

The Australian Christian

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The Resurrection Rings True

EVIDENCE presented at a legal trial by various witnesses is tested by the unity and harmony of the story as it is related by different persons. Error is discovered by contradictory and self-contradictory statements of witnesses. The judge is guided by small details. If these can be reconciled into a satisfactory and harmonious account, then he is prepared to accept the story as true. Efforts to construct a story of a "perfect crime" fail. Some detail is left uncovered. Failure in one small point will reveal the weakness in an untrustworthy witness' account.

Stories of the resurrection in the New Testament, and accounts of the various individuals mentioned in the evidence setting out what happened, are not contradictory. The details presented fit into a perfect pattern and bring undoubted assurance of their truth. Thus the whole account of the resurrection rings true. This is revealed in the psychological and physical reactions of all those who played some part in the events.

THE SOLDIERS

Because of the possibility of fraud, the Jewish officials took certain precautions. This Jesus had been a source of trouble. Many stories had been circulated about him. Now that he was dead, efforts must be made to prevent the disciples from framing a false story that he had been raised from the grave. This might be achieved if the body of Jesus were stolen, and if rumors were circulated that he had been raised from the dead. The opinion of the Jewish council

of the character of the disciples was not high. They considered those men to be mean and false. In view of that we see the reasonableness of their effort to have a guard of soldiers set about the tomb. When in the dim light of the early dawn the resurrection took place, the soldiers became dreadfully afraid. It is the unexpected event that causes terror. What the soldiers thought might occur did not take place. It was an unanticipated happening that threw them off their guard and sent some back at the run to the Jewish officials. The sceptical Jews were not ready to yield to the testimony of facts. Knowing their attitude at other times, we could expect that of them. We could even agree that they would try to prevent the significance of the event finding favor with the people. It fits in with this general picture to have the Jewish leaders bribe the soldiers to say that "his disciples came at night and stole him when we were asleep." They would go so far as to bribe the governor so as to make their scheme a success. The weakness of this Jewish account of the resurrection of Jesus is obvious. What soldier of Rome would run the risk of letting it be known that he fell asleep on duty? If he ever let such a story circulate, he would do so because of the knowledge he was safe. Since bribery and corruption were common in those days, we could expect them to tell their lie only if they were well rewarded.

We can account for the motives of all the persons connected in this part of the resurrection story. It is clear that a
(Please turn to next page.)



"RESURRECTION," showing John and Peter going to tomb of Jesus.—From the Painting by Bernand.

He Ever Lives

*The Christian's hope, based on the resurrection of Christ,
is made clear by Ira A. Paternoster, of New South Wales.*

POSSIBLY the most heartening words ever spoken by the Master were: "Because I live, ye shall live also." These words are recorded in that memorable chapter, John 14, and verse 19. This chapter, as possibly no other, conveys to us a sense of security in the Lord, and it has comforted and strengthened more people than any other.

"I go to prepare a place for you," were the words of One who knew the grave could not hold him. Doubtless conscious even then of the death he was to accomplish in Jerusalem, he could look into the future and say, "Let not your heart be troubled." If we could only get every troubled soul to accept the glorious fact that Jesus lives! To-day I have committed to the purifying flames the mortal remains of one who sought to bear a burden too heavy to be borne alone. We had pointed to the great Burden-bearer, and the burdened one was beginning to understand. But Satan saw to it that belief should not come. So the brain yielded, ending the struggle which should have been no struggle. What a difference the fact of the resurrection makes!

Life presents many and varied problems to-day. Spiritual values are lightly set on one side. Material things are so much more tangible! Demands upon our physical energy are very great. The tempo of life has been speeded up, and we cannot take time to be holy. Yet even so, we thank God for the work of redeeming grace going on in the world. Again we hear the Saviour say, "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." To the grief-stricken Martha he added, "Believest thou this?" To the one who, by faith in the eternal Son of God, does accept the fact of the resurrection, there is nothing to fear as he faces the future. He may see very dimly within the veil, and his faith may be only the equivalent of a grain of mustard seed; but if that faith is in the finished work of Christ, he knows he can safely leave the rest to God. It was such a faith that enabled the Apostle Paul to say, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven; if so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked."

The business of the one who has this hope is to seek to so live that it will make such a difference in his life that others will want the same possession. Much is being said to-day of the hardness of the church's task. It is hard. A cloak of indifference has settled down upon the world. Men have become lovers of pleasure rather than of God. By his own might he is accomplishing the seemingly impossible. He is able to get along so well without God that he scoffs at the great facts of our faith.

This surely constitutes a mighty challenge to our faith. Once again it is well for us to remember the task is not really ours. In the tabernacle of old was placed the golden candlestick, typical of the light-bearing church. But it is well for us to remember to-day, the mission of the candlestick was to bear the oil which gave the light. Oil has always stood for the Holy Spirit, and his power is not lessened because Satan is so active. The Holy Spirit was given that he might testify

of Christ. But this he can only do through willing vessels. His church is not willing to-day to testify of Christ. Leaving it to the few paid witnesses, the great rank and file is silent.

I hear the apostle saying again to the lukewarm church, as he said in his defence before Agrippa, "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you that God should raise the dead?" It was for this hope's sake he was standing accused. He knew that "if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is not Christ risen; and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain: ye are yet in your sins. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept."

There are so many questions men want to ask in connection with the theme of the resurrection. When our faith is deep rooted in his glorious promises, we learn to walk by faith, accepting the light he sends, as he sends it. The Holy Spirit, as part of his ministry to us, is to lead us into all truth. This he does through our obedience to the word of God. "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself," Jesus said, and many of us have proved the truth of this promise. No amount of argument could turn us from this glorious hope.

As we older grow and know of a certainty the end of our earthly pilgrimage approaches, we can, without boasting but in perfect trust, say, "I know in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day."

Some of us are living in the hope there may come for us a quick transition, for at a time God has in his own keeping, and no-one must speculate about, Christ will call his church out of this sin-cursed world. "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Easter reminds us again that we have here no continuing city; but with eyes fixed upon the ever-living Saviour, we thank God for the mercies of another year. We thank him for the faith that brings us back to the cross and then on to the garden that first Easter morn. We hear again the celestial voice saying, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead."

Shall not we be quick to bear this life-giving message to those who sit in darkness?

The Resurrection

(Continued from front page)

rough and rude attempt was made to cover the truth of a great event that cannot be explained away.

The Women

Because of the haste to bury the body of the Lord on account of the coming Passover Feast, we can understand why the women would desire to take the first opportunity to give their Master a respectable burial. The chance could not be found before the dawn of the first day of the week. They never anticipated the resurrection. It was not a case of wishful thinking being given imaginary or visionary form. At that moment their concern was practical. "Who will roll away the stone?" they asked. In the story the amazement of the women is shown. They see the stone rolled away, the tomb empty, and are greeted with words of messengers who say, "Why do you look among the dead for him who is alive? He is not here, he has risen. Remember how he told you when he was still in Galilee that the Son of man had to be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and rise on the third day."

In view of such an announcement, we must expect the whole action of the story to change. What a change did take place! The women "ran quickly from the tomb in fear and great joy" to announce the news to the disciples.

The Disciples.

The followers of Jesus were stunned by the crucifixion and death of their Master. They were too depressed to act. They never expected such a tragedy. No lively imagination led them to see visions. Their hopes were dead. The sudden appearing of the women and the announcement they made of the risen Christ made little impression on some of the disciples. This story of the women seemed, in their opinion, to be nonsense; they would not believe them." Only Peter and John considered it worth while investigating the reports. They found the tomb empty, and were puzzled. Then the disciples heard Mary give a report of the risen Lord. That same evening, when men were gathered together, Jesus appeared in their midst. When they saw his hands and side they rejoiced. But Thomas, who was not present, would not believe. Not until a week later was he convinced. When Jesus appeared before him and said, "Look at my hands, put your finger here; and put your hand here into my side; cease your unbelief and believe," Thomas responded by saying, "My Lord and my God."

Very soon the despondent and inactive men were changed. Their new-born spirit brought into being by the sight of their risen Lord, drew them together and added many to their number. Paul said that about five hundred were together when Jesus made his final appearance before his ascension.

These men were convinced of the truth of the resurrection only when one doubt after another had been banished by irrefutable facts. The whole story presents a united witness to the reality of the risen Lord. The evidence is overwhelming in favor of his physical resurrection. Upon such a fundamental truth the victorious church rests and, because of it, our hopes of a glorious future will be realised.

Changes Seen at KUNMING



A. Anderson, secretary of Federal Overseas Board, writes
interestingly of a return visit to an important Chinese city.

IT is twelve and a half years since we saw Kunming (known in our day as Yunnanfu). During most of that period China was fighting her bitter war with the Japanese. Despite all the turmoil and anxiety, Kunming has made a good deal of progress. In our earliest days (25 years ago), the only means of transport was by sedan chair, which able-bodied people eschewed. To-day, regular bus services travel the main streets, rickshaws are here by the hundreds, also scores of private cars, many of them of modern design, jeeps by the score and large army trucks. A few days ago we saw a party off to Ta Li Fu. In the old days, with much hard slogging, the journey took at least twelve days. This party comprised six missionaries and some children, plus an enormous amount of baggage, piled into a large army truck (now mission property), and expected to reach Ta Li in less than three days.

High Cost of Living

The American Army literally dumped tens of thousands of dollars worth of stuff. Stores are full of foreign goods. Some of this was purchased cheaply or gotten by back-door methods. Practically anything can be purchased in Kunming to-day—at a price. Missionaries were the recipients of great kindnesses at the hands of the American Army. Tinned goods of all descriptions were given out gratis. One missionary informed me that there was enough tomato sauce in the city to float a battleship. Now the American Army have left there is still much for sale, but prices are terribly inflated. Ordinary articles at home that would bring 6d. to 1/- are as high as 5/- and 6/-. Exchange is high, \$10,800 national currency for the Australian pound, but a pound will not purchase, for example, more than one cake of lifebuoy soap, one tube tooth paste, one tin shoe polish, a pound of boiled sweets—worth about 3/6 in all at home, yet over \$10,000 in Chinese dollars. A friend said jokingly yesterday, "It is useless going down the street without one wan (10,000) of dollars with you." Petrol, of which plenty seems available, cannot be purchased in the ordinary way. It is all operated in some kind of black market, and brings from 15/- to 17/6 a gallon. It is reported that the American Army officials handed over to the Chinese Government of Yunnan more than 20,000,000 American dollars worth of materials. This has been a good thing, and yet has been a bad thing, for it has allowed black markets and corruption and inflated prices. Great areas of the city received direct hits during the war, most of which has been built up again, mostly with modern types of building and with advantage to the streets. Each new building erected has to go back so many feet. In some of the main streets this widening process has taken place five times in the past 25 years.

An Australian at Chinese Rotary Club

The people in this favored agricultural district seem outwardly to be well dressed and

well fed. There is an abundance of ordinary foodstuffs on the market, and the common people seem happy and contented. I am reliably informed, however, that there is quite an amount of poverty behind closed doors. With the currency inflated as it is, it is small wonder that the poorer people with large families, the aged and the sick, find it hard to get along. It would appear, however, that the rich are getting richer. More men wear foreign clothes, and numerous women are seen in costly furs and silks.

Kunming boasts her own Rotary Club, international in nature, though predominantly Chinese. I was an honored guest a few days ago. My subject, chosen by the Rotarians themselves, was "Australia During the War and Post-war Period." The club seemed very interested, and extended an invitation for next week again to continue on the same lines. The talk was in English, and was preceded by a fine dinner. English is freely spoken to-day. Already I have spoken to three English speaking groups, and another is pending. Any European could spend his time here teaching

Street Scene in Kunming.

English to students. Most are clamoring for outside knowledge.

Most of the various mission churches have made progress during the past ten years. Many of them have moved towards self-support, and missionaries are invited to speak when the local church board invite them. A new day and a great day is ahead for the Chinese churches. The C.I.M. in conjunction with an associate mission (German) have just secured a fine property outside the city, overlooking the lake, and in a month's time will open a Bible school. Pastor Heo, pastor of Hueli church for some years, is to be principal.

The main temple of the city, known as Cheng Hwa Miao, no longer functions as a temple, but as a modern picture show. My first impression of heathen worship was in this very temple. People no longer enter this place to worship but for amusement. Some changes seen are definitely good, whilst some are very doubtful.

Social Service Notes

Will. H. Clay.

ALL committees have now completed their term of office, but none has completed its task. Reports will indicate to what extent the programme attempted was accomplished. The Social Service Committee submits its report with confidence. The year has been crowded with incidents, although it cannot be claimed that the whole programme which the committee adopted has been carried out.

The Children's Home is still unrealised. This is due, almost entirely, to problems affected by labor and shortage of building materials. A serious fire almost entirely destroyed the upper structure of the building, and water seriously damaged the otherwise unaffected part. £3250 was paid in insurance to cover loss sustained. The grammar school which was being conducted in the building has closed, and we have obtained possession. The contract for renovations and alterations of the ground floor will soon be accepted, and we anticipate that we shall have a most up-to-date building for the work we intend to do.

The Hospital, for reasons already stated in connection with the Children's Home, is still as we found it upon its acquisition. The fact that we have been waiting for months for some Government support to bring the building up to required standard and provide extra accommodation for staff has caused us to move cautiously. We are advised that our request will receive consideration when estimates for the financial year are provided. We have requested £10,000. This delay is regarded by the committee as very serious owing to the number of cases needing immediate attention which we have been compelled to defer. The property, however, has increased

in value, and from a financial point of view we are in a very happy position. Upon the Government grant will largely depend the decision we make with regard to the extent of services we will offer.

Christian Fellowship Association

The committee has many reasons to be satisfied with its venture of faith in appointing Mr. F. E. Buckingham as field representative. He has succeeded in introducing over 1000 new members to the movement, and in addition has rendered splendid services to the department in other ways. With assistance of his car a wider range has been possible, and personal attention has been given to matters of importance which otherwise would have been high impossible. He has also given valuable service from the pulpit, and not a few have been won for Christ through his efforts. It is also claimed that the C.F.A. message has had the effect of confirming and establishing many in the faith. Mr. Buckingham is giving part-time service with the church at Prahran.

Hospital Visitation

Mr. C. Young has made a most satisfactory commencement as our official hospital visitor, which confirms us in the view that such a service is definitely a function of the church. Officials of all hospitals have been most courteous and helpful, and already he has been given special recognition in ways quite unexpected. Contacts he has made more than justify his appointment. He is still giving part-time service with the church at Mont Albert.

(Continued on next page)

Mission at Wiley Park

Remarkable stories of conversions are told by the evangelist, E. C. Hinrichsen, in the following article.

THE Home Missionary Committee had hoped to enter this new field a year ago. Owing to lack of building material this was not done. Now it is felt that it is not wise to wait. Evangelism must go on. This is an entirely new field—no church or school to assist.

We have commenced our mission. We are now in our second week. We wondered how we would get audiences with which to start. The loyalty of our brotherhood has been delightful. People come from far and near to assist. Belmore church is closest. While they continue their own services, many come every night to our assistance. B. G. Corlett, the preacher, spends almost the whole of his time assisting at the mission. This is the second time this church has assisted. When we started at Wollongong without a church, Mr. Corlett was released for eight weeks. That church has been self-supporting from the start, and each year gives about £100 to outside work, beside starting a branch church which is full of promise.

The population at Wiley Park is not sufficiently large to hope for anything like that, but we are praying for a good church.

The first two converts were baptised last night—both had been Catholics. There were 34 other Catholics present at the meeting. One of our best workers owns the most beautiful hotel in Sydney. It is not the largest but beautifully designed. When at Enmore there was an amazing conversion of a hotel-keeper. He is right out of it now, and has a passion for the church and souls that is seldom seen. Now this other hotel-keeper is most keenly interested. He, too, is a Catholic. He has been every night this week, and some nights brings two car-loads. He has a keen sense of humor which appeals to all, but has a sincerity deep down which is beautiful. He admits that he "feels awful," but hesitates about making the decision, as this large hotel is on his hands and in his name. He says "the more people that come into his hotel for drink the worse he feels." He is a very lovely man, and it would be good if the brotherhood could pray him in. The sacrifice will be great, as it would mean giving up about £100 per week, possibly much more. He said he stayed up so late reading the Bible the other night that his wife wondered what was wrong with him. Here is a quotation from a letter received from his brother: "I have just had word from my brother; he is really funny, and can't understand what is wrong with him. He wants to get out of the hotel; this is a big thing for him, as he has been in this kind of work all his life, sad to say. Never mind, he is getting a little of what I got. The Holy Spirit can so upset things when he gets into your life, but it is good that it is the Holy Spirit and not the other 'one.'"

Another man who has been attending every night for a week is a noted bookmaker. Both these men are well over fifty years of age, and each one has been in his own line of business for many years, and both have said it will be so hard to give up and start some other kind of work. It will take a lot of the grace of God for them to make the surrender; but a grave struggle is going on, and we are praying for them. They say their conviction is affecting their health; they can't eat or sleep. All these men are Roman Catholics.

Several months ago now a brilliant young priest, John O'Baird, came out of the convent and intended coming into our ministry this year. At present he is seriously ill, near to death. If he dies it will have a disas-

trous effect on many Roman Catholics who are earnestly seeking the truth.

At the end of the service last night a school teacher spoke to me. He said, "I am an atheist. I have read the Bible and many books on atheism." We had a very short discussion. Souls are rarely won by argument. He has promised to come every night for a week. There is a power in the gospel and the atmosphere of a mission service that most atheists simply cannot resist for a week. Pray for him, too.

Another interesting case is that of a very brilliant medical man who came to Enmore the last Sunday night, and has been to the mission almost every second night. He is a very well-known doctor, and much loved. His presence helps us. He brought another doctor with him on Sunday night. Hence interest is developing.

A group of Catholics and others used to meet at a certain place to come to the mission. A woman spoke to them and said, "Where do you people go every night?" They said, "To church." "Do you go to church every night?" "Yes." "Well, I am an atheist and I don't believe in it, but where do you go?" A mission card was handed to her. The next night she was at the mission. After the service she said to her friend, "Well, I am an atheist, but thank God for such a man who can speak like that." We smile—but it reveals something. Many think they are atheists, but deep down they are not. Many have never had a chance. Hence the great need of evangelistic missions.

On Sunday night there were more people than we could accommodate. Over fifty stood inside the tent, another fifty-five stood outside. One lorry load of men sat through the entire service. Whether they came intending to come in, but found the tent full, or were just passing, we don't know, but they heard the gospel.

Unfortunately the mission clashes with a week of conference meetings, and also the Easter holidays, but pray a little harder and the gospel will win.

Our Young People

V. C. Stafford



VICTORIAN EASTER CAMP

ONE hundred and twenty young people will attend the young Christian workers' camp at Monbulk, Thursday, April 3—Monday, Apr. 7. This is the first youth camp to be held at Easter, and the programme is designed as a training course for young people engaged in teaching and leadership activities.

Camp leaders are: Directors, W. R. Hibburt, L. A. Trezise; chaplain, V. C. Stafford. The foregoing with K. J. Patterson will act as tutors. Hostesses: Miss I. V. Gill, Mrs. D. Kent, Miss D. Reynolds. Co-leaders, S. F. Davey, F. Langford.

Tutorials will be conducted in "Age Groups and Their Characteristics," "Winning Others to Christ," "Studies in Personality," "The Art of Story-telling."

Fraternal visitors to camp will be Mr. Hayden McCallum, delegate to Oslo conference, and Dr. G. H. Oldfield.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PLANS

AT a Bible school and youth workers' conference, April 25-27, the following will feature in the programme:—

1. Discussions on relation of local groups to department; publications and lesson material; youth week; evangelism in school and youth group; finance; camp site; religious instruction in schools; etc.
2. "Get it off your chest" sessions, where delegates will be able to voice suggestions, criticisms, questions.
3. Sectional conferences of C.E., Bible school and club work.
4. Youth work talkie films. Session on films and visual aids for Christian education.
5. Social evening and camp echo on the Saturday night.
6. On the Sunday afternoon at Grote-st., a teachers', youth workers' and young people's rally. Theme: "Becoming Great Enough to Meet the Needs of Our Age."

Delegates are expected from every church in the State. All gatherings will be open to all interested people.

Social Service Notes

(Continued from page 147)

The Associate Secretary

Owing to the necessity for partial retirement of the secretary of the department, particularly from that part of the work which required his attendance at the office, Mr. W. T. Atkin is giving splendid service as associate secretary. It is being realised by the churches more and more that social service is an essential part of Christian service. Few have any real conception of the variety and extent of the work conducted from the office. Mr. Atkin also gives liberal service to churches on Sundays, and his help is greatly in demand.

Mr. and Mrs. Albany Bell, of W.A.

These two stalwarts of the West have been spending some time in Melbourne, and were kept particularly busy. Mr. Bell addressed a special meeting of the S.S. Committee on the subject of immigration. It will be remembered that he made a most generous offer of 500 acres of land in W.A. to the Federal Social Service Committee for child migrants. Regretfully, for two good reasons at least, he has been compelled to review his offer. First, he feels that his years forbid him entering upon such an ambitious plan; and second, the prospect of obtaining British children in any great numbers, and for several years to come, are very remote. The Federal committee fully shared his views. The prospects of child migration have been greatly exaggerated by the Government.

Land at Montrose

Mr. Bell, in company with representatives of the committee, journeyed to Montrose, about 20 miles from Melbourne, to inspect the 24 acres which the committee has acquired; the transfer of the full acreage is not yet complete. He expressed a genuine pleasure, and enthusiastically backed the committee in what he regarded as being a splendid opportunity of developing a big social enterprise. Mr. Bell's enthusiasm and encouragement were a great stimulus to the committee.

The Australian Christian

The Light of the World

PROGRAMME FOR MAY

Call to Worship—

"Thou Sun divine, whose beams illumine
Our pathway, making all things bright,
Whose glory shines around the tomb—
Give us thy light."

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal No. 367,
"Walk in the Light, so shalt thou know."

Prayer.—O Lord, we need thee to teach us
day by day, according to each day's oppor-
tunities and needs. Purify, we pray thee, our
consciences. Our ears are dull, so that we
cannot hear thy voice. Our eyes are dim, so
that we cannot see thy tokens. Thou alone
canst quicken our hearing, and purge our
sight, and renew our hearts. Teach us to
sit at thy feet and to hear thy word. (Taken
from "New Every Morning.")

Scripture Reading.—Responsive reading No. 4,
page 667, "The True Light" (John 1: 1-14).

Musical or Elocutionary Item.

Meditation.—The Light of the World.

Mrs. Roosevelt has written, "We may belong
to any religion or none, but we must acknow-
ledge that the life of Christ was based on
principles which are necessary to the develop-
ment of a democratic state. His life is im-
portant because it becomes a shining beacon
of what success means. Success is not neces-
sarily gaining high positions, nor acquiring
wealth, but in living a worthwhile life.

"It's sharing sorrow and work and mirth,
And making better this good old earth;
It's serving, striving, through strain and
stress,
It's doing your noblest—that's success."

The disciples of Jesus into whose hearts
his light has shone are the ones who are
really making a success of their life. When
Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world,"
he also reminded us of our responsibility to
enlighten, cheer and guide our fellow-man.

We have seen this work done on mission
fields. Those who have seen the results of
missionary labor testify to the changed out-
look of the converted heathen. Fear and
superstition have disappeared. The status
of woman has been raised. As a converted
Indian, placing his hand over his heart, said
to a missionary, "It used to be all dark here;
now it is light."

The work of such women as Florence Night-
ingale and Elizabeth Fry reminds us of the
splendid work rendered by Christians in mak-
ing hospitals, prisons and other similar in-
stitutions brighter and more cheerful places
for the inmates. Gratitude for our blessings
should lead us to go out and spend our lives
in sympathetic service for the sick, the suf-
fering, and the afflicted, and for those com-
pelled to spend their lives in sordid sur-
roundings.

All of us can be as lights in our own homes
to guide others into the way of Christ. Dr.
Stanley Jones gives this illustration: "In an
ancient Syrian church of Travancore, India,
is a wonderful old brass lamp, with about a
hundred arms, hanging from the ceiling. At
the end of each is a cup with oil and a wick.
At the close of the service the young people
come up and each takes one of the wicks
from the lamp to guide him home through
the night. Standing on a hillock you can
see the points of light here and there mov-
ing amid the darkness. That is what a

Christian home should be—a place where youth
has put within its hands a torch to guide
them as they go out 'amid the encircling
gloom.'"

Jesus exhorted us not to hide our light
or allow it to be snuffed out by the cares,
occupations, distractions or discouragements
of this life, but to set it aloft that its rays may
be seen and felt both near and far. Our
light can shine brightly and continuously only
if we go continually, through Bible-reading
and prayer, to Jesus, the source of all power,
the light of the world.

Prayer.—Give unto us, O God, the spirit of
brightness, that no shadow may oppress our
spirits, and no gloom may darken the light by
which others live: and that we may face with
courage whatever the day may bring; for the
sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal No. 343,
"There's a call comes ringing."

Business Session.

Programme—

Home Mission Notes.

Overseas Letter.

Chain Prayer.

Address: "Our Island Work."

Discussion.

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnal, No. 594,
"Brightly beams our Father's mercy."

Benediction.—May the Spirit, O God, who
proceeds from thee, illuminate our minds and,
as thy Son has promised, lead us into all
truth; through Jesus Christ.

We are indebted to Mrs. P. Alcorn, vice-
president of Queensland Women's Conference,
for this month's programme and devotional
meditation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Victoria

WITH an attendance of 117 delegates and
friends, March meeting opened with de-
votional session led by Mrs. W. Wigney. Dr.
Trenaman, director of Christian Education in
Schools, brought an informative and interest-
ing address on various aspects of his work.
Visitors welcomed were Mrs. H. Steele and
Mrs. A. G. Saunders, who brought a greeting
from N.S.W. Others welcomed back were
Mrs. R. Clark, Mrs. Waterman and Mrs.
Forbes. The following recommendation from
Executive Committee was put to the meeting
and carried: "That the Women's Conference
Executive Council make application to the
General Conference of Victoria to become a
constituted department, enabling them to have
a representative on the General Executive." This
matter will be brought forward at confer-
ence. Much regret was felt at the an-
nouncement that Mrs. Newbold, of Gardiner,
a delegate and committee member, had passed
away; also Mrs. A. Lyall.

Queensland

Devotional session for March meeting of
Women's Auxiliary Conference, held in Ann-
st. chapel, was led by Mrs. A. Norling, who
read a helpful article entitled "Christian
Womanhood." Mrs. Mills reported splendid
meetings of Prayer Meeting Committee over
last quarter. Financial statement revealed
credit balance of £23/19/2.

Tasmania

At monthly meeting on March 4, in Collins-
st. chapel, the vice-president, Mrs. Boxhall,
was in the chair. Devotional leader, Mrs. E.
Ashlin, gave an inspirational talk on "Faithful
Service." Reports showed all superintendents
had done splendid work throughout year.

Western Australia

Mrs. Nightingale presided over meeting held
in Lake-st. chapel on Feb. 4, and also led a
short devotional session. Resignation of Mr.
McRoberts as visitor to Wooroloo was ac-
cepted with regret. Mrs. Curtis and Mrs.
Whitham are doing a good work at the sana-
torium. Financial statement showed balance
of £706/8/8. Mrs. Smillie was congratulated
on her silver wedding anniversary. Mrs. Dig-
wood's son, Frank, met with a severe motor
accident but is doing well.

South Australia

There were 78 present at monthly auxiliary
meeting on March 6. It being home mission
afternoon, after business session the home
mission superintendent, Mrs. Verco, presided,
and Mr. Webb gave an address on home
missions. Collection of £7/5/- was given to
home missions.

New South Wales

Mr. R. Greenhalgh was speaker at March
meeting. Mrs. E. Snow, late of Murwillum-
bah, was a welcome visitor. The organising
secretary, Mrs. McCallum, was away visiting
women's societies on North Coast.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, 1947

ON Friday, Feb. 21, women of Australia and
women all over the world shared in an
order of service prepared by an Indian woman,
Mrs. Caleb.

Mrs. Cleland, hon. secretary of World Day
of Prayer Committee in Victoria, says: "The
central meetings were held in Independent
church, Collins-st., Melbourne. There were
three sessions, morning, lunch hour and after-
noon, and in all there were nearly 400 women
present. Mrs. P. Steel, president Women's
Interchurch Council, spoke at morning session,
Mrs. W. F. Nankivell, president W.C.T.U. and
president Victorian Women's Conference, at
lunch hour, and Mrs. Mallis, a returned mis-
sionary, from South India, addressed after-
noon gathering. Scattered throughout the
State were over 150 groups of women taking
the same programme, as also did the girls'
United Missionary Council, who held their
meeting in Chapter House, St. Paul's Cathedral,
in evening. A young people's service was used
in many day and Sunday schools."

Miss C. Fraser, hon. secretary of N.S.W.,
reported 38 meetings in N.S.W. At the city
meeting in Wesley chapel, an address was
given by Miss Constance Duncan, who re-
cently returned from Korea and Japan. She
told of Christian women in these countries
who held fast to their faith through all their
troubles. The first Japanese to be allowed
to leave Japan since the war was Mrs. Tamaki
Uemura, an ordained minister, who spent
eight months in America, and who addressed
meetings on an average of six times a day.
The Young Women's Christian Association had
leadership of central meeting. At Murwill-
umbah, local radio station gave one half hour
of time over the air.

Mrs. Lade, of Brisbane, wrote that the
Women's World Day of Prayer service was
held in Ann-st. church of Christ chapel, and
was attended by 150 women. Mrs. H. C. Hunt,
president of the committee, presided at morn-
ing session. Mrs. Lloyd Anthony, a mis-
sionary from India, gave the address. At after-
noon session, Miss M. Powell, president of
Methodist Women's Overseas Missions Auxil-
iary, presided, and Mrs. Shakespeare gave the
address. Young people's session in evening
was a representative gathering, and Mrs.
McIntyre, of China Inland Mission, spoke. Of-
ferings went to B. and F. Bible Society.

Mrs. Pollard, of Western Australia, says,
"The Women's World Day of Prayer on
Feb. 21 was an inspiration. A representative
from each denomination took part. It was a
delight to see so many churches of Christ
members throughout the building."

Here and There

Visitors to Victorian conference from South Australia include Chas. Schwab and J. E. Shipway.

Those who arrange readings for Sunday morning services are reminded that New Testament reading for next Sunday is Rev. 1 and for April 13 Ephesians 6.

A. G. Elliott, M.A., has accepted the invitation to serve with church at Subiaco, W.A. He will follow R. Raymond, whose faithful ministry with church has been appreciated.

Australians intending to go to the World Convention at Buffalo, U.S.A., who desire a reservation by steamer are advised that bookings for the "Marine Phoenix," sailing from Sydney about June 2, definitely close with F. N. Lee, 430 St. Georges-rd., Thornbury, on April 7.

The church at Naracoorte, S.A., is planning for a tent mission to be held commencing on Sunday, April 13. Careful plans are being made for advertising, and special prayer meetings are being held. G. T. Fitzgerald, of Adelaide, is to be the missionary. Organisation within the church membership has been carried out in the hope of getting the maximum of interest and support from the members. The prayers of the churches and the brethren are requested.

On March 14, at home of her daughter, Mrs. R. Langley, of Kilsyth, Vic., Mrs. L. Howard celebrated her 90th birthday. Mrs. Howard is the mother of 3 sons (all in America) and 1 daughter. There are 14 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. Mrs. Howard is widow of late Robert Howard, and with him, was a pioneer of cause of primitive Christianity in Mallee district (Galaquil and Brim), their home being opened to early preachers such as H. G. Brown, D. A. Ewers, G. B. Moysey, H. G. Oram, J. Clydesdale and others. Mrs. Howard still enjoys reasonably good health.

A gathering of fifty representative brethren and sisters met at Adelaide Y.M.C.A. to welcome Dr. G. H. Oldfield and family, and Mr. H. R. Coventry, on Monday, March 17. It was a delight to have this fellowship, the first that has been possible since before the war. Miss E. Messent was in the chair, and welcomed the missionaries on behalf of S.A. F.M. Committee. Mrs. W. Green (for Mrs. McQueen) spoke for Sisters' Auxiliary, and W. Russell for conference executive; Dr. P. Messent, for Federal F.M. Board; and G. R. Stirling for Youth Department. Dr. and Mrs. Oldfield and Mr. Coventry replied in interesting and informative talks. After luncheon, an adjournment was made to the lounge, and further informal fellowship was enjoyed.

At Blackburn, Vic., Mr. Robinson (College of Bible) and J. Hodgins were speakers on Mar. 9. After morning service V. McDowell, on behalf of church, made presentation of Bible and reading lamp to Mr. and Mrs. H. Tope, now residing at Red Hill after 17 years' association with Blackburn. On March 12 a meeting was held in chapel to farewell Mr. and Mrs. Wright and to welcome J. E. Allan. Musical and elocutionary items were given by Mesdames V. Thomas, L. McCreddan, and Milton, and Mr. D. McNaught. Mr. Miles (C. of E.), Mr. Ugaldi (Methodist) and D. McNaught (Presbyterian) voiced good wishes of their congregations to Mr. and Mrs. Wright and welcomed Mr. Allan to district. Frank Rogers (president Eastern District Conference) also spoke. Presentations were made to Mrs. Wright from Ladies' Mission Band and Girls' Sunshine Club, and to Mr. Wright from Y.P.S.C.E. and Boys' Club. Eric Gill presented cheque on behalf of S.S., and Mr. Hodgins in presenting a wallet of notes from church referred to the devoted leadership and service given by Mr. and Mrs. Wright during their three and a half years' ministry with Blackburn. Mr. Allan commenced his

ministry on March 16, and has attended meetings of various auxiliaries. Mervyn Little has taken over superintendency of S.S., and F. Langford and F. Minahan have joined teaching staff. A K.S.P. club has been commenced, and members of Preston chapter paid a visit to Blackburn for initiation service. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds are leaving district for some months. Over twenty young people attended eastern district camp at Berwick over Labor Day weekend.

MISSIONARIES' WELCOME HOME

ON Tuesday evening, March 25, Lygon-st. chapel, Victoria, was filled by an enthusiastic audience to welcome home Dr. and Mrs. G. H. Oldfield, Will, Ron and John, H. R. Coventry and Dr. L. J. Michael. Prior to public meeting, missionaries and Overseas Committee and many friends were guests of Dr. and Mrs. Oldfield and Will's home church, Lygon-st., to an excellent dinner.

At 8 p.m. the committee and brotherhood welcome was presided over by R. L. Williams,

AUTUMN AND EASTER

AUTUMN, thou fairest season of the year,
With cooling hand on Summer's fevered brow,
And thy rich mantle spread o'er bush and bough;
The magic of thy hand and purpose clear,
Revealed in soft sky and atmosphere:
With tang of earth responding to the plough
And the rich brown and gold of woodlands now;
A blessed season, too, of mem'ries dear;
Of sorrow, love, and joy, and sacrifice;
A risen Lord: that ransom'd saints revere,
Who opened wide the gates of Paradise;
When grief had forced that agonising cry,
Eloi! Eloi! Lama Sabachthani!
Did Easter, with redeeming Love, appear.
Gardiner, 1947.

—A. Lee-Archer.

committee chairman. He announced the presence of 15 missionaries and 11 children who had been born in India. Welcome messages of a high order were given by B. J. Combridge, conference president; Mrs. W. Nankivell, president Sisters' Conference; and R. C. Bolduan, of Overseas Committee.

The informative and interesting responses by Mrs. G. H. Oldfield, Dr. Oldfield, H. R. Coventry and Dr. L. J. Michael aroused considerable interest.

The services of Mrs. C. G. Taylor, soloist, and Miss M. Pittman, organist, contributed to the success of the gathering. An inspiring missionary welcome rally was closed by prayer offered by W. Nankivell.

NORTHERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE, TASMANIA

ON Monday, March 3, at Caveside, a very successful conference was held. Morning devotional session opened at 11 o'clock, and between 70 and 80 people crowded into and around the little chapel. Conference was opened by A. Harvey (president), visitors being welcomed from Ulverstone, Devonport, Invermay, Sandhill, and Margaret-st., Launceston, as well as members from local, Caveside, Mole Creek and Mayberry circuit. Sister P. Howard rendered a fine solo. Mr. Pitt, senr., of Devonport, officiated at organ. Two stirring addresses were given by R. Edmunds and Mr. Griffiths, of Launceston, on "The Christian's Hope" and "Bargain Sales." From 12.30 to

1.30 conference adjourned, and a fine picnic lunch was enjoyed.

At 2.30 to 3.30 business session was held. During this session three brethren were welcomed to conference having motored all the way from Southern Peninsula earlier in the day. Two of these, P. R. Baker (State evangelist) and Dr. Knight, spoke briefly on needs of Southern and other churches, and fellowship and unity, respectively. A vote of thanks was accorded to K. Mundy, of Highcroft, for motoring these brethren to conference.

Business session was followed by a very helpful general discussion on "How to Win and Hold Youth in Country Churches," Messrs Knight, Baker, Pitt, Harvey, Ron Pitt, T. Orr, A. Orr, Hill, and Mrs. Hill being main contributing speakers.

At 5 p.m., conference again adjourned to Harvey's machinery shed for picnic tea.

In the evening a gospel rally was held, and commenced at 7.15 with a quarter-hour song service under Mr. Griffiths. The rally was presided over by Mr. Harvey. T. Arnott, of Launceston, pleased all with his rendering, both vocal and instrumental (violin) of "The Story of the Cross." Mr. Baker then gave a very challenging address on "The Triumphs of the Gospel," and at close of his address one young sister (N. Orr, Sandhill) made the good confession. Conference closed to the strains of "O Happy Day."—S.C.B.

EASTER SUNDAY.

LYGON STREET CHURCH.

11, J. Holloway (president-elect).
7, S. Russell Baker.

Soloist, Miss Frances Cowper.

Hospitality provided.

Come to tea after conference sermon.

BRUNSWICK BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY, APRIL 20.

3 p.m., L. Brooker. 7 p.m., N. Gavros.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27.

3 p.m., H. Long. 7 p.m., D. Wilson.

All Past Scholars and Friends Invited.

Hospitality Provided.

Children's Demonstration, Wednesday, April 3

ST. KILDA CHURCH OF CHRIST ANNIVERSARY SERVICES,

SUNDAY, APRIL 20.

11 a.m., Jas. Holloway (President-elect of Conference).

3 p.m., "Back to Sunday School."

7 p.m., H. A. Hunt.

Former members and friends are invited home to a day of fellowship. Hospitality provided.

A TWO-WEEKS' MISSION OF TEACHING

Subjects for First Week:

Monday, April 21, E. H. Randall, "The New Testament Idea of God."

Tuesday, April 22, A. B. Withers, "The Christian and His Bible."

Wednesday, April 23, J. K. Martin, "Building the Church."

Thursday, April 24, A. R. Lloyd, "The Baptism of Our Lord Commanded."

Friends from sister churches are invited to these meetings. 8 p.m. each night.

BROADCAST SERVICE

Morning service from Warrnambool church, Vic., will be broadcast from Station 3YB at 11 o'clock on Sunday, April 20. An invitation is extended to all isolated members within listening range of 3YB to set up the Lord's Table in their own homes and to have fellowship with the church on that date. T. V. Webb will be the preacher.

News of the Churches

Western Australia

Perth.—Sympathy was extended to R. F. Robbins on passing of his mother at age of 91. Bible school had two more new scholars. Young People's Fellowship had a successful "question night." On morning of March 23, service was broadcast. J. K. Robinson gave an informative talk. He was preacher at night.

Queensland

Silverdale.—The church is receiving blessing under ministry of E. T. Hart. Mrs. A. Kruger is able to attend church after illness. Valma Kruger has recovered from operation. At church annual meeting D. Schulz was elected secretary and J. S. Kruger treasurer. Sunday school held anniversary on March 23. Mr. Burgin, of Ipswich, gave the address. There was a good attendance, also visitors from Ipswich.

Brisbane (Ann-st.).—Good attendances continue, particularly at morning services. On March 23, 160 broke bread during day. Frank Hunting gave challenging addresses. Two isolated members, Mr. and Mrs. O'Toole, shared morning fellowship. Endeavorers conducted a successful "squash" evening at home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Wyeth on March 22. Appearance of front of chapel has been improved considerably as result of a recent working-bee.

Bundaberg.—Services for week ending Mar. 23 were well attended. Morning service on 23rd was broadcast; soloist was Sister J. De'Oberitz. Following sang at night: Mrs. V. Dallinger and B. Nielsen, M. Roberts and J. McCormick. On March 20 Mr. Greenwood presented moving pictures of young people's camp held at Christmas; there was a good attendance. J. Adermann, who has been doing good work in assisting Bible school and other meetings, was given a farewell on eve of his departure for Rockhampton. Mr. Adermann, while in Bundaberg, put all his time into assisting and doing good for the church.

South Australia

Kilburn.—On March 23, 80 were present at Sunday school, and 18 at breaking of bread, when Mr. Collins gave an inspiring address.

Fullarton.—On morning of March 23, Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Horne, of South Sea Islands Mission, were present; Mr. Horne gave a good address, and also spoke of work in Solomon Islands. Mr. Walter Mitchell, of C.I.M., gave a powerful address at evening service, presenting the "prodigal son" as it would be given to a Chinese audience. Misses Joan Niemann and Val Young sang a duet.

Whyalla.—A man has been baptised and received into fellowship. On March 2 a Young Worshipers' League was commenced with 24 children present. Bible school broke all attendance records twice during month with 100 children present. At gospel service on Mar. 23, a young married woman accepted Christ. Exchange of pulpit with Mr. Bandt, of Methodist church, was arranged on March 30.

Hindmarsh.—Harvest thanksgiving services were held with good attendances morning and evening. The gifts were sent to Protestant Children's Home at Morialta. A successful moonlight hike was held on March 7. This resulted in £9 being received for organ fund. A special offering taken for food for Britain appeal amounted to £17/12/8. Dorcas Society held first meeting for year on March 19. At evening service on March 23, Margaret Magor and Margaret Horsefall made decision for Christ.

Stirling East.—Bible school continues in increase of scholars. Number is now 40 in school under leadership of G. M. Cox. Young People's Fellowship has commenced meetings after recess. A wonderful time of fellowship has been spent with Mr. and Mrs. Ross Graham in their short ministry with church during February and March. It has been a spiritual uplift. On March 23, harvest thanksgiving services were held, when Ross Graham gave two excellent addresses. Goods displayed were given to Colebrook Home, Blackwood. J. H. Cain will commence his ministry with churches at Stirling and Aldgate Valley on April 6.

Queenstown.—Bible school anniversary services commenced on March 23 with good meetings all day. The scholars, conducted by Mrs. E. Mildrum, sang nicely. Speakers were J. T. Train, J. E. Shipway and W. N. Bartlett, and their addresses were appreciated. The preacher, W. C. Brooker, who had been on sick leave for five months awaiting treatment, was operated upon on March 22. Early on March 24 his heart gave way, and the work of a great and fruitful ministry of 42 years came to a close. The church lovingly commends Mrs. Brooker and the family to the Father's care. Members are grateful to W. L. Ewers and all who helped in the funeral arrangements.

Maylands.—The church was delighted to have had fellowship with Dr. and Mrs. Oldfield; and family on morning of March 16. Dr. Oldfield's address was helpful and informative regarding work in India. In evening K. A. Jones was preacher. Excellent attendances marked both services. This also applied to services on March 23, when Mr. Jones was speaker morning and evening, his addresses being appreciated. Church is pleased to have back again A. Anderson after his tour of India and China. Bible school attendances on March 16 and 23 were 309 and 300. Mrs. Waterman gave an interesting talk on her work in New Hebrides to members of church on evening of March 26. W. Lyle, who has served as a deacon for over thirty years, has again been elected to serve the church in that capacity; his name was omitted from those published on March 19.

Semaphore.—Attendances morning and evening have increased, and addresses of S. Matthews have been very helpful. Church extends sympathy to Sister L. Weeks and P. Brooker in death of their father. Men's Fellowship held a sports evening on March 3. Ladies' Mission Band commenced year's work on March 4. Mrs. S. Matthews was appointed president; Mrs. Foote secretary. The death occurred of Elaine Lamont on March 7 after long illness. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Lamont and relatives. On March 9 J. Cain was morning speaker, and at night S. Matthews spoke excellently. Newly-formed Y.P.S.C.E. met on March 14 and appointed officers for year. Harvest thanksgiving services were held on March 23, S. Matthews speaking at both services. The choir, with Mrs. Fee soloist, assisted in evening. All gifts were sent to Estcourt House. There were very good attendances. Mrs. P. Brooker and Mrs. Cornwall had fellowship with church after long absence through sickness.

Port Pirie.—Average attendances for March were 38 in morning and 35 in evening. A few non-members attend gospel services. K. W. Barton has conducted all services during March with exception of 9th, when J. English gave morning address. Mr. Barton's addresses are appreciated. He and Mrs. Barton attended Northern District Conference at Owen on Mar. 11 and 12. All auxiliaries of church are functioning well. Sisters held opening meeting for 1947 on March 19. C.E. societies are having helpful meetings. At Y.P. society a "sealed orders" meeting was appreciated. Bible school plans to participate in increase campaign commencing in June. Meetings of officers and

teachers of Bible school are arranged for third Wednesday evening of each month. Young People's Club is holding two meetings monthly. Tennis club meets each Saturday afternoon on court in Swift-st. An appeal on behalf of Bible school for financial assistance has been well responded to.

York.—Jan. 26 evening service was C.E. night. Members announced hymns and read lessons. Musical items were given, and a duet by Misses J. Kemp and N. Solly; address by L. G. Johnson; 20 Endeavorers present. A social evening was given to Mrs. D. Davies, who was recently married, by Bible school and members of church. Presentations were made from S.S. and kindergarten teachers. Mr. Johnson has enjoyed a well-earned rest at Victor Harbour. Church is indebted to Messrs. Hinde, Durdin, Davey and Ellis for supplying. Mrs. H. Buck is still in hospital. Many members are away sick, others are convalescing. Harvest thanksgiving services were enjoyed. Choir helped considerably, with Miss Forde at organ. A fine display of goods and fruit was shown. The pleasure in giving was shared by those who received. A letter from secretary of Morialta Protestant Children's Home expresses appreciation for the goods given them. Many visitors have been welcomed.

Croydon.—K.S.P. and P.B.P. installation took place at evening service on March 2. A. E. Brown, State chaplain, installed officers of both clubs. A complimentary social to W. H. Parker (retiring deputy chaplain) was tendered by members of K.S.P. on March 10. Guest of evening was presented with a wallet. There was a large attendance at welcome social to W. N. Bartlett and family. Words of welcome were spoken by representatives of church and all auxiliaries, district preachers' fraternal, and Port Line Group. A social cup of tea brought to a conclusion a happy evening. Croydon church Men's Fellowship, through Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Burrow (on furlough from Bolivia), delighted with a lantern lecture of work among Inca Indians; 94 persons were present to hear the lecture and see the pictures. An offering of £4/12/9 was taken for the work. Mrs. Burrow rendered two beautiful messages in song. Church is happy to receive Mr. and Mrs. Harding into fellowship from Queenstown. Regret is felt owing to sickness of Mrs. A. Lambert. A. E. Brown preached at gospel service on March 23, W. N. Bartlett speaking at Queenstown. Interest of all is maintained in all phases of work. Church during month presented a new sewing machine to Ladies' Auxiliary and Dorcas. The quiet, charitable work of Dorcas is greatly appreciated.

Owen, Long Plains, Avon Circuit.—Circuit work is progressing favorably in absence of preacher, N. G. Noble, who has been in Wakefield-st. private hospital for a few weeks and is now convalescing in "Audine." Convalescent Home, Blackwood. Local brethren have been carrying on. At Avon on March 2, L. W. Marshman spoke at harvest thanksgiving services afternoon and evening. On Monday night a fine meeting was held, Mr. Marshman again speaking. Avon choir gave valued assistance in all meetings. Long Plains harvest thanksgiving services were held on March 16, when H. Lawrie spoke in morning and L. W. Marshman in evening. Avon choir supplied two anthems in evening. On March 23, Owen held harvest thanksgiving services with Mr. Hutson, of Balaklava, speaker at both services. A quartette was rendered at night. Northern District Conference was held in Owen Institute and chapel on March 11 and 12 with wonderful fellowship. Hall was full for both evening meetings. Speakers were G. R. Stirling and J. E. Webb (Mile End). Owen church has had renovations made to interior of chapel with a scroll placed on front wall. Thank-offering on harvest festival day will help to provide for expense incurred. Churches think prayerfully of Mrs. Noble, the preacher's wife, who is in ill-health but trying to carry on while Mr. Noble is away.

Norwood.—Harvest thanksgiving services were held on Feb. 23. A. J. Ingham was speaker at all services. A nice amount of goods was displayed, Geo. Hutchinson having charge of arrangements. The 76th anniversary of church was celebrated by a series of special meetings. J. E. Webb, of Mile End, was speaker at morning service on March 2, when the special debt reduction offering amounted to £450, which will make it possible for church to be free from debt. K. Jones, of Maylands, was speaker in evening. A young people's service was held on March 3, when A. J. Fisher was speaker. A public meeting and social hour took place on March 5. H. Greaves was chairman, and speakers were W. Beiler, A. J. Ingham, E. J. Johnson and C. J. Parker. Choir rendered special music at all services. Sunday school anniversary was held on March 9, when speakers were H. Cave, J. E. Shipway and A. Brown. Conductor of school choir was Mrs. Ingham, and organist Miss H. Oakley. On evening of Mar. 16 Dr. Oldfield was speaker, bringing to a close a happy and successful anniversary.

New South Wales

Earlwood.—L. Smith exhorted church on March 16. Miss Fay Maroney was received into fellowship. Chapel was packed for gospel meeting, when A. Hinrichsen spoke. There were two decisions, one reconsecration and three baptisms. Visitors have been welcomed.

Albany.—Mr. Lewis and family are away on holidays. Services on March 16 were conducted by P. Sampson and R. Hall, and on March 23 by A. Cambridge and R. Hall. A solo was rendered by Miss Norma Clifton in evening. Attendances at all meetings are maintained, and fellowship with visiting brethren on holidays is appreciated.

Kingsford.—On Feb. 23 Mr. Read and family were welcomed home after holidays. Mr. Read gave helpful addresses at both services. On March 1 a social evening was held in honor of approaching marriage of Miss Valma Brown. Mr. Read was speaker for both services on March 2 and 9, and again on morning of March 16. At night Mr. Edwards, of Christian Fellowship Association, gave a helpful address.

North Auburn.—Mr. Luff, Beverley Hills, exhorted church on March 9. Formation of adult class in Bible school is an interesting development of S.S. work. Mrs. Baker, president Parramatta Ladies' District Guild, opened a fete in church grounds on March 22. Miss Adams presented Mrs. Baker with a posy and a small gift. The ladies are commended for their magnificent effort and congratulated on their success. Attendances have been encouraging, and there is a revival spirit in all departments. Two recently decided for Christ, and there has also been a reconsecration.

Chatswood.—At annual business meeting held on March 15, following officers were elected: H. Bell, A. C. Crisp, H. W. Cust, Y. M. Middleton, R. O. Pentelow, T. Spencer, A. Surtees, D. J. A. Verco, P. Verco and F. Woodward. With a view to improving musical side of church worship, the board was authorised to take steps to procure a pipe organ. Mr. and Mrs. F. Button were welcomed into membership on transfer from Lane Cove. Miss N. Walden, from Unley, S.A., and Miss Rudd, of Stirling East, S.A., have been among visitors. A happy day was spent by Bible school at annual picnic, held at Balmoral Beach on March 15.

Epping.—Work is healthy, and Mr. MacLean is creating deep interest among members and by visitation making fresh contacts, evidence of which is to be seen in Sunday evening congregations. There were three additions during past month. During month, Bible school held a successful picnic. Mr. Wilton is congratulated on his excellent work among young people. C.E. held a combined anniversary and harvest thanksgiving service on March 16, church building in evening being full. Mr. Fisher, C.E. leader, spoke in morning, and

Mr. MacLean at night. Young people's choir rendered excellent service. During past month a meeting for men, held on a week-night, was attended by over thirty men, who formed themselves into a Men's Fellowship. Mr. MacLean's Bible class is proving a success, and is well attended by young men and women. Ladies' Mission Band is doing an excellent work, and making a worthy contribution to the work generally.

Victoria

East Emerald.—On each Sunday in February, and again on March 16, services were taken by T. R. Morris, of Brighton church. Arrangements have been made to provide transport from Emerald P.O. at Easter for afternoon services.

Geelong.—On March 23, services were conducted by Mr. Stirling. In evening a solo was rendered by Walter Colman. One lady made the good confession. On evening of March 19 choir visited Coburg for Macnaughtan-Saunders mission.

Croydon (Yarra-rd.).—A successful harvest thanksgiving service was held on March 23; it was well attended. Mr. Sandells' address was appreciated. A vocal item was rendered by Mrs. Kear and Mrs. Bates. Fruit, vegetables and groceries given by members and friends were sent to Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh.

Middle Park.—Annual church business meeting on March 19 was well attended. Following were elected deacons: H. A. Annetts, secretary; T. Hobbs, assistant secretary; A. Hartvigsen, treasurer; L. E. Brooker, C. Butler, B. J. Whitaker. Bible school has been altered to morning. Mr. Manallack is commencing an after-school young people's club.

Warragul.—At close of gospel service on March 16, two Bible school scholars confessed Christ. On March 18, aged Mrs. Hinkley passed to higher service. Short service at chapel was conducted by Mr. Byard, and E. J. Waters conducted service at graveside. Church extends sympathy to relatives. Splendid attendances marked gospel service on March 23, when two more Bible scholars confessed Christ and were baptised with the two who decided the previous Sunday.

South Richmond.—At a social evening on March 5, church said farewell to F. Langford after a term of excellent service and K. Dixon was welcomed as new preacher. On March 16 Miss B. Dennis was welcomed into membership by transfer from Adelaide. Bible school has gained a few new scholars in a drive being conducted under leadership of R. Muller. Good interest is maintained in Women's Sunshine Circle under leadership of Mrs. Nichols, and addresses of visiting speakers are appreciated.

Prahran.—Attendances have been good since coming of Mr. Buckingham, especially on Sunday evenings. March 16 was Re-union Day, when 100 were present. Special speakers over recent weeks have been Dr. L. Michael, C. Young and A. Hawley. Miss W. Lee, Miss E. Chipperfield and A. Haskell helped with singing. A happy evening was held on March 19 at a re-union social. Brotherhood greetings were brought by W. Gale, J. Holloway and W. Clay. Items were rendered by Mrs. Lewis, R. Morris and H. Lee.

Swan Hill.—A successful S.S. picnic was held at Benjaroop on March 3, children from Murra-wee joining in. Newly-formed youth council met at Woorinen, when office-bearers were chosen, and plans made. Berean Fellowship joined with Church of England young people on March 14 for a lecture on missionary work in Papua, and with Woorinen young people on March 21. Church had fellowship with F. E. Buckingham on March 23. He spoke at Woorinen in morning, at Ultima in afternoon (thanksgiving service), at Swan Hill at Men's fellowship tea, and at gospel service.

Moorooduc.—Second anniversary of church was held on March 16; there were 68 present. F. A. Youens, of Dandenong, was speaker. Anniversary was continued on March 18, at which building was packed, 116 being present. Mr. Eric Evans delivered a fine address. Thanks are extended to artists who participated, and to Church of England friends, whose building was used, for installation of electric light.

Malvern-Caulfield.—On Feb. 23, annual Temple Day was held. Special speakers gave addresses at three services. A "pleasant Sunday afternoon" was followed by banquet tea. An enjoyable time was spent, and results were satisfactory. Attendances continue to be encouraging, and C. Coles' addresses are appreciated. Women's Department held successful jumble sale on March 19. Members sympathise with Mr. Gilbert in his illness.

Sunshine.—Church has been encouraged in work under ministry of N. Gavros. On Mar. 16 two Bible school scholars made confession and five young people re-dedicated their lives. On March 23, three young girls of Sunday school accepted Christ, and three members re-dedicated their lives to Christ. Attendances have greatly increased. A club for younger boys and a Good Companions' Club for girls meet weekly. Other auxiliaries are Junior Christian Endeavor and Y.P.S.C.E.

Hampton.—Church annual meeting on Mar. 11 added L. Chapman and R. Lang to diaconate; reports were received from all auxiliaries. Mrs. Lang, wife of the preacher, has been in hospital for treatment, and has now returned home. To celebrate first anniversary of Christian Men's Society on March 29, all members of church and friends were invited. A varied programme, and supper, were enjoyed. On morning of March 20, Mrs. McDiarmid, of W.A., was a visitor. In evening a service of Easter music was enjoyed.

Dimboola.—Presentations were made recently to W. Stieckland and Mr. and Mrs. H. Anderson, who have recently left district for Melbourne. Harvest thanksgiving services on March 23 were well attended, G. T. Black giving the address in morning and conducting night service, when C. Jackel gave an illustrated address, five Bible school scholars assisting with illustrations. Two solos were rendered by K. Allen, of Jeparit. At conclusion of gospel service one man made his decision. A social was held on Monday night, when fruit and vegetables were sold. A number of visitors from Horsham were present.

Red Hill.—Les Brown has been elected superintendent of Sunday school; Ray Salmon re-elected treasurer. A social gathering of Endeavorers, Sunday school and church members was held at church hall on March 22. Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Prossor, who have recently been married, were made a presentation. N. Moore gave a good address on morning of March 23 to increased attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Perkins, Cliff and Russell Perkins were received into church by transfer from Merbein. Many visitors were present. Mrs. N. Kingston is spending a holiday at her parents' home. Ed. Holmes was able to attend meetings after short illness. Gospel meetings are showing improvement.

North Williamstown.—During March Lord's day revival meetings have been held under leadership of G. Grainger. Attendances were well above average, especially at gospel services. Meetings took form of all auxiliaries present, women's night, veterans in Christ, men's night, every-member-present morning, and family service. Mr. Grainger delivered inspiring addresses at all meetings, with exception of women's night, when Mrs. Nankivell was speaker and Mrs. Grainger presided. At men's night a gospel message was given in form of

a discussion between Mr. Grainger and Bob Lane. Mrs. Mitchell came specially from her home in the hills to assist with vocal side of meetings. At annual business meeting following were elected deacons: Messrs. Milne, Westaway, Dyson, Haskell, Williams and Pitcher. Sister Dyson and Mrs. Griffiths, jun., have recovered from illness.

Doncaster.—Under guidance of superintendent (Gilbert Tully), boys' club paid a visit to science display at Exhibition Buildings. On afternoon of March 22, Triangle Club played a match with past members of Triangle cricket club. A number of church members and friends enjoyed the outing; ladies provided afternoon tea. Mr. Banks is giving a series of addresses, illustrated by chart, on "The Plan of the Ages." One of the young members, John Pump, met with a severe accident caused by a fall from his bicycle; he is improving slowly. There were five decisions on Mar. 30.

Ivanhoe.—K. J. Patterson continues to give encouraging addresses. On morning of March 16, F. P. Chipperfield addressed church on organisation and working of C.F.A. Help has been rendered church at Coburg by several members visiting mission. The preacher is keeping in touch with various church bodies concerned in housing area regarding new causes. Auxiliaries function satisfactorily. A successful concert was conducted in aid of cricket club. Bible school visited Zoo on a Saturday. Visitors have included Mrs. Thrupp, from Queensland, and Miss Tunbridge, from New Zealand.

Boronia.—Twenty-sixth annual meeting shows that work gives reason for encouragement. Retiring officers were re-elected. March 16 marked 26th anniversary. There were large attendances and generous offerings. C. J. Robinson was speaker morning and afternoon. S.S. children, under conductorship of P. Jordan, delighted with specially arranged hymns and music. Children's anniversary tea and prize night took place for first time in new hall. There was a higher standard of work from an increased number of pupils. Miss Roberts, a teacher and S.S. pianist, has left to take up work in Hamilton. Tennis teams have begun in competitions.

Wedderburn.—Mr. Gross has closed his twelve months' ministry with church, and at a social evening the secretary made him a presentation on behalf of church. Mr. Roberts came for one Sunday on Feb. 10. Mr. Collingwood has commenced, and his addresses are very good. On March 1 he took young Endeavorers on a hike to Mount Korong, and held service on summit. The Kirby family, who have resided here for two and a half years and were good workers in church, have left to live again in Ascot Vale. Church made a presentation to Miss M. Pratt on March 30 in view of her twenty years' unbroken attendance at Sunday school, and also of her marriage to Keith Churchill, of Charlton.

Essendon.—On morning of March 16 Mr. Ross (College of Bible student) was speaker. Mr. Crisp addressed evening meeting. Miss Dodd was welcomed into church at evening communion service. At annual church business meeting on March 19, reports from auxiliaries were read, also from secretary, treasurer and preacher. Church regrets resignation of Mr. Crisp, which was accepted. He leaves to take up work among men of Air Force. Mr. Crisp's ministry has been appreciated. Mr. McIlhagger comes to labor with church. Officers elected: Deacons, W. Pearce (secretary), J. Strack (assistant secretary), D. Ferguson (treasurer), B. J. Kemp, J. Hemsley, V. Marr, N. Cheal, N. Hutton, G. Strack, F. Summerton; deaconesses, Mesdames Dalton, Skinner, Goldsworthy;

Sunday school superintendent, A. Ferguson; secretary, N. Hutton; kindergarten superintendent, Mrs. C. Ferguson; organists, D. Ferguson, Mrs. Marr; chaplains and leaders of youth clubs, Mrs. Murphy (P.B.P.), N. Cheal (K.S.P.), Miss S. Hemsley (Y.W.L.), G. Strack (Explorers' Club). On March 20, Ladies' Guild held a successful afternoon. Mrs. Kershaw addressed meeting on "Orchids."

Wangaratta.—During holiday of Mr. Wakefield, services have been conducted by R. M. Living, G. Jackel and W. Gale. Bible schools at Wangaratta and South Wangaratta held annual picnic enjoyably at Orange Vale on March 10. Two more new scholars have been added to South Wangaratta school, making nine for new year. Colin Campbell has been transferred to Geelong to continue his studies. He will be missed from church and school. Fay Campbell is recovering from an accident to her foot. Prayer meeting conducted by Y.P.C.E. on March 20 was larger than usual. An enjoyable evening was spent at home of G. Jackel to honor Eric Payne and K. Jackel on their birthday.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—L. G. Crisp, A. B. Withers and R. F. Geyer were speakers on March 9, C. G. Taylor concluding week's mission at Essendon. Lygon-st. Endeavorers held a meeting with Methodist C.E. on March 12. Church cricket club dinner and wind-up evening proved a great night. Artists assisting were Mr. Shilling, A. Jenkins and L. Williams. C. G. Taylor presented trophies to L. McClean (batting) and C. Haines (bowling). Bible school teachers' annual picnic at home of Mr. and Mrs. Holdsworth, Ascendale, was enjoyed. Dr. and Mrs. Oldfield and family arrived from India on March 20, and were welcomed at morning meeting on 23rd. Dr. L. Michael was speaker at 11 a.m. service, also at Bible class, showing slides of work in India. Mr. and Mrs. Engblom (nee D. Martin) were married in chapel on March 15. Church Extension offering was £13/13/-.

Caulfield (Bambra-rd.).—On March 9 harvest festival services resulted in splendid contribution to Christian Guest Home, also forwarding of many parcels for food to Britain. R. L. Williams welcomed two young women and one young man recently baptised. J. McG. Abercrombie (Camberwell), Miss Kitt, speaker at kindergarten anniversary, and Cyril Williams (Queensland) have delivered helpful addresses. Bible school anniversary commenced with inspiring singing under leadership of J. Machin. Kindergarten and Bible school combined on March 16. Bible school superintendent and teachers took appointments at morning service, when R. L. Williams delivered a dedication address. C. Lang (Hampton) and W. Graham (Northcote) interested young and old with anniversary talks. Much interest is manifest in the "advance together" campaign. March was fellowship month in preparation for church anniversary.

Gakleigh.—S. Neighbour assisted at district conference at Kaniva on March 9 and 12. Mr. Nicholson, Local Option Alliance representative, and S. Davey, student assisting, addressed services on March 9. Mr. Neighbour was speaker on March 16 (morning) and 23. L. A. Trezise addressed youth fellowship tea gathering on Youth Department programme, and presented film on Oslo Youth Conference, March 16, also preached at evening youth service. Definite objective of building alterations to increase Bible school facilities was launched at annual church business meeting on March 19. Reports included: Average attendances worship and gospel meetings 100 and 60 respectively; over 300 families with some contact with church through Bible school, clubs, etc.; contributions to brotherhood and other causes included £52 to C.F.A. from 92 members; average Bible school attendance 150; auxiliaries report encouraging progress. Meeting recorded appreciation of five years work by R. Boak as secretary. Church tennis club was formed on March 23 under leadership of preacher.

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BIRTHS

CLARK (Puckridge).—On March 27, at Moira, Sandringham, to Mary and Gordon, of Potter-st., Black Rock—a daughter (Kathleen Barbara).

SAINSBURY (nee Lacy).—At Castlemaine Community Hospital, March 22, to Rosa and Allen—a daughter (Beverly Dawn). Both well.

STEVENS.—On March 24, to Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Stevens, of Gardiner church—a son (Keith Nelson). Both well.

MARRIAGE

MAHONEY-PARKER.—Betty May Mahoney, only child of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Mahoney, to George Frederick Parker, eldest son of the late Mr. T. P. Parker and Mrs. Parker, at Swanston-st. church of Christ on April 5, at 3.30 p.m.

DEATH

PHILLIPS, Harriet.—March 28, 1947, at her residence, Cremorne, N.S.W., relict of the late William John Phillips, and loved mother of Norman (deceased), William, Herbert, Elton (deceased), Nellie, Eric, Elsie and Ella (deceased), in her 84th year. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

IN MEMORIAM

GLUYAS.—In loving memory of my dear husband Albert, and our dear dad, who was called home April 4, 1945. "Till the day dawns, and the shadows flee away." Ever in our thoughts. —Inserted by his loving wife Leila, and children Rae, Margaret, John and Kevin.

McDONALD.—In loving memory of my dear father, James McDonald, who fell asleep on March 31, 1945, in his 90th year.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

—Mary Dumesny, Quantong.

PAGE.—In loving memory of our darling, Verosa, who died on April 4, 1941; daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Page, 87 Hotham-st., Preston. Also our dear son Ray, who died on Nov. 15, 1942. Beloved brother and sister of Charles. Always remembered.

PITTMAN.—In remembrance of J. C. F. Pittman, who passed to higher life on April 6, 1946.

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"The Golden Passional," H. R. Minn, M.A., B.D. Isaiah 52: 13; 53: 12. Translation and Commentary. 2/6.

"The Blood of Jesus Christ," Dr. Robt. G. Lee. 1/9.

"Vox Crucis or Echoes from Calvary," Marcus L. Loane, 5/-.

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Conclusion of Mark's Gospel



K. A. Macnaughtan, in this final article, gives reasons why he accepts the passage as a genuine portion of Mark's gospel.

5. We notice next that, in support of the contention that Mark was not the author of verses 9 to 20, it is asserted that verse 9 fails to follow naturally on the preceding section. We think that if the theory we are considering had never been formed, the supposed unfitness of verse 9 would not have occurred to anyone. It is surely almost a case of the wish being father to the thought. However, it is said in support of the assertion that, to make a sensible connection between verses 8 and 9, the name "Jesus" has had to be supplied by the translators in verse 9, otherwise it would read simply, "Now when he was risen early," etc., it thus not being clearly indicated that the reference is to the Lord. We reply as follows: (1) Such an argument, we think, is so weak as to reflect on those who employ it. Certainly the Lord's name does not appear in the verse immediately preceding the reference to his rising on the first day and, to be sure, the translators did deem it wise to supply it in verse 9. But his name does occur only two verses before that where we have the angel's words (verse 6), "Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him." Under those circumstances is there even the slightest departure from good grammatical construction in the omission of the actual name of Jesus in verse 9? The whole context immediately preceding the verse deals with the subject of his resurrection; he is mentioned by name in the report of the angel's message, most naturally then, we think, does the 9th verse follow with, "Now when he rose early—"

(2) But we believe we have discovered elsewhere in scripture an even more striking instance of that supposed grammatical inexactness of which the objectors to this passage complain: When John, in John 19: 15-18, records the eventual condemnation of Jesus by Pilate and his crucifixion, he passes from reference to the chief priests and the Jews to speak of the Roman soldiers without employing the noun to indicate his change of subject, nor have the translators in this case supplied the noun (as they supplied the name "Jesus" in Mark 16: 9) to indicate John's transference of thought. Note it: "The chief priests answered" (15) . . . "Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus" (16) . . . "Where they crucified him" (18). Somewhere between the reference to the chief priests, and the account of the crucifixion, the subject of whom the pronoun "they" is used changes from the chief priests and Jews to the Roman soldiers,

as is proved by verse 23, "The soldiers crucified Jesus." But John has not indicated the change by introducing the different noun. Yet no Bible critic has thought to conclude that the verses referring to the crucifixion must have been written by another hand than that of John because of the "awkwardness" with which they have been introduced! Why, then, assume that of Mark's account, especially in view of the fact that Mark had recorded the name of Jesus only three verses before, and thus shown that he was the subject of the narrative?

6. But further "proof" of the non-Markan authorship of the disputed section is claimed from the fact that Mary Magdalene, though she had been referred to by name only eight verses before, is introduced in verse 9 as though no such prior reference to her had just been made. For, with the mention of her name in the 9th verse, the explanatory note is added, "Out of whom he had cast seven demons." Hence it is concluded that the passage beginning with this verse must have been added by another hand. That conclusion, however, is by no means a necessary one. (1) We may ask, first of all, why the author of the section, if he were not Mark, did not himself observe the peculiarity (if, indeed, it be such) of the explanatory reference he made, in the light of Mark's previous mention of Mary Magdalene? Could he not have observed that as well as any modern critic?

(2) But we must ask if there was not an especial reason for mentioning just here that Mary Magdalene was she out of whom the Lord had cast seven demons? If there were a good reason for recording that fact in this particular connection, we have no need to conclude that the mention of it must have been made by another than Mark, the writer of the rest of the gospel. We think that such a reason exists, and that it lies in the circumstance that it was to her first that the risen Saviour appeared. When the natural man would suppose that the Lord, gloriously triumphant over death and the grave, would have aroused Jerusalem by some majestic manifestation of himself, or would have confronted in mighty power and divine indignation his treacherous and bitter enemies unto their complete discomfiture, or at the least would have appeared first to his especially chosen apostles, our Saviour instead displays the wonder of his grace and the kindness of his wisdom by showing himself first to a woman! Nor, as we would then suppose, did he choose from among the women his own mother. He confounds our expectations by choosing one whose very life had been devil-ridden—Mary Magdalene, out of whom, at some time unknown to us, he had cast as many as seven demons! Nor in this do we see only the condescension of our Master; it dispals, too, the reward of fervent love for him. Of the love many had for the Saviour, Mary Mag-

dalene's was not the least nor last. Having been forgiven much, she loved much.

"Not she with traitorous kiss her Master stung,

Not she denied him with unholy tongue;
She, when apostles fled, would dangers brave;

Last at the cross and earliest at the grave."

Thus, we see, the introduction of the descriptive words at this stage of the narrative, so far from proving that the record is the work of another, is a most delicate touch by Mark, by means of which a faithful woman disciple is honored and, even more particularly, the kindness and divine wisdom of the Saviour extolled.

McGarvey closes his article with the following words: "Our final conclusion is, that the passage in question is authentic in all its details, and that there is no reason to doubt that it was written by the same hand which indited the preceding parts of this narrative. The objections which have been raised against it are better calculated to shake our confidence in Biblical criticism than in the genuineness of this inestimable portion of the word of God." And we may add, that being so, with what additional confidence may we now proclaim the Lord's own promise on the Lord's own terms: "He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved." And with what humble confidence may sincerely obedient believers gladly assert, "We know that we have passed from death unto life." "Hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments."

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Obituary

Harold Arthur Verco

AFTER a long period of failing health, Harold Arthur Verco passed away on Feb. 27, at the age of 68 years. A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Verco, of honored memory, he was born in Adelaide, S.A. On confession of faith, he was baptised by T. J. Gore, at Grote-st., Adelaide. As a young man, he was a member of the training class for young men conducted by Mr. Gore. This experience was of lasting benefit to him. Coming to Fremantle, W.A., about 42 years ago, he joined the staff of D. and J. Fowler Ltd., remaining with that firm until retirement over forty years later. In his wife, formerly Miss Elsie May Tout, he found a true Christian partner. Theirs was the joy of witnessing their family of three sons and one daughter, all accepting the Saviour. For several years, in their earlier married life, the family resided in Cottesloe, where regularly the Lord's Table was spread in their home. Out of this meeting grew the Cottesloe church, of which our late brother, Mrs. Verco, and her parents, were foundation members. In his more active years, Mr. Verco was an acceptable speaker, had served on the State F.M. Committee, and for many years, until his death, was a deacon of Fremantle church. To Mrs. Verco and the surviving family, Thelma, Frank and Allan, all in fellowship with Fremantle church, deepest sympathy is extended. A good man has entered into his eternal rest. "He turneth the shadow of death into the morning." James Gordon, assisted by Roy Raymond, officiated at the graveside in Fremantle cemetery.—J.G.

W.A. Wheatbelt Circuit

THE work continues to consolidate in the various centres. The great need of the moment is a zealous evangelist, suitable to country needs, to share the work with Mr. Maiden. So far one has not been located. The Sunday schools at Mukinbudin and Narembea have been adding new scholars; new folk are interesting themselves in church meetings and church work. Narembea, holding services in the Anglican building, has increased breaking of bread meetings from fortnightly to weekly, alternate meetings being conducted and addressed by local brethren. Corrigin meetings are now conducted in the township and are being supported loyally. Bruce Rock will be sorry to lose the services of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Moloney after twelve months' fellowship. The circuit sorrows with Mr. and Mrs. Percy Butler in the loss of their little boy of eighteen months under tragic circumstances. March was recognised as Thanksgiving Month. Besides special thankofferings for the circuit work, donations have been made towards the "Food for Britain" campaign. Narembea Thanksgiving Day resulted in an attractive display of food for Britain and a thankoffering of £97/8/3 towards circuit funds. Cottage meetings are held in isolated corners of circuit. Narembea Christian Endeavor Society has recommenced for year.

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(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 in-
sertion of a letter does not imply editorial approval
of its contents.—Ed.)

COLLEGE AND DOCTRINE

WHISPERINGS, mutterings, innuendos, and
gossip against the soundness of the col-
lege, that have obviously worried your original
correspondent, are nothing new. When I de-
cided to go to college in the early 1930's
there were those who warned me off. "The
college was not sound," said some of them.
"It is not spiritual," said others. "Make sure
you keep a firm grip on your faith," was the
advice. A few who claimed to be Restoration
stalwarts even suggested an interdenominational
college that had little love for "the things
that made us a people." Naturally I went to
college with some considerable trepidation. I
found that the criticisms, gossiping and mut-
terings were entirely without foundation in
fact; that they were mischievous, and in fact
utter perversions of the truth.

It seems a pity that a great Christian work
being done by consecrated Christian men can-
not proceed without all this undermining. We
have often had articles from the teachers in
this paper, and their faithfulness and sound-
ness have been expressed in these articles. It
is unchristian to imagine that they creep away
to the college and teach something else. It
is also grossly unfair to judge the college or
its teachers from a few random words heard
from a few of its ex-students, or from the at-
titudes and expressions of people in churches
where ex-students serve.—G. R. Stirling,
Magill, S.A.

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Page 156

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