

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

QUEENSLAND NEWSLETTER

CHRISTIANS IN INDUSTRY.

Twenty-five people from all walks of life took part in a "Christians in Industry" Conference, held at the Brisbane Boys' College on May 9. The conference was organised by the Queensland Committee for the World Council of Churches. Chairman of the Conference was C. R. Burdeu, Commonwealth Director of Social Services and Federal President of churches of Christ. Also attending was W. H. Hack, of Ann-st. church of Christ. Among questions considered by the Conference were:

What is the effect of shift work on family life?

How can the church help to mediate in industrial disputes?

What is the place of incentives in a factory based on Christian principles?

A Continuation Committee was appointed to report back to a further conference.

MISS VAWSER.

Miss Vawser is visiting Queensland churches from April 2 to June 9, showing pictures, telling stories, and selling ties. All three are popular. Her last visit was fifteen years ago. On this present tour, Miss Vawser will contact every church in the State, and since Queensland has an area of 670,500 square miles, that is some tour. No missionary from India has ever been able to cover the State as extensively as Miss Vawser.

FEDERAL CONFERENCE.

Preparation for Federal Conference to be held here during Spring of next year, is under way. The Federal President, C. R. Burdeu, has been busy forming committees, and imparting some of his own enthusiasm to committee personnel. Last Federal Conference held in Brisbane was in 1930. We are determined this one shall be a great success, and expect many Southerners will be up to thaw out after the winter. Attractive posters showing bowls of luscious tropical fruits, and golden sun-drenched beaches, will soon be appearing on church notice boards in the South.

IN THE NORTH.

S. W. Vanham, Queensland's Pastor-Evangelist, will be kept very busy. He is also President of Conference and secretary of the Home Missions Committee. Since his appointment as Pastor-Evangelist he has spent most of his time in the North. This is because we have no preacher north of Rockhampton, and the need of the churches there is urgent. In the past we have thought of those churches in the North (Mackay, Townsville, Charters Towers) as a liability. Many still do. But to-day some of us are thinking of them as our opportunity, because of the way in which the North is developing. There is a strong desire here to place a preacher in the North and develop the churches there.—C. H. J. Wright.



C. R. Burdeu, Federal President of churches of Christ and chairman of the "Christians in Industry" Conference, is second from the left in this group.

—Photo by courtesy
"Brisbane Telegraph."

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



Be strong—not in yourselves but in the Lord, in the power of his boundless resource. Put on God's complete armor so that you can successfully resist all the devil's methods of attack. For, as I expect you have learned by now, our fight is not against any physical enemy: it is against organisations and powers that are spiritual. We are up against the unseen power that controls this dark world, and spiritual agents from the very headquarters of evil. Therefore you must wear the whole armor of God, that you may be able to resist evil in its day of power, and that even when you have fought to a standstill, you may still stand your ground.—Eph. 6: 10-13 (Phillips).

The Christian has weapons, spiritual weapons, in his armory which must not rust unused. His emphasis must be positive, not negative; he must seek to "overcome evil with good." Nicholas Berdyaev, the Russian Christian philosopher, summed up the task when he said: "The only thing to pit against integral communism, materialistic communism, is integral Christianity: not rhetorical, tattered, decadent Christianity, but nascent Christianity, working out its eternal truth towards consistent life, consistent culture, consistent social justice." But let us not forget that the only basis on which such a redeemed society can be built is the basis of redeemed individuals.—H. V. Larcombe.

O thou Strength in man's weakness, forgive the blind pride which struggles on to defeat, when truly surrendered souls find in thy power un-failing victory. We acknowledge that without thee we can do nothing. But with thee . . . ! O Lord, give us such venturesome faith that we, too, may prove what thou canst do in us, and through us, and with us, for the glory of thy Name. AMEN.

How strong all evil seems

In this decisive hour,

But stronger still are those

Who venture in Christ's power.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

HOW GOOD IS YOUR DIGESTION?

IF you think the above question would be more at home in an "antacid ad." than a religious journal, read some of the things our Lord said, as recorded in Matthew chapter twenty-three, especially the twenty-fourth verse, as translated by Weymouth: "You blind guides, straining out the gnat while you gulp down the camel!" Here is grim, ironic humor, with its penetrating thrust at the amazing digestive powers of religious bigots. The insignificant gnat could bring on convulsions, while the camel could be swallowed without a twinge! Both gnat and camel were unclean to the Jew, and the tragic joke for one with Jesus' clear vision was that a genuine need for purity had become so distorted, and out of all proportion to life's real values. No wonder he felt so strongly when men like these condemned the speck in another's eye, and were blissfully unconscious of the logs in their own!

Yet, after two thousand years of lip service to his teaching, do we still find it easier to look with the twisted vision of the Pharisee rather than the fearless insight of the Master? Do we swallow unnoticed judgments and attitudes alien to his spirit—on war, and race, and brotherhood, for example—while we strain to observe other, less disturbing, requirements? Do sins of the spirit, against which some of his strongest judgments were given, shock us less violently than sins of the flesh?

Obviously, there are many things which we

SWALLOW TOO EASILY

The Church, in her time, has swallowed some sugar-coated pills about which she has had bitter regrets later. One early example was the tie-up with the Roman State which followed Constantine's so-called conversion. Hailed then, and for so long as a triumph, it is now seen as the beginning of much that marred the Church's witness and well-being. Slavery and child labor are examples of iniquities which the Church accepted, and in some cases condoned, for centuries, with conscience as untroubled as that of slave-trader Newton, fulfilling his Christian duty by teaching Christian hymns to the slaves on his ship.

In matters like these the Church was merely reflecting popular feeling. It was not until some Christians became seriously disturbed and set about challenging that feeling, that change was possible. But even to-day too many of our basic

attitudes are more influenced by the headlines of the daily press than the underlines in Jesus' teaching. Ours is the age of the "hand-out," in more ways than one. We find it easier to swallow somebody else's pre-digested thinking than to make the testing ventures of faith ourselves. Religious "quacks" have fattened on the ease with which the credulous, and sometimes the lonely and the sorrowing, have swallowed, with the magic phrase, "It's in the Book!", ideas which cannot stand the test of any sane interpretation.

We are the spiritual heirs of those who rejoiced to be called "people of the Book." They swept aside all creeds as they worked at "rightly dividing the Word of truth." Their faith and passion were no "hand-outs." Are ours? How seriously are we *studying* the Word to-day?

Of course, the cynic rates us all as credulous fools, who have swallowed Bible and all too easily—people drugged with a dream, with faces pressed forlornly in the chloroform mask of faith. But we believe—and history bears us out—that Christians at their best have been triumphant realists, never defeated escapists. There are some things which we find

HARD TO SWALLOW

—and one is the glib dismissal of the Christian Church as self-betrayed and finished, a spent force. If the Church is as weak as some have claimed, why have others sought to control it, and some of them been forced to admit their failure? There is still a lot of out-dated parrot-talk in schools, factories and offices about the way that science has discredited religion. No responsible scientist talks like that to-day, and we should see to it that our young people no more swallow such assertions than they would a papal decree of infallibility.

Which do we find hardest to swallow—our pride (and religious pride can be very stubborn), or the evil in the world, the wrongs our fellow-men suffer? How often are we as deeply disturbed as Robertson of Brighton, whose blood became "liquid fire" over the sufferings of others? If we never feel the agony that lies at the heart of Christian brotherhood, then our digestion is too good! And when we feel it, there is no easy cure-all; only a restless urging on in the steps of him who ever bore the world on his heart.

PERCY PITTMAN of Parkdale, Vic., writes urgently of to-day as the day of

Christian opportunity on

PEACE AND WAR

The New Testament nowhere commands nations to go to war. The entire scope and drift of the New Testament is against war. The New Testament may in fact be called the Book of Peace.

We Are Under Grace

The Old Testament commanded war in certain circumstances. But we are not under the old Covenant. We are not under law, but under grace. The Old Testament is a gradual unfolding of the mind and will of God for the children of Israel. The New Testament is the final and complete revelation of the mind and will of Christ for Christians. It contains the gospel of the grace of God.

Under grace, we are to love our enemies, to forgive them, to do good to them, to pray for them, to feed them if they are hungry, to clothe them if they are naked, to visit them if they are sick or in prison, and in a word, to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Under grace, under God's free, unmerited mercy and forgiveness through his Son's sacrifice on the cross, all mankind are placed under a debt of gratitude so vast that it should constrain them to show the same spirit of love and forgiveness towards their bitterest enemies.

As we read the New Testament, a vision of peace breaks upon our souls, peace with God and peace with man. We feel like Cortez, the Spanish conqueror, of whom the poet writes,

"With eagle eyes

He stared at the Pacific—and all his men

Looked at each other with a wild surmise—

Silent, upon a peak in Darien."

In the New Testament we gaze with amazement at the spiritual Pacific ocean of peace, as we see the Prince of peace bringing peace on earth, blessing the peacemakers, making peace through the blood of his cross, sending his apostles into all the world with the gospel of peace, establishing a world-wide Kingdom of peace, giving to all troubled souls the peace of God that passeth understanding, teaching all Christians to follow peace with all men, and opening for all believers the Kingdom of everlasting peace.

War is the very opposite to all these things. It destroys indiscriminately men, women and children, to say nothing of property. It has now reached such a degree of frightfulness that either the world must destroy it, or it will destroy the world.

The New Testament—and War

But some will say, "Does not the New Testament say 'He beareth not the sword in vain?' " Yes, but that is not the sword of the soldier, but of the magistrate who administers justice within the nation itself, and it is admitted that whatever force is necessary to do this, is warranted in the New Testament. But law and order protect the innocent and punish or reform the guilty. War destroys both guilty and innocent. Law and order give the accused a fair trial, but war deals out sudden death to non-combatants as well as soldiers. Law and order are essential to the well-being of the community. War brings suffering to the innocent in a thousand ways. Law and order breed respect for authority; war breeds lawlessness, hatred, ill-will and revenge.

Some say that wars are prophesied in the New Testament as well as the Old, and therefore war is inevitable, and we can do nothing about it. But prophecy never excuses us from doing all the good we possibly can to all men at all times, to the very end. Jesus prophesied that the poor would be always with us, but that does not relieve us from the duty of assisting the poor.

Our Christian Responsibility

If all mankind would accept without delay the gospel of the grace of God, the awful problem of war would be solved at once. All Christians should therefore unite to send the gospel without delay to every man, woman and child in the whole world.

But in addition to this there is something we may be able to do to meet the present situation which faces us all so menacingly, and calls for immediate action.

In 1785 William Wilberforce, British M.P., was converted to Christ. Filled with gratitude and love to Jesus and

love towards his fellow-men, he began, along with a few other Christians, a campaign to abolish the horrible slave-trade, which was so firmly entrenched and so powerfully supported that even decent people scoffed at him for his foolhardy advocacy of such a hopeless cause. But in 22 years, a short time in the history of the race, the British Parliament was induced to accept a Bill for the gradual abolition of slavery in the British Empire, and ten years afterwards the Slavery Emancipation Bill became law, and millions of slaves were set free. Everyone said it was a miracle, and so it was, a miracle of grace in answer to prayer and faithfulness.

The Christian Community in all the world is to-day more numerous than it has ever been, and it is growing more rapidly than ever before. We are a mighty host of God, the greatest Society or body of people in the world. If we can manage to make ourselves heard in the Councils of all the nations, there is no statesman on earth who will be able to ignore us.

Our women, who are the greatest sufferers in war, are beginning to work for peace. The youth of the world, whose lives are at stake, should rally to the standard of the Prince of Peace with all their energy and enthusiasm. Social departments of many denominations are already leading the way in the cause of peace. Perhaps the most heartening sign of all is the fact that everyone just now seems to be in favor of universal peace. When once a third world-war breaks out, it will be too late. All sorts of difficulties will then arise which cannot be dealt with here.

To-day seems to be the day of opportunity. In the New Testament we read in several places of "the fulness of the time." It may be that the fulness of the time to deal with the fearful problem of war once and for all has now arrived.

Rise up, O men of God!
Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of Kings.
Rise up, O men of God!
His kingdom tarries long;
Bring in the day of brotherhood
And end the night of wrong.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIAN YOUTH

Report by Helen Trudgian, B.A.,
Dip. Ed., of Albion Church.

The second Queensland Conference of Christian Youth of April 17-19 was designed to welcome back the Queensland delegates to Travancore, and to hear their reports. The first Queensland Conference was held in September, 1952, and it has now been decided to hold one annually in or about September.

The Conference met at the Methodist Youth Centre at Margate, and was attended by representatives from the following churches and organisations:—Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, churches of Christ, Congregational, Society of Friends, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., and S.C.M.—in all, over sixty young people.

The theme of the Conference was "South-East Asia," but addresses and discussion centred mainly upon India, so recently visited by the Travancore delegates. On the whole, the young

people were a well-educated group, and discussion reached a fairly high plane. The following points were made and stressed:

(1) President Nehru's splendid work in India is hindered by the apathy of his people.

(2) Australia has a responsibility to Asia (a) towards God; (b) for our own security.

(3) We must know what we believe ourselves before we can help others.

(4) Not enough prayer of the right sort is offered for South-East Asia, that is, intelligent, understanding prayer based on genuine study of the people's needs.

(5) Christianity paves the way for communism — a startling statement! The Church shows the need but seems powerless to meet it. Communism with its endless resources, seems to supply the answer.

(6) India needs an Indian Church. Discussion arose as to whether missionaries remain too long in the one place.

(7) The Christian Church must be united before it can hope for real success in these lands.

(8) The Church must appeal to the lower class and its forms of worship must be adapted to suit the needs of Eastern peoples.

(9) There is a strong need for material aid to South-East Asia. We must watch our own way of life in view of the non-Christian students at present in our midst.

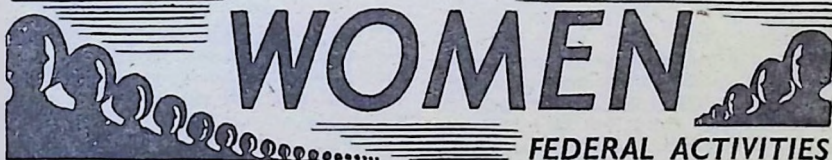
(10) The time is urgent. So little time is left in which to present Christ to these rising new powers. A world dominated by non-Christian powers is a sobering thought.

It is disappointing that churches of Christ, which stand for unity, do not take more active interest and a more prominent part in united efforts of this sort. We were invited to send eight delegates to this Conference, but only four attended. The drive towards unity appears to be coming from interdenominational groups such as the Y.M.C.A., and this should make us pause to consider if churches of Christ are losing sight of their original plea.

If we cannot lead these movements towards better understanding between denominations and ultimate unity, at least let us be behind them!

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

THE MINISTRIES OF OUR



FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

Christian Women's Fellowship in Thailand

Christian women in Thailand are very active in the Lord's work. We are happy to share with you some of the inspiration that comes from working with them. We have only two fellowship groups, as our work here is small. There is just the one station with rural work branching out. In this station, Nakon Pathom, we have both a Thai and a Chinese Christian Women's Fellowship, one in connection with the Thai speaking church and the other with the Chinese church.

As the constituency is about half Chinese, our work is divided between these two groups. The younger generation is learning Thai, but most of the Chinese women speak only Chinese. At joint meetings the message

must be interpreted. When the National Church of Christ in Thailand Women's Organisation, to which we belong, has its annual conference, we send delegates who speak Thai. Thus we are able to work together effectively.

The average attendance at each group is around twenty. Both meet in the evening, as most of the Chinese families own shops, while several of the Thai women are teachers. The Thai Fellowship follows the programme book emphasising Christian living, issued by the national organisation. The Chinese women prepare their own and work in four departments: Devotional, Christian Home, Training and Service. A special meeting is held on Sunday for women who come in from the country.

Our Thai women are making cookies to-day, to sell as visitors arrive to-

night for a Red Cross play being given by our Girls' School. At Christmas time they made garments for the poorer children. When we have church dinners they take responsibility for the preparation. Their regular offerings go to the national organisation for a project in training young ministers, as that is our great need. They take turns leading their meetings, and have interesting programmes. Their president is our capable Biblewoman, Kru Luan.

Mrs. Chen, the wife of our Mission Hospital Superintendent, is the president and moving spirit of the Chinese Fellowship Group. She has just completed four months' teaching a daily literacy class, as a number of our women cannot read. In her programmes she has emphasised prayer, Bible study, the Christian home, and women's part in church work, using once this year a children's play, and once a projector slide.

Jessie Trout met with our women on her way to Australia. We also keep Women's World Day of Prayer. They feel the warmth of the World Fellowship, and wish to send their greetings to the Christian women in Australia. — Edna W. Gish, Nakon Pathom, Thailand.

We dare not succumb to . . .

THE PERIL OF CONFORMITY

R. J. McCRACKEN

"Christian World."

Voltaire once remarked that every man must be either the hammer or the anvil. One would like to think that the alternatives need not be quite so extreme. Actually they are not. Voltaire said what he did to drive home the point that mankind tends, generally speaking, to fall into two classes, one small and one large—those who make history and those who are made by it, those who are creators of fact and those who are creatures of circumstance, those who put color into their environment and those who take their color from their environment. To which class do we belong? Is society moulding us more than we are moulding society? Are we conforming to the world and its ways, or are we being transformed by the renewing of our mind?

Most of us are afraid of anything that savors of eccentricity. We dress, we speak, we act, we think, like the people in our class and circle. Group habits are, of course, an essential element in all group life, and many of them involve no moral issue. But conformity to social pressure and convention as soon as it becomes servile and slavish is for character a dangerous thing. It robs us of individuality and independence. It means that we do things not because we want particularly to do them but because others do them, and they are expected of us. It means that we listen to what others have to say before we speak, and when we speak it is to echo the sentiments we have just heard expressed.

"Do as Rome Does"

Is there any temptation stronger than this one—to do in Rome as Rome does? In his autobiography Dr. Fort Newton maintains that there are four things, and only four things, that a person can do with his life. First, he can run away from it, or try to, as Jonah did. Second, he can run along with life, hunt with the pack, think with the herd, in obedience to the phrase, "Everybody's doing it, why shouldn't I?", which may be the very reason why he should not do it, if he has any standards or any character. Third, he can take hold of life with singleness of purpose, and submitting himself to discipline, can run it to some end. Fourth, he can give himself up utterly in self-surrender to a Cause or a Person and let the Cause or the Person run his life. If lines of division were drawn through any congregation after that fourfold pattern,

would we not find the majority group consisting of those who are running along with life, adapting themselves chameleon-like to their environment, taking on the complexion of their surroundings: moulded by society, not its moulders?

The Crossroads of Youth

I am thinking especially of young people. You should be on the way to mental and moral independence. You are at the stage where you should be building your own world, standing on your own feet, acquiring your own preferences, forming your own judgments, learning if need be to carry yourself in the face of opposition. Over the gateway of University College in Aberdeen are the words: "They say. What do they say? Let them say." Admirable words for those who are learning their own worth, though it is one thing to pay one's respects to them and another to put them into practice. You are aware of all sorts of subtle but strong group pressures. You feel that you have to satisfy the requirements of sociability. You dislike being different from the other members of your circle. The last thing you want is to be taken for a kill-joy or a poor sport or to convey the impression that yours is a holler-than-thou attitude. It is your wish to be congenial and acceptable in company. You dread going friendless. Some of you have no inclination to drink hard liquor or adopt a free and easy attitude in the matter of sex, but you fear that abstinence on your part will be construed as a criticism and a condemnation of those who do have the inclination.

It is a difficult situation. It is the kind of situation, however, that tests your stamina. It shows of what mettle you are made, and whether you have principles as well as preferences, convictions as well as opinions. To say No when everybody else is saying Yes calls for the highest and rarest form of moral courage. It requires special grace to say No and keep the affection and respect of those who are saying Yes. Nicolay and Hay in a passage devoted to analysis of Lincoln's political popularity have left this sentence on record: "He was everybody's friend and yet he used no liquor or tobacco." The

thing can be done. R. L. Stevenson never set himself up as a preacher or moralist, but he once made a remark that all of us can with advantage turn over in our minds: "To do anything because others do it, and not because the thing is good, or kind, or honest, in its own right, is to resign all moral control and captaincy upon yourself and go posthaste to the devil with the greater number."

Those who have done most for the world and have lifted the level of life for the ages have been the nonconformists. They have been men of fixed purpose and staunch principle. They have had standards and kept them, no matter what the cost. They have been ready to face criticism, ridicule, ostracism, impoverishment. They have not run away from life. They have not run along with life. They have taken hold of it firmly and have organised it around a Cause or a Person. In the motion picture version of *The Life of Emile Zola* there was a stirring scene. Discharged from the publishing firm of Monsieur Larue, Zola turns upon his former employer and says: "While you, Monsieur Larue, continue to grow fatter and richer publishing your nauseating confectionery, I shall become a mole, digging here, rooting there, stirring up the whole rotten mess where life is hard, raw and ugly. You will not like the smell of my books, Monsieur Larue. Neither will the public prosecutor. But when the stench is strong enough, maybe something will be done about it." There was a man who scorned to compromise with principle, who would not prostitute his gifts or sell his soul for cash, who saw with eagle eye the evils of his day and had no mind to tolerate or hold his peace about them. There was a man who was resolved to be not a creature of circumstance but a creator of fact. And why? Because his life was organised around a central purpose. Because he had found himself and knew what he wanted to do with his time and his gifts. The reason why so many people are at the mercy of circumstance is that they have neither discovered a faith by which to live nor a cause to serve.

But Not Alone

Nebuchadnezzar was a dictator. He set up a great golden image on the plains of Dura, and commanded all his subjects to prostrate themselves before it. The people flocked out to do his bidding, but not Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. From them came words of

moral idealism and spiritual defiance which to this day act like a tonic. "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are careful to answer thee in this matter. . . We will not serve thy gods nor worship the golden image." They were nonconformists. There was iron in their blood. They would neither bow or bend. Why? Because their lives were organised around a steady conviction, and their strength and stamina were derived from God. If you want, not to take your character from your environment but to put character into it, you will need to draw on spiritual resources greater than your own. And you may. You can be strengthened by God in your inner life if you will open it daily to his influence. It was of this Paul was thinking when he said: "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."



Central Northern Dist. Conference, Vic.

At the annual conference at Castlemaine, Vic., on March 21, there were good attendances from the ten churches in the area. H. Cave, president, was chairman for four sessions. Officers for the new year are president, K. Clinton, B.A.; sec., G. Goudie; treas., E. Duus. A resolution carried unanimously urged the Victorian Government to oppose extension of liquor trading hours after 6 p.m., and introduction of State lotteries. Miss Goudie and G. Goudie sang a duet. Mrs. Parkinson was re-elected pres. of Women's Session, and Miss Goudie sec. Mrs. E. L. Williams gave an inspiring address on "Our best for God." A girls' quartette was enjoyed. A retiring offering was taken for purchase of wicker chairs for Emmaus Rest Home. At the men's meeting a challenging address was given by B. F. Huntsman, president Bible school committee. Mr. Pollock contributed a solo. Castlemaine church provided a delightful tea. "The Bible School on the Spot" was a special feature of the evening session, when several members of the Victorian committee convinced "Mr. Lukewarm" of the value and efficiency of the Bible school and its lessons. R. C. McKenzie continued the theme in his address on "Growing up spiritually." Solos were rendered by Miss Vercoe and Mrs. Parry. Regret was expressed at the departure of H. Cave, preacher of Bendigo church, to South Australia.—G.G.

June 2, 1953.



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

VARIED TASKS

This man wants his tooth pulled out, but I have never pulled a tooth, for someone else has always done our medical work.

Daniel, our fearless preacher, who always likes to tackle anything, says, "No, I don't do teeth, I am a specialist in dog bites now."

He had just previously treated one with success.

For so long we had worked at Bara-mati, where we could just press the switch and get electric light, and call a doctor if our nurse could not treat the case, but this is outside Shrigonda, where we have come to work.

I often wondered how some of our pioneer missionaries became doctors without obtaining a degree, but evidently that same dire need of the people, which made them attempt anything for suffering humanity, still exists.

Well, here we begin, and we have to attempt anything for the first time.

The old man is standing patiently by waiting, and little does he know that he is the first victim of an amateur dentist.

I guess every dentist does not have such a soft tooth to start with.

The top crumbles away to the first touch, and the root is left, decayed, rotten, and not easy to grip, but somehow getting a hold, with a gentle heave from side to side, we begin to get results.

"Just wash out with this and take an aspro or two and you will soon feel quite good again." Next time it will not be the first time we have pulled out a tooth, and he has gone off to tell a fellow sufferer that he ought to go along and get his tooth pulled too.

We have found many more bad teeth since then and dog-bites, sore legs and bad eyes that can be treated simply, as well as numerous ailments that can be given relief with the few medicines we now almost always carry with us to relieve the sufferings of

these poor village people far from the hospital or doctor.

Yesterday, while preaching in the bazaar, we met a poor little Wadhari (stone breaker) lad who reminded us that we had given him relief while we were encamped at Takli. He looks well enough now in spite of the famine.

I remember that his old uncle had sent him along as he had bad ears and there was something wrong with his stomach, they said, as he could not eat his food. We remember the very weary voice in which the poor lad answered our questions.

Near this lad's home we found the shepherd with the poisoned foot, and so Daniel and I started to treat him, even carting buckets of hot water every day up the hill in order to foment the wound.

However, when it was getting on quite well, he decided that he could not stand our treatment any longer, so he gave it up and started some of his own.

We then dropped our medicine and turned preachers again, spending much time trying to apply the healing of the Lord Jesus to his soul.

The leg may have got better again, at least we hope so, but did he find the great Physician? We may only know when we meet him bye and bye.

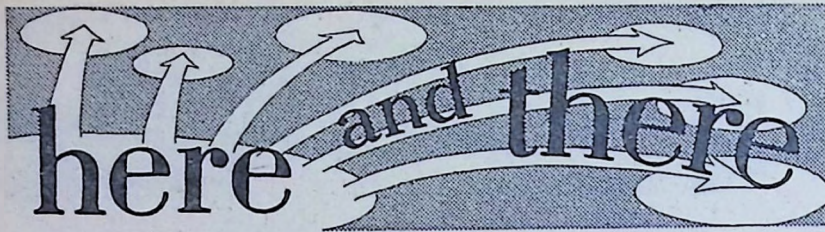
Some we are not able to treat for diseases of the body, and the old lady who was brought on a horse they had hired by her two sons from a village 3 miles away, one Sunday afternoon, is one for whom there is no hope physically.

We can only tell her of the hope that there is for eternity in the Eternal Son of God, and let her go back home to suffer and die.

This is all we can do in the out-backs and the jungle, but, whatsoever we can do for the body, teach the mind, or help restore the soul, pray that we may do all we do as unto him who has called us to serve.



In Great Britain the Bible Society has produced a number of specially bound Scriptures, with the Royal Cipher in gold embossed on the cover, to mark the Coronation. In some cases there is a colored jacket with the Royal Coat of Arms.



This issue, which begins the third year of the present editorship, went to press a day earlier than usual, in order to avoid lateness of despatch because of Coronation Day holiday.

We very much regret to learn that Ira A. Paternoster, minister of the North Sydney church, N.S.W., who was to have visited our New Hebridean churches as their guest, has been taken ill, and underwent an operation on May 26. He is in Ward A1, North Shore Hospital, Crows Nest, Sydney. All who appreciate his long devotion to the work of the ministry and missions will pray for his complete recovery.

The church at Emerald-Avonsleigh, Vic., conducted a profitable "Highways of Life" campaign, April 20-May 3. V. Quayle (Warragul) combined with D. D. Stuart in a most effective way. During the first week Happy Hour sessions averaged 62 children daily. This week was also given to visitation evangelism, 4 teams operating, visiting 53 homes. During the second week, meetings were well attended. 6 young people registered their decisions, and one believer came forward for baptism. V. Quayle spoke with power and conviction. Each meeting was preceded by a 30-minute film, arranged and screened by J. Baensch, of the Visual Aid Dept., to whom the church expresses thanks for travelling to and from Emerald for each meeting. Fellowship was enjoyed and appreciated from churches at Boronia, Blackburn, Berwick and Dandenong.

Almost twelve months ago the chapel at Meredith, Vic., was moved to Roslyn-rd., Belmont, following a generous decision of the remaining few members at Meredith. R. Lennane, now serving among the aborigines, was in charge of the re-erection, following which renovations were begun, and a porch added as the gift of Ballarat brethren, with its erection superintended by Feary Brothers. Various gifts were made by church members in readiness for the official opening by Keith A. Macnaughtan, a former Geelong preacher, on May 16. Mr. Macnaughtan began the work in Belmont at the suggestion and prompting of E. Herring.

Mrs. Macnaughtan was also welcomed by the church secretary, Drummond Thomas. About 150 were present, and many greetings were received. Other Melbourne preachers who took part in the opening service were T. A. Fitzgerald (Fairfield) and A. R. Pigdon (Dandenong).

The N.S.W. Youth and H.M. Committees have agreed that for the next twelve months the State Youth leader, Roy Greenhalgh, should also act as H.M. Secretary-Superintendent. The amount paid to the Youth Department by the H.M. Committee for this service will be used to engage a part-time assistant in the youth office. Meanwhile, the H.M. Committee hopes that the end of this temporary arrangement will see the appointment of a full-time leader.

The Hinrichsen-Philp mission at Belmont, Vic., reports 39 decisions up to May 25. There were 8 decisions on May 24, and the marquee was crowded.

Over three months ago a B.S. was commenced at Jordanville, Vic., in the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Coates. H. R. Coventry gathered interested persons together. H. Whitaker was appointed general supt., Muriel Coventry kinder supt., Janet Coventry primary supt., Graham Coates sec. and treas., and Mrs. McArdle organist. R. Whittaker, N. Vingad and Mr. and Mrs. Coates bring the staff to nine. In recent weeks there has been average attendance of forty. It is the only B.S. within a mile of new houses being erected. The private home is crowded out into a garage. There is no adjacent public hall, and the stark need is a building.

Youth work is very promising at the Croydon church, S.A., where the Bible school's May increase campaign is aiming at a total of 275 scholars. Young people won high praise for their conduct of services on Youth Sunday, when there were attendances of 192 (including 32 visitors), and 150. Kinders and beginners held a play afternoon on May 9, and the following afternoon entertained mothers in Mothers' Day service. Mothers were also honored in evening service, when W. N. Bartlett called on two young

girls to present bouquets to two oldest mothers (81 and 79). Dr. H. Steward challenged men's class with his talk.

A recent interesting series of week-night services at North Essendon, Vic., has featured the gospel in song and story. A. E. White, B.A., was assisted by the Christian Choristers, the Brighton and North Essendon choirs, and the Strathmore ladies, and the ready help of choirs and their leaders was much appreciated. The Youth Fellowship conducted a social on April 25, with visitors from Northcote and Ascot Vale. Phi Betas presented a crystal clock to Mrs. Funstan in appreciation of her leadership over the years.

Early on May 18, a truck and panel van collided at North Clayton, Melbourne, and two of the four children flung out on the road from the back of the truck were killed. They were Malcolm (16) and Helen (14) Doyle, members of our Black Rock Bible school. To Mr. and Mrs. Doyle and the other children, all of whom were injured, we extend sincere sympathy in their tragic loss. A. Avery, Black Rock student preacher, assisted the Sandringham Presbyterian minister in the funeral service on May 20.

On May 16 the church at Essendon, Vic., farewelled Mr. and Mrs. E. F. G. McIlhagger and family with representative words and gifts in appreciation of a helpful ministry. At well attended services on May 17, Mr. McIlhagger preached farewell addresses prior to leaving for Inverell, N.S.W. W. R. Hibbert, who is planned to commence an interim ministry in mid-August, was speaker at both services on May 24, when a B.S. girl made decision for Christ.

At Oakleigh church, Vic., a teaching crusade from May 3 to 24 proved a stimulating experience. Principal E. L. Williams presented the historical background and plea of the Restoration Movement in a series of 12 addresses. There were 2 decisions. Local members provided special singing at each service, also at after-church social hour on May 24, when members expressed appreciation of the leadership of Mr. Williams during the Crusade. Joint prayer meetings with Carnegie church were held during May.

What is the most-used language? According to Prof. M. E. Pei, of Columbia University, it's Chinese, with 450 million people speaking it. English comes a rather distant second, with 250 million using it regularly. 200 million speak Russian, and the same number Hindustani, while next are Spanish (140 million) and German (100 million).



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

Janis Vosti and Graham Burns,
Nth. Essendon, Vic.
Helen Knowles, Patty Bray, Joan
Lauder and Mrs. Peterson,
Semaphore, S.A.
Shirley Norris, Mrs. Parr, Ellen and
B. Parr, Kilburn, S.A.
Gwenda Lawry, Essendon, Vic.

Membership

Mr. Webber and Lorraine and Keith
Webber, Semaphore, S.A.

Fallen Asleep

J. Dick, Gattton, Qld.

Tasmania

Invermay (R. M. Wilson).—Attendances are being maintained, 79 breaking bread on May 17, and 76 on 24th, while average attendance at gospel meeting is 76. Choir (20 strong) is now singing at gospel meetings. B.S. continues to expand, with attendances increasing each week, 107 attending on May 24. Working bee built 24 kinder chairs on two week-ends. Thanks is extended to C. Badcock for his leadership and use of workshop in this venture. Parents of B.S. scholars from Mayfield are being transported to gospel service.

Queensland

Ma Ma Creek (W. J. Davidson).—Miss Vawser showed films at Ma Ma Creek and Gattton, and addressed ladies' meetings in home of Mrs. A. Larsen (Grantham) and Mrs. C. Dickfos (Gattton). W. J. Davidson presided at public Anzac Day service. Combined B.S. picnic was held at Blackfellow's Creek on Labor Day. K. Horne was guest speaker at youth rally on April 15, when delegations were present from Toowoomba Y.P.F. and General Hospital A.N.C.M., and Gattton Baptist C.E. and Presbyterian Y.P.F. K. Horne also addressed combined meeting in Gattton on April 17. Y.P. visited Toowoomba on 13th for youth rally. Allotment for erection of chapel has been purchased in Gattton.

New South Wales

Broken Hill (J. McCormick).—Preacher has returned after three weeks conducting mission at Maylands, S.A. Church is grateful to Messrs. J. Cremer, Lind and Phillips for addresses in absence of minister. Mrs. M. Clark, organist, and Mrs. E. M. Warren, reporter, have been re-appointed. Mr. and Mrs. Lea and son (Mile End) and Mrs. Challenger (Hindmarsh), have been visitors. Mr. Cremer is sick, and Mrs. Garner is in hospital.

Wagga (A. Morris).—Addresses on family life have brought greater attendance at morning and evening services. There have been large attendances at weekly cottage prayer meetings. B.S. building on Lake Albert-rd. is progressing, thanks to voluntary labor and materials. On Mothers' Day men prepared tea for mothers. Ladies took part in evening service, and there was one decision. Sympathy is extended to Sis. Gillespie in loss of brother in Adelaide. Visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. F. Renison (Sydney) and Sis. W. P. Powell (Austral).

Kingsford (A. G. Elliott, M.A., B.Sc., Dip. Ed.).—Adult B.C., under leadership of preacher, is attracting considerable interest. Mothers' Day services on May 10 drew large gatherings. B.S. presented afternoon programme and Mrs. Elliott was speaker. Y.P. also took part in evening service. Youth social on May 1 was very successful. Mr. and Mrs. Vandermeer and family have been welcomed from Wollongong. Recent visitors have included Mrs. Murray (Taree), Mrs. Way and Mrs. Jago. Gift afternoon for Boys' Home was organised on May 12 by Ladies' Guild.

Lismore (A. C. Caldicott).—Mothers' Day services were best for many years. The Missing Christians was screened at evening service. Seven reconsecrations and one decision have been recorded. Visit by Mr. and Mrs. E. Roffey (pres. of State Women's Conf.) was appreciated. Visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. E. Davis (Burwood), Mr. and Mrs. Hambly (South Auburn), Mr. and Mrs. Ellsmore (Epping), and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Jones (Wollongong).

Earlwood (G. H. Benjamin).—Half-yearly meeting discussed completion of new school hall, which is progressing well with voluntary labor, under guidance of W. Mansell. Arrangements are in hand for re-organisation of boys' club into two age groups.

Membership of over 60 is too much for one club. Credit is due to F. Strickland for this work. Thanks is expressed to Mrs. Hudson and B. Tabrett for efficient service during absence of organist, and to Messrs. Morgan, McMillan, Yelds and Greenhalgh for helpful exhortations. Series of afternoon meetings and fellowship teas commenced on May 10, when preacher outlined plans for general uplift in youth work. Attendances at gospel services and mid-week prayer meetings are well maintained.

South Australia

Semaphore (S. E. Matthews).—Recent visitors included Mr. and Mrs. T. Russell (W.A.) and Mrs. Knowles (N.S.W.). D. Beiler spoke on evening of April 26 and afterwards showed Canberra slides. One lady made decision. Ladies of Overseas Mission Committee led M.B. meeting on May 8. Girls' and Boys' Brigades held birthday party on May 8. Preacher has returned from week's vacation. Mr. Patching spoke on 17th. Church appreciates help of speakers at Draper.

Fullarton (A. H. Lennox-Interim).—At meeting to consider resignation of B. W. Manning it was moved that it be received with regret, and that his wonderful work with church be placed on record. On May 24 Mr. Lennox spoke at both services.

Kilburn (H. G. Norris).—On May 24 Mr. Sherman (Maylands) and Mr. Norris exchanged pulpits for worship service. Mrs. Schultz (Milang) was visitor. In evening Kilburn joined with Prospect in combined baptismal service when five ladies and one young man were immersed. At B.S. 187 were present, with 3 new scholars. Both boys' and girls' basketball teams scored wins.

Victoria

Box Hill (W. A. Wigney).—Church anniversary services were held on May 3, with good attendances. At P.S.A. splendid programme was presented. After evening service there was social hour, with huge birthday cake supplied by two members. Its candles were lit by five foundation members. On Youth Sunday (May 10) Y.P. conducted services. B.S. report shows 35 teachers and roll of 250 scholars.

Brunswick (C. Watson).—Good messages and attendances have been enjoyed over past month. On May 9 Y.P. held square dance social with Y.P. from Preston participating. On May 10 Mothers' Day service in even-

ing was taken by mothers, with auxiliaries assisting. Good Companions supplied white flowers. Mr. Edgar screened **The Healing Touch**, after which supper was served. On May 14 Good Companions enjoyed visit from Moreland club.

Mt. Evelyn (A. H. Pratt). — Mrs. Brodie (Frankston) was visitor on May 10. Mrs. J. E. and Clifford Pratt are holidaying in district. Two new members were welcomed on May 17. Isolated member, Mrs. Donald, passed away in Melbourne.

Gardenvale (H. A. Hunt). — Services maintain average, with spiritual tone high. Valda Andrews, after 19 weeks in hospital, expects to return home soon. Third anniversary of Ladies' Fellowship was held on May 11. Visitors were present and brought greetings. Special artists provided splendid programme. Social evening was held for Ailsa Tippet and L. Hunt, when presentation was made. On May 13 Mr. Deutsher (Soudan Mission) screened **African Journey**. Visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. Keatch (Merbein), Mr. and Mrs. J. Kisko (N.S.W.), and Miss Waldon (S.A.). Mr. Keatch spoke on May 17.

Dandenong (A. R. Pigdon). — On May 2 Y.P.F. took meeting at Dingley Union church, Mr. Wiltshire being speaker. On 10th Mothers' Day services were held. On 11th Good Companions and Explorers held combined mothers' evening. Y.P.S.C.E. and Christian Women's Fellowship combined on 14th, when Mr. Pittard (sec. Children's Welfare Depart.) spoke.

Peel-st., Ballarat. — On May 10, C. Hill (Doveon) spoke in morning, and mothers assisted in evening service. Mesdames Vincent, Roberts and Lacy formed trio. S. Coad spoke. On 15th musical afternoon was held by ladies, and £15 raised for Manse Fund. Messrs. Wilkie and Harvey spoke on 17th. Wed. prayer meetings have increased in size.

Geelong (T. A. Fergusson). — There was fine attendance for Family Service on May 10. Minister farewelled Belmont members, who commenced meetings in new chapel on 17th. Mr. Small was evening soloist on 17th. After service members attended Belmont mission. At M.B. on 13th, Mrs. Stirling spoke. Mrs. Small was welcomed back after illness.

Maidstone (E. H. Randall). — Work is in good heart, with great effort being made to finish manse for opening. Some men have taken days off work to put in time on it, and their efforts are appreciated. P.B.P. have polished all seats in church. At Mothers' Day service, K.S.P. and P.B.P. clubs paraded and assisted.

At their birthday banquet on May 15 over 100 were present. Denise Hampton, B.S. scholar, played piano for kinders in absence of regular pianist.

Brighton (C. G. Taylor, B.A.). — Y.P. took part in services on Youth Sunday, May 10. W. R. Hibburt spoke to 70 at district Y.P. tea. Youth offering (first day total) was £96. On 11th men began series of working bees on church buildings, four organised weekly. W. S. Lowe spoke on evening of 17th, preacher speaking at Moreland anniversary. J.C.E. presented posies and texts on Mothers' Day, and enjoyed outing to Zoo on 2nd. Emrys Baker has been confined to bed since returning from Tas. Mrs. Le Page has been operated on, following fall and broken hip. Ladies visited Will H. Clay Nursing Home on 19th.

Horsham (A. E. Cremin). — Attendance on Mothers' Day was excellent, with 190 present. 96 attended B.S. Good Companions held night to honor mothers, and each received present. Explorers also entertained mothers and presented them with gift or floral spray. Five new class rooms have been passed by Health authorities.

Warragul (V. Quayle). — Church was honored by visit from W. W. Saunders on May 10. Gospel service was taken by Mr. Ball (Melb. City Mission), who also conducted combined after church film service. On 17th five members were welcomed. In evening two were baptised. Ladies assisted in preparation of luncheon during visit of B. and F. B.S. with exhibition on May 14-15. B.S. children took part in Pageant of Nations in exhibition.

South Melbourne (S. Bannon). — Youth Sunday was held on May 3, and three Y.M. took part in interesting sermon. Mothers' Day service was held on evening of 10th, when visiting speaker was Mrs. E. L. Williams. Church is saddened by loss of Mrs. Newman, who was member for 55 years, being organist and assistant organist for 51 years. Social evening was held at church on 16th, and £5/15/- was raised for new linoleum which has recently been laid on church platform. Good attendances continue.

Belmont. — On May 17 first communion service was held in chapel, which was officially opened on 16th by K. A. Macnaughtan. Many visitors and former members attended, including Mr. and Mrs. Lock and family (Swan Hill). 90 were present, and greetings were received from Dr. G. H. Oldfield, W. W. Saunders, B. J. Combridge, Mr. and Mrs. Lennane, and Belmont Baptist church. W. Philp presided, and E. C. Hinrichsen spoke. B.S. is

flourishing under leadership of A. Tinker. Ladies' Guild was newly formed, and officers elected were Mesdames D. Thomas (pres.), S. Stronach (vice-pres.), A. Alexander (sec.) and R. Watts (treas.). S.W. District Conference was held in chapel on 16th. Chairman was J. A. Wilkie (Ballarat).

North Essendon (A. E. White, B.A.). — During preacher's vacation J. Curtis (B. & F.B.S.), F. Chipperfield, A. Wilson and V. Stafford conducted services. Work on new hall is progressing well, and roof will shortly be commenced. Mr. May (Kodak) spoke to Men's Soc. on May 18. P. Hurren is confined to bed for some time, while Mrs. Thompson and Miss A. Thompson have been ill. Attendances are maintained, and strangers are often present.

Camberwell. — J. H. Cain (Queens-town, S.A.) has accepted call for three years, and expects to commence ministry on first Sunday in Oct. Thanks is due to J. Abercrombie, R. P. Morris, W. Gale and E. L. Williams who have taken services. On May 10 women conducted Mothers' Day service. Mrs. Hodges, Pres. of Women's Conf., was speaker. On 9th B.S. scholars went to Balwyn Wild Life Sanctuary. Older scholars went for hike. T. Clements and Mrs. Cook have not been well.

Red Hill (N. Gilmore). — Y.W.L. presented mothers attending church with card and flower on May 10. Mothers conducted gospel service. M.B. met May 14. Mr. Tharratt spoke to Y.W.L. on 17th. In afternoon meeting discussed church interests. N. Gilmore was chairman. Gospel service was well attended. Church has been glad to welcome visitors during month.

Kyneton (W. E. Bennett). — B.S. anniversary was held on April 26, when V. C. Stafford was speaker. On Empire Youth Sunday, youth took part in evening service, and sang special hymns. Mothers assisted in service on Mothers' Day. On May 17 R. Swift and G. Goudie conducted services, and June Goudie (Hamilton) sang. On 24th church was pleased to welcome back N. Gilmore. Attendance at Youth Fellowship has increased, and interest is keen. There are also increased attendances at B.S.

Moreland (J. Turner, B.A.). — Week-end camp was held at Monbulk from May 1-3, with boys of B.S. and Junior Crusaders. On May 17 special services were held for church's 44th anniversary. Day of re-union and fellowship saw past members taking part in services. W. G. Graham preached in morning, and C. G. Taylor at gospel service.

Maryborough (M. A. Coombs).—Mothers' Day services were held on May 10. Mothers' choir assisted at evening service, Mrs. A. Symons was soloist. Dr. Oldfield was speaker at all services of church anniversary. Basket tea was held in kinder room. Mrs. Parnall is still confined to bed. Ladies' Aid celebrated birthday on 21st. Mrs. Hodges, pres. of Women's Conference, spoke.

Harcourt.—On May 7 Women's Fellowship celebrated first birthday. Visitors were present from Bendigo and Castlemaine, making approx. 50 ladies present. Mrs. Clinton installed office-bearers for present year. Mrs. Milligan presided over devotional service, with address by Mr. Clinton. Items were given by visiting artists. Mrs. Methven cut birthday cake made by Mrs. Farrar. Trading table realised £10. Mothers' Day service was held on May 10. Good Companions presented tableau, and B.S. scholars sang. Mrs. Browning, formerly Baptist missionary in China, was speaker.

Essendon (E. F. G. McIlhagger).—In absence of preacher at Y.P. camp, N. Cheal was morning speaker on Apl. 26. W. Fordham (Camberwell) presided. Campers' took charge at evening meeting, when baptismal service was held. B.S. anniversary speakers on May 3 and 10 were Messrs. Whitby, Pike, Graham and McIlhagger. Mr. Trezise conducted teachers' dedication service on morning of May 10.

Reservoir (R. E. Burns).—Kinder entertained mothers on Mothers' Day morning. Evening service was combined Mothers' Day and memorial service to Mrs. Wilkinson, 100 attending. Phi Betas had picture night and Good Companions social evening in honor of mothers. Chapel was packed for Empire Youth Service. House party was held at home of Mrs. Brown in aid of Kappa regalia. W.C.F. had 32 present at demonstration of artificial flower making by Mrs. Stewart. Mrs. Welsford was present after being ill for a few weeks. Margaret Ellis and Mrs. Whiteoak are still in hospital. A young mother was baptised at prayer meeting on 26th.

Middle Park (J. Plummer).—Church is encouraged by interest shown by several non-members. Mothers' Day was celebrated with appropriate messages and white flowers, while bouquets were presented to Mesdames Tilt, Dowell, Plummer and Annetts at the gospel service, which was led by members of the friendly hour. A table tennis club has been formed, under leadership of W. Harrison. Members were pleased to have fellowship with W. Huggan (Northcote), who presided, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Annear (Merbein).

Balwyn (J. E. Brooke).—On May 17 and 24, with preacher on holiday, church appreciated messages from H. Turnham, J. McG. Abercrombie and R. Patterson (both evenings). New flooring has been laid in school hall, and plans are being drawn up for extensions to existing building to cater for increasing youth activities. B.S. is finalising plans for vast door to door campaign throughout the district to take place during June.



The Christian-Evangelist reports that "A. N. Hinrichsen began his fifth year of ministry with the church at Willoughby, Ohio, March 1. During his ministry with the church the budget has been increased, the floor of the gymnasium refinished, and the new oil furnace installed. Also, extensive repairs were made on the parsonage and the garage. Soon after the Hinrichsens came to Willoughby Mrs. Hinrichsen organised a choir, which has been active, and has been an asset to the church. During the past summer the pastor and his wife were given an extended vacation so that they could return to their homeland in Australia. They attended the World Convention, and had a reunion with their families, whom they had not seen for over 17 years. The church made it possible for Mrs. Hinrichsen to accompany her husband through a 1,000 dollar gift from the church."

BIRTH.

CARTMEL.—On May 22, at Indianapolis, U.S.A., to Bea and Daryl, a daughter, Bronwyn Elaine.

JONES (nee Ruby Petchell).—On May 23, to Mr. and Mrs. Owen Jones—a son, Morris.

IN MEMORIAM.

PANG.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Harry Louey, who passed away at his home in Elwood on June 6, 1937.

CARROLL.—In loving memory of my dear husband and our dear father (Bert), called home on June 4, 1939. Ever remembered.

—Inserted by his loving wife and family.

SMEDLEY.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Alfred Ernest, who passed away on June 2, 1952. Loving father of Harold, Ena and Beryl (Mrs. A. Meyer).

ALLAN.—June 12, 1946. Some place, sometime, we know not when, in God's own time we'll meet again.

Ever remembered by his loving wife and daughters, Yarraville, Melbourne.

Northcote Jubilee Services

JUNE 21 and 24

Sun., 21st: 11 a.m., A. E. White, B.A.
3 p.m., Town Hall. Programme by Northcote Choral Society. Guest speaker, Dr. G. Calvert Barber.
7 p.m., W. G. Graham.

Wed., 24th, 8 p.m.: Fellowship Meeting. Speaker, F. A. Youens. Reminiscences, Supper. For hospitality, contact Roy E. Anderson, Grimshaw-st., Greensborough. JL 7560.

TWO BOOKS YOU NEED AND CAN AFFORD

Letters by a Modern Mystic

Frank Laubach.

A rare experience awaits anyone who reads these selections from the letters of Frank Laubach. In them a great spirit has opened the very doors of his soul and invited us into the inner sanctuary to share his experience of God. To read this book quietly and with sympathetic insight is to find oneself transported into an atmosphere of dedication, of discernment and of spiritual ecstasy which reminds one of St. Francis of Assisi. It is as exciting as breathing the ozone of a mountain summit, and makes the reader long to rise on the wings of the spirit as the author has done.
2/3. Posted 2/8.

Prayer

The Mightiest Force in the World.

By Frank C. Laubach.

The Austral sold its first consignment of this book in several weeks. New stocks are to hand. The writer investigates the mighty energies which prayer can release and the power of prayer to solve our present world dilemma.

3/-. Posted 3/5.

Austral Printing & Publishing Co.
524-530 Elizabeth St., Melbourne, Vic.

It is a recognised fact that to sing the gospel with understanding is to preach the gospel effectively. Three new books now stocked by the Austral will help singers in a winsome presentation of the gospel. Evangelical Songster, No. 1 and No. 2, 1/4 each, posted 1/7. Songs with a Message, 2/-, posted 2/3.

The World's Best Seller

The magazine *Voice* is quoted by one of our influential newspapers as saying that the world's best seller for 1952 — with six and a-half million copies, was a 25 cents American thriller by Mickey Spillane.

The *Voice* gives second place to the Standard Revised Version of the Bible, of which, we are told, "just under six million copies were sold." "The Bible," the article continues, "has been at the top of the world's best sellers for a succession of years." The inference is that the Bible has now lost its pre-eminent position. Has it after a long run been ousted by a "yellow-back"? We think not. The explanation is that apparently the writer seems to forget that the Bible is sold in many versions other than the one he mentions, but it is still the Bible. The latest complete figures of Bible sales received are those of 1951, when the United Bible Societies (of which the British and Foreign Bible Society is a part), circulated 23,267,050 copies. To this figure must be added the large sales made through the book trade, of which no figures are yet available. It is estimated that the 1952 figures are even larger, for the trend of Bible sales is strongly upward. We think that with these figures before him, Mickey will recognise that although he may come in second best, no photographs will be required to place the winner.

However, leaving "circulation" on one side, let us look at "translation." It is estimated that the Bible, although not always the complete volume, has been translated into 1140 languages. In how many have Mickey's thrillers appeared?

The continually increased demand for the Bible surprises even its best friends. A new version like the Standard Revised, without the prestige of the Authorised; no sooner appears on the market than edition after edition are sold. Then other modern versions such as Weymouth, Moffatt, Phillips, Knox, etc., command a large public, even though the price is relatively high. We are told that the modern versions appeal principally to the younger generation; certainly the rush to obtain copies immediately on publication knocks on the head the old idea that only old people — mostly ladies—read the Bible. To what can be attributed this new appeal for an old book? No doubt one of the reasons is that recent archaeological discoveries have proved the veracity of once discredited Old Testament records.

While we are dealing with the Bible, it is interesting to note that the British and Foreign Bible Society, which itself publishes Scriptures in over 800 tongues, and has an average annual circulation of ten millions, will celebrate its 150th Birthday on March 7, 1954. On Feb. 24 of this year, the Governor of Victoria, General Sir Dallas Brooks, speaking on behalf of the Bible Society, at a well-attended meeting at Scots Church, Melbourne, launched a Third Jubilee Fund Appeal, to enable the Society to maintain and expand its world-wide work. This campaign will not close until March 7, 1954, when a meeting will be held at the Melbourne Town Hall, for which it is hoped Her Majesty the Queen, the Patroness of the Society, will give a congratulatory message. In connection with this campaign the friends of the Bible Society in Victoria have decided to raise £20,000 towards the world fund, which will help the Society to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the world situation.

Gifts for the Jubilee Fund will be gratefully acknowledged by the General Secretary of the Society for Victoria, Bible House, 241-243 Flinders-Lane, Melbourne, C.1.—W. H. Rainey.

Obituary

John Maguire.

On the afternoon of May 6, while sleeping during a few days' respite at Apollo Bay, John Maguire, of Boronia church, Vic., passed away, and was laid to rest in the Box Hill cemetery on May 8. He confessed his faith in Christ during a Harward mission, and joined the Montrose church, where he served as a deacon until 1921, when he became a pioneer member of the church at Boronia. He was appointed secretary pro tem until the annual meeting, from which time he served as secretary until 1941. From then till his home call he served as officer emeritus. The inspiration of his life will be sadly missed in Boronia. Though not demonstrative, his friendship was strong and sure, and many looked to this quiet man of God as a father. As a son of the soil he regarded himself as a steward, and, as Christ was the centre of his life, the church was the centre of his social and public life. A man of simple faith and life, and transparently sincere, he surely merits the Master's "Well done!" We enter into the sorrow of those who mourn, but remembering Paul's great affirmation, "To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."—E.L.W.

Annie Nankivell.

The Dandenong church, Vic., has lost one of its earliest members in the home call of Mrs. Nankivell. She joined the church during the Harward mission in 1904, and has been in continuous membership with the church ever since, thus completing almost 50 years of faithful service. She was never absent from the Lord's Table unless sickness prevented her attendance. Her life was marked by unselfish service to her family and the community. During the difficult depression years she took a leading part in civic benevolent work, as well as sharing in the women's activities of the church. After a short illness she was called to her reward on May 18 at the age of 74 years. To her 3 daughters, who are active in the Dandenong church, and her son at Frankston, the church extends sincere sympathy. F. Youens and W. Atkin assisted A. R. Pigdon in the service at the church, and afterwards at Springvale.—A.R.P.

Open Forum

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

WORLD CONVENTION FUND.

There is a church around Melbourne which could have £25 for a particular cause any day it opened the fund! Unfortunately, the officers of the church don't know about the £25—the preacher knows, but he can't very well tell them, because the £25 is for a fund to send the preacher to the next World Convention in Toronto, Canada, in 1955.

Which prompts me to ask why every church doesn't open such a fund. It would be a great investment — both the church and the preacher would benefit enormously from the stimulus. If a church is afraid its preacher would be so stimulated that he wouldn't come back, they could easily have him agree to return to them for a minimum of so many years and so ensure value for money.

If every church secretary will raise this question at his next officers' meeting, the whereabouts of that £25 will soon be made known—and it

might be a surprise to you to know where it is.

Just to show I am personally in earnest about this, I will be glad to give £5 to the first such fund of which you, Mr. Editor, are notified. Many a preacher would give his right arm to go to the Convention, but the shipping companies won't take that currency. How about it, Mr. Secretary?—W. S. Lowe (Brighton, Vic.).

P.S.—The £25 isn't at Brighton!

CHURCH DISUNITY.

There are many good things in the article by A. L. Haddon (A.C., 12/5/53). Yet surely his opening statement is contradictory of his concluding deductions: "Since we believe this (unity) to be the Church's norm, divisions, however inevitable, regrettable, or time honored they appear, are seen to be sinful because they frustrate the holy will of the Church's Head." And at the conclusion of that same paragraph he says: "We believe that divisions should be removed at any cost except the sacrifice of New Testament truth." (Emphasis mine.) Weighing these two statements one against the other is it not manifest that "inevitable, regrettable and time honored" divisions were inescapable where truth as revealed in the New Testament had been sacrificed, and where all efforts to restore met only hostility and anathema? In paragraph 3 of his conclusion he well says: "The New Testament is the norm and no developments are justified which are contrary to its spirit or practice." But in paragraph 2 he has stated: "In interpreting these acts (of God in Jesus Christ), or understanding them theologically, liberty is allowed." The question naturally arises in a discerning mind, "How much liberty can be allowed where the 'norm' has been laid down both by the letter and the spirit of the New Testament?" There is nothing more final and invariable than a "norm" (see Webster). This we have in the New Testament, says Mr. Haddon, and thereby limits the liberty of interpretation except within the circuit of that "norm." With his final paragraph I heartily disagree. "—the consensus of Christian scholarship—is the guide." There is Christian scholarship on both sides of the fence, fundamental and liberal. Dare we make a choice if we already have a "norm" and the Holy Spirit to guide into all truth? On literary matters "Yes," but even there the schools differ. But in the inner significance of the written word of God we dare not wait for the pedants to tell us what it means.—G. Burns (Mosman, N.S.W.).

June 2, 1953.

PROTESTANT TRACTS NEEDED.

I noticed recently in "Minister's Musings" that the Archbishop of Seville has attacked Protestant booklets. We know that Protestants in Spain, Italy and South America are granted few civil rights. The same could happen here, and will happen, unless Protestants, and especially Protestant leaders, wake up. Twenty-two churches of Christ were closed down in Italy before U.S. intervention. Professing Protestants have said to me that it is un-Christian to attack R.C. teaching. Well, here is the other side of the question, in blasphemous statements made by R.C. speakers on Sunday afternoons and evening, on the Yarra Bank, and

street corner, saying such things as "The priests create Jesus in the Mass and eat him to-day in each Mass. . . . Salvation can only be found in the R.C. Church. . . . People married in Protestant churches are no more married than if they were married by the baker." The professing Protestant who will not attack this terrible pagan teaching is really a coward, and not on the side of Christ at all. I hope that the Austral is printing some tracts on the R.C. question. I, for one, could find some good opportunities to hand some of them out at open-air meetings. I sometimes think that all Protestant Churches should combine in an open-air Mission to Roman Catholics.—A. Bond (Caulfield, Vic.).



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Anniversaries and Homecomings

BLACK ROCK—Sunday School Anniversary, June 7, 3 p.m., speaker A. Avery; 7 p.m., H. O'Brien. June 14, 3 p.m., A. Pigdon; 7 p.m., L. Brooker. Friday, June 12, concert, commencing 8 p.m. Special singing. Conductor, C. Gadge.

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Young New Zealander Dies Overseas

David Cairns evinced a restlessness
to do something for the struggling
millions.

The sudden passing of David Cairns in Texas, U.S.A., on April 24, in his 38th year, has brought grief to our New Zealand churches. His boyhood was spent in fellowship with the church of Christ at Lower Hutt, N.Z., where his father was an elder of the congregation. Churches of Christ in New Zealand have sent many of their young men overseas to serve in various fields of human endeavor, but few have rendered more distinguished service in such a short compass of years. Walter Nash, M.P., whose official duties acquainted him with the work of this young brilliant scientist, was among the first to pay tribute to his life work. In a telegram to his parents, he said, "Your son made an excellent contribution towards the improvement of international relations and the building of a better world. His name will be revered for many years by all who knew him." Another who knew his passion to serve humanity wrote, "He evinced a restless impatience to do something for the struggling millions." In his eulogy of him, W. R. Hibburt says, "He was one of my stalwarts in New Zealand in young people's work and camping ventures. He was my ideal, manifesting in his emerging manhood a true devotion to his mother, father and sister, a loyalty and consistency to the church, a creativeness and dependability in Sunday School work and youth leadership. I have never known a more industrious and resourceful student. He deserved his academic honors." Mr. Cairns was associated with the Departments of Scientific and Industrial Research and Education, and left New Zealand two years ago as a Unesco worker. He was due to return to the Education Department after leave of absence. He was formerly in the Botany Division of the D.S.I.R. He became officer-in-charge of the Information Bureau and editor of the Journal of Science and Technology before transferring to the Education Department in 1948.

He was secretary of the Unesco National Commission in New Zealand during his term with the Education Department, and left in 1951 for the Paris headquarters of Unesco.

His work since then has been done mainly in Mexico, where he was an officer in the scientific co-operation service to Latin America.

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May 3-17, Ascot Vale, Vic.

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2. To show the relevance of the Christian message to modern life.

3. To present Jesus Christ as the Lord of all life and the only Saviour of men.

The Mission opened with a men's tea on May 3, with about 30 attending.

F. T. Morgan (Frankston), spoke on "Has the Church Lost Its Job?" Mr. Morgan also gave the three Sunday evening addresses, emphasising fundamental aspects of the Christian faith—the incarnation, sin and redemption, and sanctification.

Four mid-week meetings were held. Topics and speakers for these meetings were: "God and Your Home" (Miss B. Bates, J. Sayers), "God and Your Community" (Hon. S. Merrifield, M.L.A., F. Byatt), "God and Your Work" (G. Miller), "God and Growing Up" (L. A. Trezise, Miss D. Reynolds).

Suitable films were screened on three of the week-night services. Supper was provided each evening, giving opportunity for informal contacts. Many people helped with music—Christian Choristers, C.E. Male Quartet, N. Essendon Junior Choir, Misses M. Kirby, J. Milne and Mrs. D. Gardiner. Our own Good Companions contributed a choir item, and F. Petrie and Mr. Gardiner (Newmarket) led the singing. Instrumental items were provided by D. Petrie, Mrs. W. St. Aubyn (Burnley) and G. Hadwen; while Mrs. Marshall, Miss Ravenhall and Miss G. Quaffe assisted at piano and organ.

Throughout the Mission, attendances were well maintained, culminating in the Youth Night (Thursday, 14th), when 120 were present, filling the chapel, and Sunday, 17th, when about 100 were in attendance. Considerable interest was aroused locally among young and old, and foundations laid for later development.—H. Gross.

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