Melbourne, C.I.

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## Obituary

### Mrs. Marion Smith

ON Nov. 26, at her residence, 35 Victoria-cres., Mont Albert, Vic., Mrs. Marion Smith passed to her reward after a five months' illness during which her patience and strong faith were an inspiration to all who were privileged to visit her. Mrs. Smith united with the church at Doncaster in 1878, being baptised by J. Hindle at Lygon-st., as there was no baptistery at Doncaster at the time. While at Doncaster our sister was a great help in church and Bible school work. In 1924 Mrs. Smith was transferred to Balwyn, and immediately entered wholeheartedly into the work. She was a woman of deep conviction as to the religious position for which she stood, and brought her family up in the knowledge of the truth, her deep love for Christ and consistent service for him being an inspiration to all who knew her. Of late, because of advancing years, her activities were largely in connection with the women's auxiliary and mission band, where she was an honored member. A large gathering of relatives and friends paid tributes to the memory of our sister at the burial service at the funeral parlors and later at Box Hill cemetery. There was a sense of victory over death in the sure and certain hope which is the lot of those who look for the glad day of reunion in Christ. The church extends deep sympathy to those who mourn.—A.E.H.



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## Attention to the Readings

### THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.

FOR the first Lord's day morning of the New  
Year, our first scripture lesson (2 Chron.  
15: 1-8) records God's call of a man to pro-  
mote peace. Azariah is to be spokesman of  
an assurance concerning THE CONTACT THAT  
MAKES FOR PEACE—faithful contact and  
communion with the living God. What a  
modern sound there is in the words: "And in  
those times there was no peace to him that  
went out, nor to him that came in, but great  
vexations were upon all the inhabitants of  
the countries. And nation was destroyed of  
nation, and city of city. . . . Be ye strong  
therefore, and let not your hands be weak:  
for your work shall be rewarded." The work  
of men such as Azariah and Asa was honored  
of God, "and there was no more war unto the  
five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa"  
(2 Chron. 15: 19).

The New Testament lesson (Gal. 1) contains  
the testimony of AN EMPOWERED PEACE-  
MAKER IN CHRIST. Paul realised that God's  
peace programme had been mightily advanced.  
The means were never so abundant whereby  
a person may be lifted above the menace and  
chaos of an evil age and made the instrument  
of God's righteousness. Here is one of those  
simple, yet sublime summaries of the Chris-  
tian gospel, for which we are indebted to  
Paul: "Grace be to you and peace from God  
the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who gave himself for our sins, that he might  
deliver us from this present evil world, ac-  
cording to the will of God and our Father:  
to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."  
Subsequent human experiments have justified  
Paul's pained surprise at men who are easily moved  
away unto another gospel which is not another.

In our day, THAT NEW AND HOPEFUL  
PHENOMENON, the World Church of Christ, is  
called and commissioned to promote true and  
lasting peace. Oh, that every member could  
be made to thrill to the realism of the task  
and to be so wholly consecrated as to repeat  
the apostle's ministry—"They glorified God  
in me." Let us commend God's will to peace  
and enter into faithful partnership for its  
fulfilment.

### THEMES AND TEXTS

"The Keynote of Christ's Gospel."—"Our  
Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our  
sins, that he might deliver us from this pres-  
ent evil world, according to the will of God  
and our Father" (Gal. 1: 3, 4). "The Crown-  
ing Revelation."—"It pleased God . . . to  
reveal his Son in me" (Gal. 1: 15, 17). "Be-  
tween Ourselves and God."—"Immediately I  
conferred not with flesh and blood" (Gal. 1: 16).  
"Our Highest Ministry."—"And they glorified  
God in me" (Gal. 1: 24).

The scripture lesson is always enhanced  
when the reader has taken pains to realise  
what he is reading about.—G. J. Andrews.

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