

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

P 154

Hamilton News

Miss Vawser in Qld.

Miss Edna Vawser and C. G. Taylor, editor of this journal, will be guest speakers at the Queensland churches' 70th annual Conference, April 2-6, presided over by C. H. J. Wright, Albion



church will be the centre for this year's gatherings, apart from the Conference Sermon session, to be held at Ann-st., Brisbane. Lone Pine will again be the venue for a day of social enjoyment on Easter Monday.

Crusading Church, N.S.W.

An attractive programme marks the sixty-eighth annual Conference of churches of Christ in New South Wales, March 24-30. An interesting feature is the planned development of the theme, "The Crusading Church," which will highlight the four Conference business sessions on Thursday and Friday evenings, and Saturday morning and afternoon. Various leaders will present the crusading Church's Master, Mandate, Mission and Methods.

At the Conference Sermon session in the City Temple, Sydney, on the afternoon of Sunday, March 29, guest speaker, Stanton H. Wilson, of Hampton, Vic., will discuss "Imperatives to Unity." This service, commencing at 2.45 p.m., will be broadcast through the courtesy of Station 2CH.

All other gatherings of Conference will be held at Enmore Tabernacle, with Ralph V. Amos as President. Other Conference speakers, in addition to Mr. Wilson (who returns to his home State for this occasion), will be Mrs. N. Cocks, J. W. Brooks, L. Burgin and G. Brown.

Centenary Cavalcade, Vic.

The Youth Department of the Vic.-Tas. Conference will include in its Conference evening programme at the Melbourne Town Hall on April 7, a cavalcade, "One Hundred Years." Another highlight of that evening's programme will be that four of our own talented young men will play together on four grand pianos. The pianists will be Leslie Miers, Max Olding, Rex Barber and Neil Hillbrick. Although Max Olding has been in Melbourne for some years now, he came from Launceston; this adds to the happiness of association in this Vic.-Tas. Conference. Only the finalists of the Junior and Youth choirs will take part in this meeting, but Norman Parton will adjudicate competitive duets. Judging of choirs will be held on March 30 in the South Melbourne Town Hall.

President's Farewell, W.A.

I. W. Nixon will preside over the gatherings of the 56th annual Conference of our West Australian churches, March 31-April 6, his final act of leadership there before transferring to Port Lincoln, S.A. Highlights will be the Conference Sermon in the Perth Town Hall on the afternoon of April 5,



St. George's Terrace, Perth.

broadcast over 6KY-NA from 3.30 p.m., and the Easter Monday fete in aid of the Guest Home, held in the home grounds. The Conference Choir, under the leadership of A. B. Povey, will again present inspirational music. All sessions, apart from the Conference Sermon, will be held in the Lake-st. chapel.

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NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

C. G. Taylor, B.A., Editor. W. R. Hibburt, Manager.

Printed and Published by The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.,
524-530 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, C.I. Phone: FJ 2524.

Subscription.—Through Church Agent, 5d. week. Posted Direct (Aust. and N.Z.),
25/- year. Foreign, 30/-.

Cheques, Money Orders, etc., payable to The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.

Change of Address—Send old and new address a week previous to date of desired
change

Advertisements.—Deaths, Memorials (space does not permit verse), Births, Engage-
ments, Marriages, Thanks, 3/6. Wanted, For Sale, To Let and Similar Ads., also
paragraphed Coming Events, 24 words 2/6, every additional 12, 1/-. Displayed
Coming Events and Other Ads., 3/6 inch. 6d. extra when invoiced.

To ensure insertion in next issue copy required by First Mail Friday.

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*When soars the soul earth's
clamoring voices cease,
Stilled in the wonder of God's
power and peace.*



And Job said: "Oh, that I were as
in the months of old, as in the days
when God watched over me; when his
lamp shone upon my head, and by his
light I walked through darkness; as I
was in my autumn days, when the
friendship of God was upon my tent. . .
I was eyes to the blind and feet to
the lame. I was a father to the poor,
and I searched out the cause of him
whom I did not know.—Job 29: 1-4, 15,
16. (R.S.V.)

Job was much wiser than the average
man. Amid his present miseries, as he
thinks of the halcyon past, he recalls
with the deepest affection the time of
his rich, ripe autumn, the season of
mellow fruitfulness. The spring of the
year is charming, and has its own un-
matched joys and powers. But the
spring—and, for that matter, even the
warm, full summer—while they have
their own special satisfactions, are only
preparations for one thing—the yellow
harvest, the stored barns and the full
granaries. . . . We can understand the
gracious memories of that autumn time,
when he had not only the money but
also the spirit, with the love and judg-
ment, to scatter blessing as he once
scattered seed in his fields. . . . There
was now a harvest of faith, love and
grace in his heart which neither time
nor tide could touch.—Dr. James Black.

O thou Lord of the years, help us to
sow aright in love and selfless service,
that life's autumn may not find us
lonely, unblessed, afraid of winter. By
thy light may we walk through dark-
ness, a light to others. Rejoicing in thy
friendship, help us to be the friend of
all. AMEN.

Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life, for which the first was
made:

Our times are in his hand,
Who saith "A whole I planned,
Youth shows but half; trust God; see
all nor be afraid."

—R. Browning.

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INCREDIBLE—I WONDER...

AT first I couldn't believe it. I read it again. It was there all right; no denying the cold print. Yet surely it couldn't be right! They wouldn't act like that, within the shadow of the cross. Or would they? A sudden doubt stirred uneasily in my mind; hadn't I read something very much like this somewhere else in the Gospels? I read slowly again the words in front of me, from the twenty-second chapter of Luke—sombre, stark words in which the Saviour had spoken of betrayal, adding "Woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!" I could understand that the twelve then "began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing." "Lord is it I?" was the instinctive cry of that dread moment. Yes, I could understand that, but not what the next verse (24) revealed: "And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest." How dared they do it? Their Master's face was still torn with suffering, and their own horrified whispers had scarcely died away, before they turned to their old sordid haggling as to who should be greatest in the kingdom of heaven. How could they be so blind, so seemingly unfeeling, as to do that to him?

HOW COULD THEY DO IT?

Then I remembered where I had seen something like this before. It was in Luke 9: 44-46, and, more vividly still, in Mark's account of the same event (9: 31-34). The transfiguration was then a fresh, but enduring, wonder for Peter, James and John, and all had seen their Master heal the poor mazed lad whose demons the disciples had been unable to cast out. It was soon after that when he began to tell them bluntly of the death that awaited him. They were afraid to ask him what he meant. But that didn't stop them talking among themselves. Concerning his mysterious words? No! Jesus asked them about it when they reached their journey's end, "but they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves who should be the greatest." No wonder they were ashamed! Yet they did it again. How could Jesus bear it?

Was it all selfish opportunism? Were they frankly in it for what they could get? The possessive Salome and her two sons, James and John, left no doubts as to what they expected. Peter and the others show clearly that they, too, had rosy dreams of the reward that ought to be theirs for leaving all to follow him. But opportunists are usually realists. They would have

read the signs which these dreamers were too blind to see. Or was it that these men loved their Master so much and had such implicit faith in him, that, even though it was the Lord himself who spoke of suffering and death, they could not believe it—could not contemplate a future in which the rewards were not his to give? After all, in all their preoccupation with rewards and rankings, they wanted nothing in which he was not central. They knew their future was bound up with his, but they could not—would not—see the dark ahead.

Or was it that they could not bear to prolong the agony of such a moment as that in which his "kind but searching glance scanned the very wounds that shame would hide," and they heard themselves, stripped of all pretence, faltering, "Lord, is it I?" So they fell back on an old wrangle—anything!—to escape the look in his eyes.

I begin to see that their action was not so incredible, after all. They were blindly selfish, yes—but that was not all, and who of us is guiltless of that? There have been dark days in the Church's history when, through the protests of prophets, have rung the Master's insistent words, "You . . . betray me . . . betray me!"—and, rather than bear that judgment, men have wrangled and fought over matters in which man's pride has mattered more than the piercing love of God.

Easter will bring many of us to Conference discussions. If we have shared his sufferings and heard the anguished whisper of our own souls, "Lord, is it I?", then let us face his judgment, in all its implications—and not turn easily aside to wordy mouthings. Can we bear it? Think quietly of what must be his anguish for the world to-day. Have we ever really shared it?

Remember, it is

HIS ENDURING LOVE

which has the final word, not our weakness. He loved those men "unto the end"; even said to them that same night, "Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations." He knew their love for him was marred by their love for themselves, but in the suffering of that week their self-concern came to matter less and less until they became men with one Name ever on their lips, one love supreme in their hearts. The greater love transformed the less. And, incredible though it seems, his love still does that. Hold fast to that reality, and then—and only then—ask: "Lord, is it I?"

ROCKS, STONES AND REVELATIONS

Mount Skiddaw overlooks the many beautiful lakes and valleys of the Cumberland district. In a museum in Keswick—one of the many unpretentious little museums which abound in Britain, and helpfully give so much local information to the traveller—a large musical instrument is to be seen. Its placard says that its music is like the sound of the "Whispering Wind." One mightn't feel very convinced about this—until it is played. Then its placard seems apt, not unbelievable, for its music is singularly sweet. The notes of this "Whispering Wind" instrument are made of rock—rock from Mount Skiddaw.

But far more rocks and stones of note have a sterner tale to tell than Skiddaw's sweet music, because they are generally linked with history, and history echoes the whole range of human experience, its tragedies as well as its lighter moods.

The Appian Way

In Italy, as one looks from an elevated position, and sees the panorama beneath, which the guide says is "ancient Rome," one tries to grasp the stupendous fact that this was once the Imperial City. Somehow one's imagination cannot rise to this test. It is true that a certain grandeur still clings to these marvellous ruins, for the Romans were master builders, and their architectural standards, as well as their roads, have seldom, if ever, been reached. They made good use of rocks and stones. However, there is a wonderfully preserved road nearby, and here one has no difficulty in fitting in its history. It is the Appian Way, the road along which Paul the prisoner walked from Puteoli to Rome, some 1,900 years ago. One could almost see Paul's footprints on that road, it has been so little touched with the intervening years. He, too, no doubt, gazed at the city beneath, and unlike us, he saw it in all of its glory. And what a sight it must have been! But this man with no earthly pomp and much spiritual wisdom, saw further—he saw even what we saw—its ruins. He knew that this enterprising, materialistic nation was doomed to failure.

The Stone of Scone

There is a stone in Westminster Abbey, which, if its legend is true, makes ancient Rome appear quite juvenile in comparison. It is the Stone of Scone; supposedly the stone Jacob rested his head upon at Bethel. Whether we accept this legend or not, this

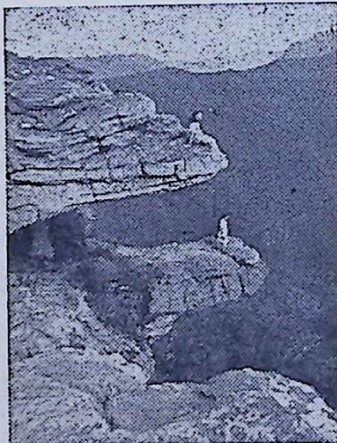
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particular stone occupies a position of great honor, for it rests on a ledge beneath the Coronation Chair. Not long ago it disappeared, and journeyed further north to its previous owners. Like the legend which surrounds it, this trip was full of mystery, but the Stone of Scone has come back in good time for Queen Elizabeth's Coronation, and looks none the worse for its adventure.

Memorial Stones

After one enters Westminster Abbey and gets a glimpse of its loveliness, the



first thing that is really seen, is a large slab of plain black marble at one's feet. This stone marks the burial place of the "Unknown Soldier" of World War I, and came from the battlefields of Belgium. A plain, stark memorial, full of significance and touching in its simplicity.

In honor of the same event, Scotland has its Shrine, built on a rocky ridge, not far from Edinburgh Castle. Here we see a structure—an architectural gem—which breathes the very atmosphere of a shrine, with its beautiful blending of mellow coloring and design. Yet surely this is the least conservative of all such memorials, for service of all kinds is remembered here, even that of the "tunneller's friends" (the mice), the carrier pigeons, and the stubborn mule. One hundred thousand (100,000) names

are written of those who gave their lives in this struggle, and placed in a casket in an inner sanctuary. This rests on virgin rock, which looks as if it literally burst its way through the granite floor. This is Scotland's offering of sacrifice—beautifully expressed.

The Shrine looks down on Princes-st., Edinburgh, one of the loveliest streets in the world. One side of it is like that of any other up-to-date capital city, with its shops and places of business and pleasure. But, looking out from one of the windows on this side of the street, in the early morning, you will see, instead of its corresponding side, the Scottish mists rising over a deep ravine covered with lawns, flowers and trees. Looking further back, a greater surprise awaits one, for on the famous rocky ridge stands Edinburgh Castle, in its picturesque stolid grandeur, guarding the city beneath. So the most casual traveller, if he visits Princes-st., is faced straight away with some of the beauty, romance and history of Scotland.

Stones--and Man's Worship

Scattered over the British Isles, are interesting circles of stones, the best known being at Stonehenge in England. These are relics of that primitive form of worship of the ancient Druids. No such circles are to be seen on the Island of Iona, on the west coast of Scotland, for Columba landed here in A.D. 563 with very definite views of ridding Scotland of these pagan practices. This almost "one-man mission" is one of the most amazing evangelistic efforts of church history. He was exceptionally well equipped for his task, with his extraordinary personality, outstanding physical strength and stature, while his splendid voice could be heard at great distances, as it rang out the gospel message, generally from nature's platform—the hills of Scotland. The phenomenal results was that practically the whole of Scotland and a part of Northern England, emerged in this way from paganism to Christianity. Every year thousands of tourists visit the Island of Iona, not because of its natural beauty, for this stony treeless island has little to offer in this way, but because it was the home of Columba. There are some beautiful ruins, however, to be seen here, especially its Cathedral. Older still, and more interesting, is an ancient Abbey, with its stones placed together without plaster of any kind. This is said to be a lost art, and is a sign of great antiquity.

In the year A.D. 597, shortly after

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Columba's death, Augustine was sent by Pope Gregory from Rome to Canterbury in England. As Iona is the cradle of Christianity in Scotland, so Canterbury is in England. The walls of this famous Cathedral — those which were built in its earliest period—have, like Iona's Abbey walls, a choice little bit of history attached to them. The stones came from Normandy, crossed the channel in small boats, were chiselled into shape and place—we may be sure with a certain reverence—in position. Canterbury is the pilgrims' Cathedral, and the stone steps of an interior stairway are worn into grooves—"foot-prints on the sands of time," made by pilgrims from all parts of the world over the centuries.

In that treasure house—the British Museum—a large black basalt rock rests on a pedestal. By the casual onlooker it could be taken for a huge lump of coal except for the strange hieroglyphics engraved on it. Those strange hidden words baffled many brilliant scholars over a long period. At last they were translated, and gave to the world the keys which opened ancient languages to modern scholarship. This stone is the famous "Rosetta Stone." Light was thus thrown on a particular era of God's Word.

Stones—and the Gospel Story

So much for some of the rocks and stones which are to be seen here and there, and some of their revelations.

But far more significant is the fact that when Christ uses the word "rock" or "stone," which he does quite often, he uses the metaphor to reveal something of arresting importance.

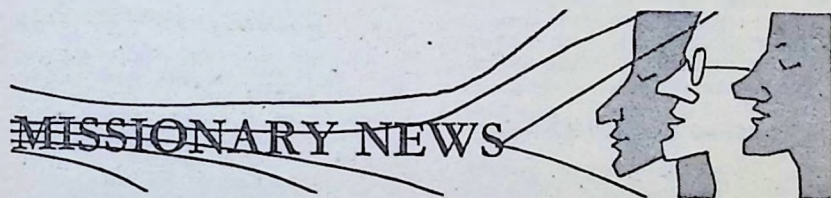
Towards the end of our Saviour's earthly ministry, as he walked along the road from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, he was proclaimed King. The indignant Pharisees said, "Master, rebuke thy disciples." His answer was, "I tell you if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

Later on, as the King walked along another road, from the Judgment Hall to Golgotha, bearing his cross, the disciples followed him "afar off." No record is made of one comforting word uttered by them on that awful day. They held their peace. But the rocks and the stones weren't silent. They fulfilled the sad prophecy and literally "cried out" as the earthquake hurled them hither and thither, and crashed them noisily to the ground. Nature revolted at man's injustice to the Son

of God. A few days later a stone in a garden was rolled away by an angel. This wasn't according to plan, for man's plan—so thoroughly organised — was clinched by this stone blocking the opening of the sepulchre where our Saviour was buried. But the rolled stone was in God's plan. "For the appointed time had come," and all the schemes and plans of humanity had had their day, and in an instant were shattered.

"Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Christ hath burst the gates of hell. Christ the Lord is risen to-day. Hallelujah." Then a miracle happened. Christ had fulfilled his part perfectly. But what about those silent, more or less disloyal disciples on whom rested the responsibility of blazing the trail of the Church. Never in the history of mankind did so much depend on so few. We know the sequel. They like their Master turned their faces "steadfastly towards Jerusalem," and many of them, like him, suffered martyrdom for his cause.

Since that first Easter morn, millions of the redeemed have entered the portals of the Eternal City, those "whose hope was built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness" — in other words, those who have built upon "the solid rock."



(Notes supplied by A. Anderson,
Sec. F.M. Board.)

SEEKING TO HELP SUFFERERS

The Shrigonda area in "Our India" seems to be harder hit than other areas, though all have had their share of suffering.

In an effort to help some of our village Christians who have left home in search of work, our workers have often followed these groups and remained amongst them. This has often meant extensive camping. Messrs. Thomas and Coventry have recently spent some time amongst the people, seeking to help and encourage them.

Colin Thomas: "At present I am out near the famine relief work, Kolgaon Tank, which is at a place near Kolgaon, half way to Ahmednagar. We came here to be of assistance to a crowd of

Christian people from the villages of Dhoraja and Pargaon, but there is so much discontent among the mixed groups here that we have not yet been able to do any effectual work. We are praying, however, for the opportunity to come in order to give the message to about 4,000 people who have gathered here to work because of famine.

"On Thursday many people refused to take their pay, as they had not been working very hard, and when the work was measured those in the gang where there were slackers got less than the promised 7 annas per day. The people stood all day and argued until fresh police had to be sent from Shrigonda and Ahmednagar. Then there was some adjustment made, but the question has still to be settled by the district magistrate. From what I can gather, it is the policy of the Government only to give a very low wage to help people during the famine, but if people are able and willing to work they are to be paid accordingly. However, when there are forty people in a gang, it would not be easy for a few hard workers to make

much, as they would have to carry the load for so many slackers.

"It is pretty hard for the Government to cater for so many people in such hard times, and I feel sorry for the officials here. However, I also feel sorry for the poor folk, and I marvel at the patience they show under such distressing circumstances. We see here some women-folk going about in saris (dresses) which hardly begin to cover them, and men in clothes almost as bad. Many must go to bed hungry, and how can they work hard enough on such poor and insufficient food?

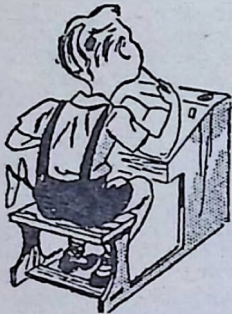
"There is a famine committee in Ahmednagar, and we have some little representation there, but help is slow in coming, and will be like a drop in a bucket. Some people left the work here after Thursday's bad day, but I guess the people really in need will say that this is better than nothing.

"We hope to see the people settle down soon, but already there are communist workers coming in among the people, and I am afraid there will be trouble even in this effort to alleviate the distress of the people. We are praying that the Lord will give us some opportunity to glorify himself here, and that we may be able not only to help our Christian group, but all to a knowledge of the way of the one true and living God."

The Board members are grateful for many gifts received, and ask for sustained and continuous effort.

The Message of Walter Scott

School was out. Another day of classes was over. As the happy youngsters trooped toward the door one of them stopped suddenly and pointed upward.



"Look up there," he said, "over the door!"

"What is it?" asked a boy, crowding closer to see.

"Some one has written in chalk the words 'Jesus is the Christ.' I wonder who did it," pondered another boy.

The teacher smiled to himself as his young proteges departed from the building earnestly discussing this novel idea.

That teacher was Walter Scott, a young Scotsman who had only a short time before arrived in Pittsburgh from Scotland.

He had been reared as a member of the Church of Scotland. When he arrived in Pittsburgh he met a fellow countryman, George Forrester, who preached for a small congregation known as "Kissing Baptists" because of their literal conformity to Romans 16: 16.

Searching the Bible

Forrester had little respect for creeds of men but a profound reverence for the Bible. When young Scott would ask him a question, he would immediately turn to the Scriptures for the answer. This entranced Scott. Many hours of Bible study followed. Soon Walter Scott was immersed and united with this Scotch Baptist church.

Having once tasted of the richness of God's Word, Scott's soul longed to devour its whole contents. Midnight often found him poring over this wonderful book endeavoring to fathom the message presented there. In this study Scott found his "golden oracle."

This "golden oracle" could be summed up in these four words: "Jesus is the Christ." He believed, "A study of the New Testament will disclose that the essential

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article of faith is the acknowledgment of Christ as Messiah. If a man really accepts Christ, Christ is established by evidence which appeals to reason, and this evidence is of three sorts:

(1) His miracles; (2) His fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy; and (3) the testimony of Scripture.

It was possible to sum up the whole Christian life as the law of faith in Christ!"

The discovery of this great central truth gripped his soul. He fervently dedicated his life to the propagation of this truth. His first act was to write it over the door of his school, where all could see it as they left the building.

In observing the phenomenal success that Walter Scott had in after years as an evangelist, this fact must be considered. The first and foremost reason for Scott's success was the message that he preached.

Devotion to His Theme

"Mr. Scott was a great preacher, not only because of his gifts as a speaker, but because of his theme. Like Paul, he knew nothing but Christ and him crucified. Christ to him was the central sun around which all other truth revolved, and from which it received its light and life"—(Davies.)

His devotion to this theme was seen in every portion of Scott's life. He not only wrote his "golden oracle" over the door of his schoolroom, but in his teaching he emphasised the study of the Gospels, since they were the life of Christ. Robert Richardson wrote concerning Scott: "He took especial pains to familiarise the students of the ancient tongues with the Greek of the New Testament, for which purpose he caused them to commit it largely to memory, so that some of them could repeat, chapter by chapter, the whole of the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the Greek language."

Scott also adhered closely to this theme in his own preaching. He states in later life: "I am not ashamed to acknowledge that twice a week for twenty-two months at a stretch have I discoursed on the Evangelist Matthew, alone." He believed that the Gospels should be the centre of a man's preach-

ing, since they tell of Christ, the centre of Christianity.

Near the close of his life, Walter Scott published the *Messiahship, or Great Demonstration*. This book is a summary of nearly forty years of study and thinking.

Isaac Errett, writing about Scott, mentions this as his chief contribution to the Restoration Movement. "The most thoroughly revolutionary element in Walter Scott's advocacy of reformation, and that which has proved most far-reaching in its influence, is just this concerning the central truth in Christianity. It not only shaped all his preaching, but it shaped the preaching and practice of reformers generally, and called the attention of the religious world at large to the fact that a person, not a system of doctrines, is the proper object of faith, and that faith in Jesus and love for Jesus and obedience to Jesus is the grand distinction of Christianity."

Mover of Men

This grand truth concerning Jesus was an all-consuming fire that burned in the soul of Scott and naturally spread to others. It was impossible to hear this earnest preacher develop this marvellous theme without being moved to action. Scott could move men with this sublime truth as probably no other man since the days of the apostles. R. R. Sloan relates the following incident:

"Walter Scott, about 1829 or 1830, paid a visit to Western Virginia, and on one occasion preached in the woods between Wellsburg and Wheeling; the audience was large, the preacher more than usually animated by his theme; near him sat Alexander Campbell, usually calm and self-contained, but in this case more fully under the influence of the preacher's eloquence than he had ever been of mortal man before; his eye flashed and his face glowed as he heard him unfold the glories of redemption, the dignity and compassion of its author, and the honors that awaited those who would submit to his reign, until so filled with rapture and an admiration, not of the speaker, but of him who was his theme, that he cried out, 'Glory to God in the highest,' as the only way to relieve the intensity of his joy."

We, to-day, may not have the powers of eloquence that Walter Scott enjoyed, but we have the same Christ.



Frontiers of UNITY

THESE RESTLESS WOMEN

Women are always a fascinating subject, and not less so when in the Church. A few months ago, in the *Ecumenical Review*, I read a review of the World Council's booklet, *A Study of the Man-Woman Relationship*, and Dr. Kathleen Bliss' *The Service and Status of Women in the Churches*. The reviewer concluded by saying that "it is of the greatest importance that men should study these books, especially clergymen." Since I more or less come under both categories, I promised my wife that I would buy Mrs. Bliss' book for a Christmas present for me. Santa Claus finally got around to sending the book last week. It is a most fascinating and highly significant book.

The World Council has always regarded this matter of the service and status of women in the church as of the highest importance. In 1946 its Study Department sent out an enquiry asking for detailed information about the exact position within the member-churches throughout the world. Never has an ecumenical enquiry met with greater response. Answers were received from nearly fifty countries, including the oldest and the youngest among the churches. They give a survey of women's work in church and society under the most diverse ecclesiastical and social

conditions. A preliminary report, based on this material, was submitted to the Amsterdam Assembly.

Mrs. Bliss' book is a further result of this enquiry, now being carried forward under the auspices of a separate permanent Commission of the World Council.

I read my books with pen and ruler, marking the important points. This was difficult, for every page is crammed with important points. But let three whet your appetite.

(1). "The guiding hands (in the Church) have always been masculine. . . Women constantly feel that in spite of what is said in preaching the men are really 'the Church,' and their own participation is derivative from and dependent on, that of men. The question for the future is how the immense achievement of the work of women for women and with women can be made fruitful in the life of the whole Church. This is not a 'women's question.' It might more truly be called a 'men's question.' Or (better still), a 'Church question.'"

(2). "The times when the Church regarded women as a lower species, doubtfully redeemable, or as ignorant and ineducable, are always the times when the Church is dead in other matters—failing to evangelise, indifferent to

human suffering. As soon as quickening life returns to the Church, or to some section within it, men and women are found working at the same enterprise and new attitudes begin to prevail. Thus the new life of piety and religion in the home which came to the German Church in the eighteenth century led on to the renewal of the order of deaconess and the spread of that great movement throughout Europe. Methodism, before ever it became a public movement, drew together men and women in the home for Bible study, prayer and the practice of a disciplined Christian life. Supremely the modern missionary movement brought about a minor revolution in the life of the Churches of Europe and of America, drawing women into its services, and opening to them opportunities without parallel in the whole of Church history."

(3). "An ecumenical study of women in the Church (emphasises that) when one Church loses all consciousness, apparently, of the very existence of women able and willing to serve, another Church or another branch of the same Church, is beginning to take action."

The book is published by S.C.M. Press, 208 pp., 16/-.

—Contributed by R. W. Graham for the Federal Committee for the Promotion of Christian Union.



"WHAT IS THE CURE FOR LONELINESS?"

A good number of people have dark hours of loneliness, some have very dark hours. There are different reasons. Sometimes the cause is physical. Glands in youth frequently seem to secrete jerkily. Then we are like motors with some temporary stoppage in the petrol flow. Our spirits go up and down. We are elated and then depressed and lonely. Sometimes there is an outward cause. We may be homesick, or feel that we are unpopular, we may be jealous of the success of someone else, or there may be someone in the home or office who makes our life a misery and drives us into ourselves.

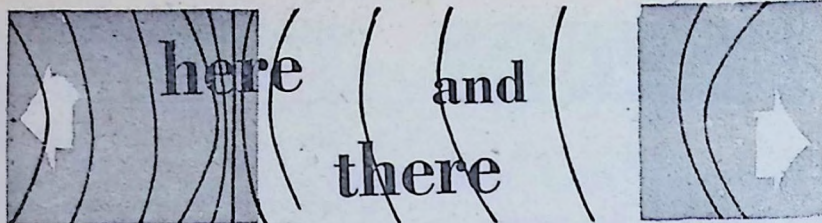
We may also find life a frightening thing because as yet it is largely unknown. We peer ahead and see lions and giants on the path. Later on the lions may shrink to manageable pood-

les and the giants may disappear, but, at the time, they make us feel very fragile, and consequently very lonely. Then, of course, we may feel lonely because we have actually lost the way in life and are on the wrong track, or out of our right environment. A diver with his air pipe cut is a lonely frightened man. Or there may be something wrong in our lives. Coleridge's Ancient Mariner tells of a man who shot an albatross, found his ship becalmed, his comrades dying, and he, crazed with coming madness, whilst the albatross hung ever about his neck, until all was changed by the cleansing of forgiveness.

Another cause of loneliness is that simply through growing up and through education we feel different from other people. We are forming a personality, forming our opinions, wanting to be ourselves, and, as part of this process, we are in temporary or permanent re-

volt against parents, relatives, and all the local herd. This is a natural reaction, and we can all recover from it and begin to see good in other people again. But it can harden into pride, disdain, and contempt. Then we get more and more shut in with ourselves, more and more interested only in ourselves, and the most appalling loneliness begins to creep over us. This loneliness can beset us all our lives, and can get worse and worse.

There is only one cure, and that is a radical one. We have deliberately set ourselves to think of other people more than we think of ourselves. To sit in a room, or a railway compartment, and to see each one round us as mysterious, as wonderful, as full of hopes, and needs, as we are, to know that they with us will come to joy, to sorrow, and even to death itself, and then to care for them passionately. When we do this all loneliness goes, others become different, and we are well on the track of the secret of life and the finding of the great companionship of God—for there is no loneliness in loving people or in the Divine Care which makes our love divine.—McEwan Lawson.



Queensland Newsletter

Bruce Burn, to whom we were indebted for news items and articles during his overseas tour last year, commenced a twelve-months' ministry with the church at Glenelg, S.A., as from Feb. 1.

Immediate objectives for the brethren meeting at Kalamunda, W.A., include admittance to Conference, erection of manse and chapel. Evening services have been commenced, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hutson, formerly of Glenelg, S.A., have been welcomed to the ministry of the church in a very successful social evening, at which representatives of most metropolitan churches and local bodies extended greetings.

The Social Service Committee of our N.S.W. churches is making its annual appeal to the brethren in that State on Sunday, April 12.

The tenth edition of Churches of Christ Hymn Book is now completed, and copies are available. The title is in gold foil, and the book is superior to previous editions in quality of paper and binding. The cloth board cover is 10/6 per copy. The better quality cover in roan is 15/6, and in morocco, with gilt edges, 27/6.

G. G. Filmer closed his ministry with the church at Murray Bridge, S.A., on Feb. 22. Theo. Edwards, of Glenelg, is serving as interim minister until a successor is appointed.

Latest additions to our Indian Mission family are Ian Stanley Heard, born on Feb. 28, and Anne Catherine Dixon, born on March 5.

Reports indicate a crowded marquee at Hinrichsen-Philp Mission at Invermay, Tas., where 3 further adult decisions on March 8 brought total decisions to that date to twenty-five.

A wide circle of friends will be glad to join in the congratulations already extended to David J. A. Verco, M.A., Dip.Ed., on his appointment as Assistant Deputy Director of Education for N.S.W. Mr. Verco has rendered valuable service to the church at Chatswood as evening organist and choir leader, and as present chairman of the official board.

W. W. Saunders, Vic.-Tas. Conference President, inducted H. R. Coventry to the ministry of the East Malvern church, Vic., on March 8. Earnest responses

followed charges made to preacher and church. Mr. Coventry later addressed the church, which has given him, his wife and two daughters, a warm welcome.

We congratulate two Sunraysia B.S. boys—George Robinson (Mildura) and Edwin Goodieson (for Legacy-Red Cliffs)—who have been selected for the Youth Coronation Tour.



THE FLOODS CAME — THE HOUSE STOOD

The Australian Secretary for the World Council of Churches Inter-Church Aid Commission, Frank Byatt, has received (from the Geneva office of Inter-Church Aid) a graphic picture of the havoc wrought by the floods in Holland.

Over 650,000 acres have been submerged, 40,000 people are rendered homeless, 1,500 lives were lost, and 30,000 head of cattle perished. Some twelve church institutions— orphanages, old peoples' homes and hospitals—are rendered useless, and 200 pastors and their families are among the homeless.

In Victoria, the Lord Mayor of Melbourne opened a fund for English and Dutch Flood Relief. This Commission will, with his full approval, be the channel through which contributions from churches, or specially earmarked, will be forwarded overseas for general relief and aid to pastors and church institutions. The Dutch Inter-Church Aid Committee will, on the spot, determine how most effectively our gifts can be used.

This should allay fears as to heavy overhead expenses or money being in the wrong hands. May our abundance be a supply to meet their needs (2 Corinthians 8: 14).

As Victorian churches are officially represented on the Inter-Church Aid Commission by our Social Service Department and contributions for the Commission are channelled through the Department, church treasurers are requested to forward their cheques to the secretary, W. T. Atkin, Bible House, 241 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

In the other States, if no other fund has been opened, cheques may be sent to the State Inter-Church Aid secretary.

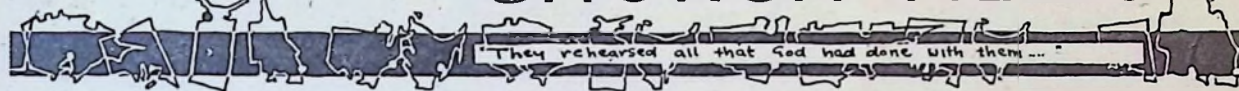
Toowoomba Church: Believing that a great deal of good can come from proper liaison and understanding between the church and all groups working for the good of the community, a conference on "The Church in the Modern Community" was held at Toowoomba on Saturday, March 7. The Christian Business Men's Club, of Brisbane, sent personnel to lead the conference: a barrister, a company director, a tailor, a manufacturers' agent, a building contractor, and C. R. Burdeu, Director Commonwealth Social Services in Queensland. Discussion centred on four subjects: The Church and—Industry, Attitude to Sunday, Social Problems, Racial Problem.

Hawthorne Church had T. Rees Thomas, B.A., B.D. (City Congregational) and R. W. Graham to lead in an educational project on March 5. In discussion they each spoke of the reasons for the existence of their respective Churches, the special emphases which each feels it still necessary to make, whether it is needful to continue to make these emphases in separateness, and next steps forward in Christian unity.

Pastor-Evangelist S. W. Vanham is travelling the length, if not the breadth, of the land before Conference. He is spending some days, usually including a Sunday, with each of the following churches: Nambour, Kingaroy, Charters Towers, Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton. At the evening service at Charters Towers on March 8 there were five decisions.

Caloundra development: Early in the year Y.P.D. purchased a hut from the Chermiside Housing Commission, Brisbane. It measures 60ft. x 20ft., and cost just under £200. For four Saturdays two teams worked demolishing the building, putting in foundations at Caloundra, and removing the building. Re-erection is part finished. The hut, in excellent condition, will be used as boys' dormitory. Worthy of special mention is the work done by a group of young men from Toowoomba.

P. French, a graduate of the Federal College, began a ministry with the Kingaroy church, March 1. Conference President, C. H. J. Wright, was present for the welcome service. . . . **R. W. Hume**, a graduate of Woolwich College, commences his work with the Sixteen Mile-Wombo Creek Circuit March 15. . . . **H. E. Paddick**, who began his full-time service with this Circuit some years ago, returns to Queensland from Adelaide. He will serve the church at Roma, also commencing March 15.



Discipleship

Mr. and Mrs. Cole, Gympie, Qld.
Margaret Ritchie, Middle Park, Vic.
Ray Martin, Yarrowonga, Vic.
Max Stacey, A. Derverne, Berris Street,
and Madge Johnson, Collins-st.,
Hobart, Tas.
Mrs. Reg. Shepherd, Balaklava, S.A.
Margaret Vennell, Cheltenham, Vic.
Russell Redenbach, Dandenong, Vic.
Miss P. Walker, Fullarton, S.A.
Ruth Park, Marrickville, N.S.W.
Mrs. Amos and John Amos, Unley,
S.A.
Beverley Ashton, Doveton-st., Bal-
larat, Vic.
Mrs. Kerr, Doreen Thompson, Mr.
and Mrs. R. McKay and Gordon
Link, Nth. Fitzroy, Vic.

Membership

Margaret Thody, Collins-st., Hobart,
Tas.
Mrs. Macdonald, Wynnum, Qld.
Mrs. R. Greenshields, from Port Pirie,
S.A., to Balaklava, S.A.
Mr. R. Greenshields, from Lochiel to
Balaklava, S.A.
Mr. C. Brough, from Gardiner, Vic.,
to Cheltenham, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Ward, from Car-
negie, Vic., to Cheltenham, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. W. Harrison, from South
Melbourne, Vic., to Middle Park,
Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. Coventry, Janet and
Muriel Coventry, from Carnegie,
Vic., to East Malvern, Vic.
Mr. Cox, from Stirling East, S.A., to
Nallsworth, S.A.
Mrs. Cox (nee Tilley), from Kers-
brook, S.A., to Nallsworth, S.A.
Mrs. E. Edwards, Barbara Hardy and
Joan Powell, to Wattle Park, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Lee, from Thornbury,
Vic., to Parkdale, Vic.
Mrs. Ferguson and Mrs. Kennedy,
Edwardstown West, S.A.

Marriage

Dorothy Williams to Allan Johnstone,
Dawson-st., Ballarat, Vic.
Mavis Dunstan to Howard Young,
Dawson-st., Ballarat, Vic.
Lesla Twaites to Thomas Coad, Daw-
son-st., Ballarat, Vic.
June Thomas to Lindsay Rowe, Daw-
son-st., Ballarat, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

D. Ross, Kyneton, Vic.
Mrs. K. M. Coulters, Ann-st., Bris-
bane, Qld.
Mrs. R. L. Chislett, Red Cliffs, Vic.
G. Osborn, Hamilton, N.S.W.
J. Monck, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.
E. Barnes, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.

Western Australia

Subiaco (R. Raymond). — Church
annual bus. meeting held on Feb. 26 was
well attended. Report showed attend-
ances increased over last year's figures
by 4 and 14 for morning and evening
services. There were 30 additions for
year (18 baptised, 4 formerly immersed,
8 transfers). £525 was raised for
brotherhood work—£51 for Canberra
appeal. On Mar. 1 morning service was
broadcast by 6KY.

Tasmania

Collins-st., Hobart (H. Street). — On
Feb. 8 Dr. Knight was speaker at morn-
ing service. Social hour was held after
evening service to give members an op-
portunity to farewell Mr. and Mrs. R.
Bradshaw, who have transferred to Ade-
laide. Annual church bus. meeting was
held on Feb. 11. Office-bearers elected
were: ass. sec., R. J. Boxhall; treas.,
A. H. Thody; deacons, M. D. Boxhall,
B. Bradshaw, F. Clifford, S. H. Cooper,
D. Hemming, J. T. Holloway and O.
Rowe; deaconesses, Mrs. H. Street, F.
McQueeny, F. Clifford, D. Pearsall, B.
Bradshaw, A. E. Heard and O. Rowe.
On Feb. 25 women's monthly prayer
meeting was held, with good attend-
ance, Major Voss (Salvation Army)
being guest speaker.

Queensland

Boondall-Zillmere (R. Clymer). — Com-
bined circuit meeting was held in Boon-
dall chapel on Feb. 28. Past three
months' circuit work was reviewed by
sec., and plans for future were dis-
cussed. The meeting was followed by
a metropolitan conference tea and rally,
with over 60 in attendance. Speaker
was Keith Horne. Church had fellow-
ship with one of foundation members,
Mrs. Brown. Two Boondall ladies, Miss
B. Nell and Mrs. S. Kemp, have helped
to beautify chapel with curtains for
platform, organ and kitchen. Zillmere
guild have made funds available for
erection of chain wire fence in front
of chapel.

Wynnum (W. Glezendanner). — K.
Burkhead and W. Cardinal have as-
sisted with messages. Band of Hope
held successful concert, appreciated by
large audience. Mrs. Jacques has been
appointed kinder. supt. Mrs. Lock-
wood has given several years' valued
service in this capacity.

Monkland (R. Roberts). — On Feb. 21
floods prevented preacher and B.S. supt.
from attending Monkland services. Y.P.
carried on services in a very capable
manner.

Gympie (R. Roberts). — Ladies' Guild
held surprise party in the home of Sis.
Baldery (Monkland) to honor birthday
of their oldest member, Mrs. Punter, to
whom Mrs. Roberts presented a hand-
bag on behalf of Guild members. B.S.
and Y.P. gave concert on Feb. 27 to
raise funds for B.S. Church enjoyed
fellowship with Mr. and Mrs. Ron.
Culbert (Brisbane). Mrs. McKenzie and
Mrs. Everard are in hospital.

Ann-st., Brisbane (R. W. Graham,
B.A.) — Speaker at morning service,
Feb. 15, was T. Rees-Thomas, minister
of city Congregational church. Annual
meeting of church was held Feb. 24. All
reports showed auxiliary work to be
flourishing. Balance sheet discloses a
total amount in excess of £2900 raised
from all sources. Retiring deacons T.
Bamford, T. Coward, J. Clothier, R.
Feeney, H. S. Hoens and R. Potter were
re-elected for further two years. Good
reports were received following broad-
cast of morning service over 4QR on
Mar. 1. Valuable assistance was ren-
dered by choir under leadership of K.
Hack. To assist in drive being made
for church building fund, Women's Fel-
lowship held garden party and fete,
opened by Mrs. C. R. Burdeu, at resi-
dence of Mrs. J. Martin on Mar. 7. £97
was raised. I.C.E. society celebrated
sixth anniversary with tea held Mar. 8.
K. Horne was speaker. Recent visitors
included Mr. and Mrs. J. Ley (Vic.), A.
E. Caldicott, Geo. Davis and C. S.
Axford (N.S.W.), Mrs. I. Elliott (C.Q.),
H. B. Robbins (Vic.) and Miss U.
Ulrich (W.A.).

Ma Ma Creek (W. J. Davidson). — A.
B. Clark, president of Sth. Qld. Coun-
try Conference, conducted services at
Ma Ma Creek and Gatton on Mar. 1.
He discussed with officers plans for
Mission at Gatton. Preacher has inau-
gurated a C.E. in Gatton. Ma Ma Creek
C.E. visited them on Mar. 4, and an
enjoyable social followed meeting in
home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Dickfos. A

married lady, her daughter and two B.S. scholars confessed Christ on Mar. 8.

New South Wales

Broken Hill (J. McCormick).—Preacher gives appreciated addresses all services. After evening service, Mar. 1, at informal gathering, presentations of script bags were made to Judith Palmer (studying Bathurst Teachers' Training School), and Brian Hosking (Sydney University). M. Rough, B.S. supt., made presentations, and spoke of work of these young people in B.S. and church. Second of teacher training lectures was held on Mar. 1. Laboratory school commenced on 8th for all teachers. Church welcomed Mrs. J. Cremer after illness, and Mrs. Clark after holiday.

Marrickville (P. E. Thomas).—Good meetings on Mar. 1. A young lady made good confession. On Wednesday night Harry Standen, of Bamu River Mission (N.G.) gave illustrated address on mission work in that field.

Hamilton (Lloyd G. Read).—Attendances continue at a fair average. Nance Marley (Sydney) was guest soloist on Feb. 15, and also assisted with other artists at after-church fellowship. H. Robson was gospel speaker on Feb. 22 in preacher's absence at Mayfield. Aged brother, Mr. Tate, celebrated 86th birthday on Mar. 1. There were 2 adult decisions at gospel service on 1st. Fellowship has been enjoyed with Mr. and Mrs. Ted Harland, Mrs. Armstrong (Lane Cove) and Mrs. Hookway and Iris (Gosford).

Kingsford (A. G. Elliott, M.A., B.Sc., Dip. Ed.).—B.S. picnic held at Bronte on Feb. 28 was a splendid day of fellowship. "Youth Speaks" was theme of gospel service on Mar. 1, when three young men—G. Porter, J. Turner and K. Larcombe—presented brief messages. At the youth tea which preceded service representatives of all Y.P. auxiliaries were present. Mr. Cooper brought messages in song at tea and also in evening service. 94 broke bread for day. J.C.E. poster competition proved helpful.

South Australia

Maylands (E. R. Sherman, B.A., Dip. Ed.).—First quarterly meeting of circuit was held on Feb. 11, and took form of welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Wood following marriage in Melbourne. Welcomes were extended by representatives from three churches, and Mr. Sherman presented wedding gift of two fireside chairs. Groceries were given by ladies. Harvest thanksgiving services were held on Feb. 15. B.S. brought gifts in afternoon. Kevin Heath and Gerald Rose were farewelled after morning service on Feb. 15 (entering C.O.B.). Each received a copy of R.S.V. Bob Brittain

and David Chamberlain also returned to continue studies. At Eastern District carnival on Feb. 21, Maylands was in charge of handcraft stall. All proceeds were devoted to Longwood camp site. Special B.S. offering for flood relief in Holland and Britain amounted to over £21. Ladies' Guild visited Rest Home on Feb. 25, and presented programme. On Feb. 15 over 50 Endeavorers were present at graduation service, when 6 J.C.E. were promoted to I.C.E.

Prospect (K. J. Patterson, B.A., B.Com.).—Social was held on Feb. 28 to farewell three families who are moving from district, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Riches, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Thompson, and Mrs. Anderson and Hazel. Good attendances marked harvest thanksgiving services on Mar. 1, preacher speaking at both services. Two young men made decision at evening service. All suitable goods displayed are being sent to Indian brethren. Minister is on vacation.

Balaklava (D. G. Hammer).—Y.P. activities have included district C.E. picnic at Port Parham, and C.E. meeting held at "Rocks," at which Marjorie Shepherd and Bruce Roberts spoke. Mr. and Mrs. Phil Woolford and Bruce Roberts (Woolwich College) and Marjorie Shepherd (C.O.B.) were farewelled at an after-church fellowship on Feb. 8, prior to commencement of study. Presentations were made. Church bus meeting was Feb. 12. Most offerings for year showed marked increase on previous year. All officers were re-elected. Successful harvest thanksgiving services were held Mar. 1, when offering for manse building fund amounted to £670. Other gifts were donated to Indian mission.

Kilburn (H. G. Norris).—The preacher spoke at both services on Mar. 8, and Mrs. Linford was soloist. B.S. attendance was 203, with new scholars still enrolling each week. Mrs. Kelly has consented to conduct anniversary for Cheltenham B.S., with F. Lawrance assisting and providing transport. Boys' and girls' basket ball clubs have re-organised for new year of activity with extra teams.

Nailsworth (A. C. Thurrowgood).—Youth council held annual meeting Feb. 13, with R. Bristow, pres., Miss P. Kraft, sec. Mr. Thurrowgood has been sick, but is now well enough to attend services. Local and visiting brethren helped out in services. R. Pritchard, of Mundalla, is leading a two weeks "Come to Church Campaign." Ladies' Guild commenced year with a picnic in Botanical Gardens. Girls' basket ball held meeting, and it is hoped to enter two teams in association. Youth club spent week-end at Mylor on Mar. 7, Ken Henley being leader.

Unley (I. J. Chivell).—Recent decisions and baptisms, increasing attend-

ances at B.S., and growing interest among Y.P. are encouraging to all. Member of cricket club was recently immersed. Harvest thanksgiving gifts provided a splendid display, large parcels being sent to Rest Home, Morialta Children's Home, and to mission fields. Response by B.S. scholars and C.E. was good. Frank Bell (London for further studies in surgery), Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Paddick (Qld.), and Ella Muir (trip to Scotland), were recently farewelled. Good wishes were extended to organist and choir leader, Alison Verco, on her approaching marriage. Cricketers who finished at bottom of 1st last year, are playing off for top place this year.

Hindmarsh (J. E. Shipway).—Harvest festival services have been held. C. Schwab and J. E. Shipway were speakers. Choir assisted with suitable anthem, and Mrs. E. J. Smith was soloist. There was splendid collection of foods, suitable for missionary parcels and for homes. Social evening and mock court was enjoyed on Mar. 6. Proceeds will be given to youth camp site at Longwood. Mrs. Knowles and A. Russell have returned home from hospital. Allan Ward is at present in hospital under treatment. Health of Mrs. J. Richardson is causing concern. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Whitney and Miss Reeves in loss of a sister.

Fullarton (A. Lennox, interim).—Ladies' Guild had first meeting for year, and attended all day to pack parcels for India. 14 parcels were posted. On morning of 8th, Calvin Chao (Chinese Native Evangelisation Crusade) spoke. Mr. Harrison, vice-president of Aust. council was present. B.C. held fellowship tea at 5.30. Mr. Fielder (P.I.V. Mission) was speaker. John Pirith (Oriental Missionary Society of Colombia, Sth. America) spoke in evening.

Edwardstown West (P. R. Baker).—Gifts from Harvest thanksgiving were sent to the Edwardstown Boys' Industrial School and Christian Rest Home. Incoming deacons are J. Eley, R. Caudie and G. Groves. A talkie film night was held to provide funds for hiring of films for showing on bi-weekly visit to Northfield Hospital.

Murray Bridge (T. Edwards).—Mar. 1 was harvest thanksgiving, with fine display. Mr. Edwards spoke at all services to good congregations. Christian Rest Home, Colbrook Aboriginal Home and Morialta benefited from goods. A large parcel of tinned food is being sent to India for famine relief. Special offering on day amounted to £70. Mrs. Edwards is leading J.C.E. and kinder for present, with increasing attendances. On Mar. 8 a young girl confessed Christ. Mr. and Mrs. Hurren (Vic.) and Mr. and Mrs. Blenkiron (Pinnaroo) were recent visitors.

Grote-st., Adelaide (Claude Candy).—Five have been added to church during

past four weeks—two by faith and baptism and three by transfer. Services are well attended. Over 130 have communed for day. Harvest festival services were very successful, and choir rendered suitable anthems. The tinned goods and packets are to be sent to India and New Hebrides. At a special appeal for distress in flood areas overseas, £35 was contributed. Mr. and Mrs. A. Hurren were visitors on March 1, and Joyce Clifford and June Sutherland (Wollongong, N.S.W.) on March 8. Church has been saddened by death of two well loved members. Y.P. continues to flourish, and many are serving the Lord in many ways.

Victoria

Surrey Hills (Howard Earle).—On A.N.A. Day, during minister's recent vacation, meetings were acceptably conducted by local brethren. Ladies' Guild spent most enjoyable day touring Dandenongs on Feb. 26, including visit to Waterman Youth Hostel.

Moreland (J. Turner, B.A.).—On Mar. 4 church was enriched by presence and message of W. W. Saunders, conf. pres. March is prayer month, with special teaching and prayer services. Kinder held a picnic at Coburg Lake, with 70 children and parents present. Y.W.F. held an outdoor session at Coburg Lake. Attendance at W.M.B. is encouraging, and plans give promise of a year of purposeful activities.

Warracknabeal (W. Wakefield).—B.S. has commenced after vacation, and is practising for anniversary. Ladies' Aid had first meeting for year, with record attendance. Mrs. Wakefield was again elected president, Mrs. Joyce sec., and Mrs. F. H. Everett treas. Monthly prayer meeting was held in church in Mar. Y.P. club has recommenced after vacation.

Yarrowonga (R. V. Holmes).—B.S. is being held in morning for a trial period of two months. Mr. Holmes has an average of 8 at his B.C., and 10 at C.E. A friendly tennis match was played at Wangaratta. Harvest thanksgiving was held on Mar. 1. Produce displayed was given to local hospital.

North Richmond (R. McKenzie).—Sale of work held in Nov. realised £106 for manse fund. Attendances at B.S. during Jan. were good, despite holiday period. All church work is in sound condition. Church fellowship has commenced with meetings held fortnightly. All auxiliaries have commenced, and report good attendances.

Kyneton (W. Bennett).—B.S. enjoyed large Christmas party. Thanks are due to following speakers during college vacation—F. Brown, J. Martin, G. Goudie, C. Bingham, R. Swift, D. Stirling, R. Patterson and T. Westwood. June

Goudie, R. Goudie and G. Bannam, of Hamilton, gave musical assistance. B.S. picnic was held at Malmesbury on 28th. W. Bennett (C.O.B.) commenced ministry on Mar. 1.

Bendigo (H. Cave).—Annual bus. meeting was held on Feb. 25. Reports were encouraging. Following deacons were elected: Messrs. Denis, Felton, Pettigrove, Smith and Houston. It was decided to appoint a second elder at next half-yearly meeting. Harvest thanksgiving services were conducted by preacher on Mar. 1. While display of produce was not up to usual standard, attendance at services was gratifying. On Feb. 13 three members of one family were baptised by Mr. Cave—Mrs. H. Thompson (Serpentine), Mrs. J. C. Allen (Boort), and Miss E. M. Nankivell (Campbell's Forest). These ladies, all in their sixties, were happy to follow their Lord more closely after many years of discipleship. Distances of 35 miles and more prevent them from taking up membership at present.

Cheltenham (R. C. Bolduan).—During absence of preacher on holidays, speakers have been Miss D. Geyer, R. T. Pittman, B. J. Combridge, and L. A. Trezise. Cricket club had a successful season, just missing finals. New sewerage block is completed and in use. All auxiliaries are in full swing, and numbers are good.

North Williamstown (C. J. Mackenzie).—At recent gospel service a B.S. scholar made decision. Annual church bus. meeting was held. Three new deacons were added to board—C. McDougal, E. Thatcher and F. Marks. Appreciation was expressed for services rendered by retiring treas., R. Milne. New treas. elected was G. Ogden. Cricket team finished in fifth position. Presentations were made to Shirley Milne and Jack Wallis, Betty Griffith and Phil Frost on approach of their marriages. H. A. Horsfall (Local Option Alliance) was recent visiting speaker.

Middle Park (J. Plummer).—Annual bus. meeting was held on Feb. 26. Following officers were elected: A. Hartvigsen, T. Hobbs, W. Harrison, J. Ritchie, H. Armetts; Mrs. Plummer, organist. Enjoyable B.S. picnic was held at Ferny Creek on Feb. 21.

West Preston (A. B. Withers).—B.S. anniversary opened Mar. 1. H. Gross spoke in afternoon, and preacher in evening. Y.P.S.C.E. held meeting at home of Mr. Bean on Mar. 2 in honor of his 87th birthday. New hall is nearing completion. On Mar. 3, P.B.P. enjoyed an "opera night" at a member's home.

Dandenong (A. R. Pigdon).—Feb. 28 a combined fellowship meeting was held at Springvale church of Christ. S. R. Baker, sec. B. and F.B.S., was morning

speaker on Mar. 1, introducing "Reading the Bible through in a year." In evening two films, "The House of the Book" and "What Shall They Read?" were shown. On Feb. 2 a kitchen tea was given to Beth Shephard and Wal. Tanner. Miss E. Vawser showed missionary films of India on Mar. 3. Y.P.C.E. is functioning well. Saturday evening, Mar. 7, Y.P.F. was held at home of Mrs. Jecuschner, Lloyd E. Jones was speaker. Russell Redenback was baptised on Mar. 8. Through the efforts of Y.W.F. the sum of £104 was handed to church treasurer for new church building fund.

Hartwell (H. J. Patterson, M.A.).—After holidays, meetings are returning to normal. A big delegation from Wattle Park attended evening service on March 8, when three of their young folk were baptised. Miss Vawser has been a welcome speaker at W.M.B., and pictures shown at Wed. night meeting were appreciated. B.S. has secured a piano for new kinder hall and tables for class work in other departments. Picnic at Aspendale on March 9 was well attended by parents and children. Cricket Club is contesting finals for the premiership. W.M.B. ladies have given concerts at Prahran and Mitcham.

Carnegie (L. G. Crisp, L.Th.).—133 were present at morning service, Feb. 22, when B.S. and Girl Guides paraded. B.S. picnic was held at Carrum on Feb. 21. P.B.P. held installation service on 22nd., when Mrs. Ploog installed officers. L. Crisp was speaker. On Mar. 1 Temple Day appeal was launched. A married lady made her confession. W. Manning and Mrs. G. Warmbrum are in hospital. G. Rose (C.O.B.) is assisting at Carnegie. Many visitors have been welcomed to recent services.

Montrose (D. Chamberlain).—On Mar. 1 Mr. Sandells concluded his interim ministry. At close of morning service Mr. Rogers on behalf of church thanked him for his help, and presented him with a book. Evening was Women's Christian Fellowship quarterly parade, when Mrs. Sandells spoke on her work in Islands. Mr. Chamberlain (C.O.B.) gave appreciated addresses when he commenced his ministry on 8th.

Wattle Park.—Mr. Edwards continues to give sterling service at gospel meetings. Speakers for morning service have included Dr. Kemp, Messrs. Kretyschmar, Pedron and Baird. B.S. held annual picnic at Mooroolbark on Feb. 28. Over 120 scholars and parents attended. 3 new members were baptised at Hartwell on Mar. 8. Work has commenced for new chapel. Dr. Oldfield addressed Ladies' Fellowship on Mar. 10.

Collingwood (G. Powell).—Mr. Powell has commenced ministry with church. Help given by visiting speakers during preacher's absence was much appreciated.

ed. Nth. Fitzroy brethren still continue to assist at morning services. Cricket club, which has had success this year, held an enjoyable evening at home of Mrs. Warrey. Several evenings have been arranged to assist sale of work stall holders. First was held at Miss Dusting's home.

Red Cliffs (C. L. Lang).—There have been many visitors at all services during picking season. Mrs. Warmbrunn gave message in song on Mar. 1. C.E. joined in combined consecration service, held at Mildura. Preacher's messages encourage church. Sympathy is extended to Chislett and Brown families.

Red Hill (M. Gilmore).—On Mar. 8 many visitors were present, including Mr. and Mrs. Barrott, Mr. and Mrs. Dale and Mr. and Mrs. Marks (Spring Vale), and Mr. and Mrs. Finger (Bayswater). Attendance at gospel service was good, visitors again being present. Another organ has been purchased by church.

Maryborough (M. A. Coombs).—Ladies' Aid held election of officers at first meeting, when pres., sec. and treas. were re-elected. Mrs. Wellington was elected pres. of W.M.B. Church is pleased to have Mr. Coombs back after vacation. Mrs. Hunt is in hospital, but improving. B. and F.B.S. representative showed suitable film at close of evening service on Mar. 1.

Lygon-st., Carlton.—R. Geyer spoke at morning service on Mar. 8. All enjoyed message in song of C.E. quartet at evening service. Mrs. Pettifer has reached 88th birthday, while Mrs. Barnes has just had her 89th—together 177 years of Christian witness.

Dimboola (A. E. Cremin).—Harvest thanksgiving service was held on Mar. 8. A. E. Cremin was speaker. There was fine display of fruit, vegetables and groceries. Membership is small, but an excellent spirit prevails.

Haven (A. E. Cremin).—Average attendance remains regular. Young men meet fortnightly for prayer and study. Money has been raised to build an extra room on to chapel. Church has sustained a loss with removal of Mr. and Mrs. J. Gleeson and family to Hamilton.

Horsham (A. E. Cremin).—Harvest thanksgiving service was held on Mar. 8. G. Miller spoke in morning, and preacher at evening service. There was a fine display of vegetables, fruit and groceries. Gift Day offering amounted to £40. Average attendance: a.m., 135; p.m., 89.

Parkdale (C. M. Dunse).—Attendances over past few weeks have been good, preacher's messages have been appreciated. Annual business meeting heard encouraging reports. Officers elected were:

deacons, Messrs. Bradley, Box (treas.), Cuddy, Cunningham, Fielder (sec.), Francis, Parkes, Pittman, Rees and White; deaconesses, Mesdames Anderson and Box; organist, Mrs. Ells; Y.W.L. helpers, Alice Allamby and E. Smith. Y.P. club has been commenced.

Balwyn (J. E. Brooke).—Attendances on Mar. 1 and 8 were heartening, over 100 breaking bread on both days. On 9th B.S. held picnic at Ferny Creek. Wednesday evening fellowship meetings have about 30 in attendance. Offering for flood victims is about £45. At annual

88th Annual Conference OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

March 31 to April 9, 1953

SYNOPSIS OF PROGRAMME:

Tues., Mar. 31—Lygon Street:

7.45—Opening Sessions General Conference, President's Welcome and Address. Reports.

Wed., April 1.

Women's Conference, at Lygon-st. All day from 10.30.

Thurs., April 2.

2.30—Swanston-st., Reception by President Women's Conference. For Country Women.

3.00—Lygon-st., Preachers' Session.

5.45—Lygon-st., Tea-Table Fellowship and Discussion.

7.45—Lygon-st., General Conference Contd. Amendments to Constitution. Recommendation re World Council of Churches.

Friday, April 3.

9.30—Lygon-st., Conference continued. Address by Incoming President.

2.00—Lygon-st., Reports. Devotional Address.

7.30—Melbourne Town Hall. Centenary Home Mission Rally.

Sat., April 4—Lygon-st.

10.00—Conference continued. Reports. Notices of Motion.

2.00—Reports. Discussion.

7.30—Overseas Mission Demonstration.

Sun., April 5.

2.45—Melbourne Town Hall. Centenary Sermon Session.

Mon., April 6.

All Day Picnic at Wattle Park.

7.45—Aborigines' Mission Demonstration.

Tues., April 7.

5.45—Lygon-st., College of the Bible Old Boys' Club Reunion.

7.45—Melbourne Town Hall, Great Youth Demonstration.

Wed., April 8.

7.45—Lygon-st., Social Service Evening.

Thurs., April 9.

7.45—Lygon-st., Christian Endeavour Rally.

meeting of Youth Council, Valerie Turnham was elected president, and Helen Page sec. Together with the preacher, Mrs. Hoffman and Mrs. Drummy are teaching Christian education at Balwyn State School. B.S. reports increased attendances, the century being passed for the first time this year.

Ararat (R. Duckett).—Mar. 1 was every-member-present Sunday, when 39 broke bread at communion service, and 37 attended gospel service. Y.W.L. has grown steadily, with an attendance of 40 at last service. C.E. is likewise growing, and has been divided. Ladies have commenced a ladies' devotion under leadership of Mrs. Duckett. B.S. numbers average 50 over last month, and collections toward aborigine work resulted in 9 lockers for new building at Carnarvon.

Dawson-st., Ballarat (F. C. Hunting).—During preacher's holidays, speakers have been D. Holloway, J. A. Wilkie, O. Jones and E. McGilbony. At annual business meeting all auxiliaries brought encouraging reports. Financial statement showed a credit balance of £70. Deacons elected were: E. Davey, J. Price, E. Steele, J. Maher, C. Young and G. Allen. Successful B.S. picnic was held at Creswick, well supported by parents and friends. Pre-wedding presentations were made to Dorothy Williams, Mavis Dunston, Lesla Twaites and June Thomas by B.S. Staff.

FOR OUR GREAT GOD

The Great Centenary Celebrations

of the

PRAHRAN CHURCH OF CHRIST
conducted by

Evangelist E. C. HINRICHSSEN

MARCH 22 - 29

Mar. 22, 11 a.m.: The King's Request.
7 p.m., For 100 Years We Have Said.

Mon., 23, 8 p.m.: The Greatest Scientific Fact in the Bible.

Tues., 24, 8 p.m.: The Greatest Quarrel in the Bible.

Wed., 25, 8 p.m.: The Greatest Battle Foretold in the Bible.

Thurs., 26, 8 p.m.: The Greatest Victory in the Bible.

Fri., 27, 8 p.m.: The Greatest Question in the Bible.

Sat., 28, 8 p.m.: The Most Remarkable Man in Prahran.
(Great Youth Rally).

Sun., 29, 11 a.m.: Homecoming; 3 p.m., Australia's Greatest Need; 7 p.m., The Greatest Warning in the Bible.
Come with us for every service.

Special solos and a Special Centenary Choir.

Minister: Lloyd E. Jones.

Secretary: Geo. W. Matt.

Pearl Anderson

For over four years, no word was received from Pearl, and no one known to us had any contact with the area where she lived. Authentic word has now been passed on to us from a reliable source stating that the last missionary to leave that area had much to do with Pearl in recent years. The report states that despite communist domination, Pearl continues to give a splendid Christian witness. She continues to run a Maternity Hospital, and our friends add "the largest and best of its kind in that city." Bibles are placed in all wards and Bible study groups conducted.

This hospital was founded in faith with the desire that no one, however poor, would be turned away. Those who could afford to pay made up for those who could not pay. There has been no lack. As the hospital began, so it continues.

Even though we cannot write or have contact, we can pray for Pearl, and ask God to continue to bless her in her witness and service for him.



A. C. Forrest, reporting to the *British Weekly* on church conditions in Canada, shows that within the past ten years the United Church of Canada has grown from 19.2 to 20.5 per cent. of the entire population (which has now passed the 14 million mark). Other major Protestant denominations have, however, slipped, the Anglicans dropping from 15.2 to 14.7, the Presbyterians from 7.2 to 5.6, the Baptists from 4.2 to 3.7, and so on. But gospel hall churches are flourishing, Pentecostals have increased by well over ten times in the past thirty

PRAHRAN CELEBRATES . . .

One Hundred Years

MARCH 22 - 29

Prahran being the Mother Church of our movement in Victoria, this Event will have Australia-wide significance for our Brotherhood.

- Any desiring invitation to Centenary Homecoming Day, March 29, write or ring.
- Any desiring copy of special centenary brochure.
- Country visitors needing accommodation.
- Greetings and goodwill donations to Centenary Project will be welcomed.

Preacher: Lloyd E. Jones,
26 Mayfield-st.,
E. St. Kilda, S.16.
LB 3381.

Secretary: Geo. W. Matt,
14 Loch Ave.,
E. St. Kilda, S.16.
LF 7675.

March 17, 1953.

years, and the Salvation Army has more than doubled, although it still has only about 70,000 members. There is still a wide discrepancy between census and official church figures. The R.C. church has increased to 43.3 per cent. of the population, although all but two provinces (Quebec and New Brunswick) are predominantly Protestant.

IN MEMORIAM.

STEVENS.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Stuart, who passed away on March 23, 1952. Loving father of Carson (N.Z.), John, Beth (Mrs. Adcock), and Charles.

PEET.—In loving memory of our son and brother, Ern, called home March 24, 1950.

—Inserted by Mother, Dad, Mavis, Rae and family.

BIRTH.

HUMPHRYS.—Mar. 3, at Yallourn, to Wilma and Ian—a son, Charles Warren.

DIXON.—On Mar. 5, at Dhond, India, to Roy and Joy, a daughter — Anne Catherine. Both well.

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on **SATURDAY AFTERNOON,
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Musical Programme commences at
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MONDAY, MARCH 23, 8 p.m.

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churches.

*Anniversaries and
Homecomings*

PRAHRAN.—100th Anniversary, Mch.
22-29. Guest speaker, E. C. Hinrich-
sen. Sunday, Mch. 22: 11 a.m., Every-
member-present service; 7 p.m., Evan-
gelistic meeting. **WEEK OF EVAN-
GELISM**, Monday to Saturday at 7.45
p.m., Sun., Mch. 29—100th Homecom-
ing Day. 11 a.m., Worship and Com-
munion. President Dr. G. H. Oldfield
(President-elect of Conference). Preach-
er, Lloyd E. Jones. 1 p.m., Centenary
Dinner. 3 p.m., 100 years of Evan-
gelism, E. C. Hinrichsen; 5 p.m., Cen-
tenary Tea; 7 p.m., Great Evangelistic
Service, E. C. Hinrichsen. Soloist, Miss
Frances Cowper. Prahran Choir under
leadership of Miss B. Winifred Lee
(Mus. Bac.).

BRUNSWICK.—Bible School Anniver-
sary, Sun., Mar. 22. 3 p.m., N.
McLennan; 7 p.m., R. Muller. Mar. 29,
G. R. Bennets; 7 p.m., C. Watson.
Bright singing by scholars. Hospitality
provided for visitors.

BENTLEIGH (Gilbert-rd.). — Bible
School Anniversary, Sun., Mar. 22:
3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Conductor, Claude
Gadge.

NORTH FITZROY.—Mar. 25 and 29,
80th anniversary. Wed., Mar. 25, In-
spirational and Fellowship Rally. Sun.,
Mar. 29, Homecoming and Thanks-
giving Day. Those desiring fellowship
ring V. Foster. JJ 1929. Come and
join in this time of fellowship and
thanksgiving.

FOOTSCRAY. — May 2 (Sat.), May 5
(Tues.), 75th anniversary. All former
members welcome. Invitations will be
sent to all sending name and present
address. Those also requiring accom-
modation should write to Secretary H.
E. Easton, East Esplanade, St. Albans.
MW 0606.

Long Plains Church of Christ, S.A.

Opening of New Chapel

Saturday, April 11

2.30 p.m.: Opening of Building, followed
by Dedication Service.

Speaker: G. R. Stirling, Conference
President of S.A.

5 p.m.: Fellowship Tea.

8 p.m.: Thanksgiving service.

Speaker: G. Rootes, Past Preacher.
Thank Offering.

Sunday, April 12.

10.30 a.m.: Communion Service. Speaker
J. B. Baker, Past Preacher.

3 p.m.: Youth Service. Speaker: G.
Whiting, S.A. Youth Director Elect.

7 p.m.: Gospel Service. Speaker: I.
Durdin, Past Preacher.
Basket Tea.

Past members cordially invited. Please
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Come and join us at all services. In-
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Holiday Shack, Sorrento, accom-
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£3/10/- per week. Vacant March 24,
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The Most Mutilated Hymn

(A Hymn for March—No. 272, Mar. 29.)

What appears on the surface to be a simple little hymn of the cross is our No. 272 ("Sweet the moments, rich in blessing"), but an examination of either authorship or text provides a very complex story. Some books openly attach the name of W. W. Shirley, others that of J. (or W.) Allen, and at least one the name Robinson. Another says inclusively "W. Shirley and others," but perhaps the word "attributed to J. Allen, altered by W. Shirley" is as near as may be.

Apparently encouraged by the confusion already created by several hands, editors have been liberal with further amendments. We have found twelve different groupings of verses, using from three to six out of ten distinctly different ones. One of these is a "gratuitous trinitarian benediction" and may be ruled out as not rightly "belonging"—but we could have included a refrain which runs: "Standing by the cross of Calvary, looking up to Christ, trusting in his love, hoping in his mercy full and free."

Once "the hunt is on" for textual changes, the results are startling — to make a topical allusion, the shots seem almost as wild as at the opening of a Victorian duck season! Perusal of a single line found in many books shows an almost nonsensical variation in readings—"Here I (or we) rest (sit or stay) with transport (for ever or in wonder) viewing."

To put it kindly, the problem set the revisers by the imagery is not easy of solution. Still, their solutions are not always pleasing as, for example, when we find the divine compassion of the Saviour alternately beaming (floating or pleading) in his lovely face or his dying (languid or falling) eye!

Our own editors have chosen the verses which not only show the fewest modifications, but also those where the imagery is least open to question, leaving us that "simple little hymn of the Cross" aforesaid—suited to many for communion services, albeit of a rather more sentimental type of devotion than most.—F.J.F.

Obituary

Alice Gertrude Robbins.

On Tuesday, Feb. 24, Alice Gertrude Robbins was called to be "with Christ," following within days of a serious operation at Bethesda Hospital, Melb. Mrs. Robbins and her husband, as baptised believers, joined first the church at Erskineville, N.S.W., after association

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Information from the Secretary.
W. T. ATKIN.

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W. T. ATKIN, Secretary
W. W. SAUNDERS,
Associate Secretary

with Enmore during the ministry of G. T. Walden. During the years when her husband, H. B. Robbins, was serving with the churches at Lismore, Stawell, Colac, South Melbourne, Kingsford, East Kew, Camberwell and West Preston, her quiet helpfulness, gentleness and wise counsel enriched those ministries. Friends in Australia, America and England will feel a deep sense of loss at her passing. In later years, Mrs. Robbins was a member of Hampton church, Vic., where she was greatly beloved. The funeral service was conducted in the Hampton chapel, by the writer, assisted by W. H. Clay and A. B. Withers. After the service the cortege proceeded to the New Cheltenham Cemetery. To her husband, her daughter (Mrs. Stokie), her son Wilbur, her sisters Florrie and Nell, her brother Stan and all the relatives we tender our loving Christian sympathy. —Stanton H. Wilson.

J. W. Parslow.

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE.

News to hand concerning the death of J. W. Parslow, at Maryborough, Q., marks the passing of an able preacher, a great organiser, and true friend to young men. Born in Clunes, Vic., he was educated for the ministry, and ordained for the Church of England priesthood. Early in the present century he became identified with churches of Christ, and for a number of years was a very able advocate of New Testament Christianity. His last ministry in Victoria was with the Prahran church. It was in 1908 during his ministry with the church in Toowoomba that I accepted Christ. I owe more to the late J. W. Parslow than to any man who has touched my life, and I never shall forget his prayer when I left for Glen Iris. Since 1911, throughout the years, I have kept in touch with him, and his letters were an inspiration. I treasure many happy memories of my beloved "father in the gospel," and commend his dear ones to the God of all comfort and consolation.—C. Young (Vic.).

WANTED.

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