

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

PRAISE YE THE LORD!

*Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!
Let them praise the name of the Lord;
for his name alone is exalted.
O come, let us sing to the Lord;
Let us make a joyful noise to
the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with
thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him,
with songs of praise!
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
And into his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him, bless his name
For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations
—Selections from the Psalms.*



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THE AUSTRALIAN Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

C. G. Taylor, B.A., Editor. A. R. Haskell, Manager.

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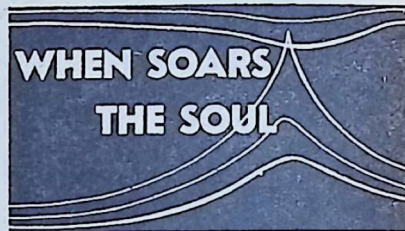
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*When soars the soul earth's
clamoring voices cease,
Stilled in the wonder of God's
power and peace.*



I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to rack me and keep me from being puffed up; three times over I prayed the Lord to relieve me of it, but he told me, "It is enough for you to have my grace: it is in weakness that my power is fully felt." So I am proud to boast of all my weakness, and thus to have the power of Christ resting on my life. It makes me content, for Christ's sake, with weakness, insults, trouble, persecution, and calamity; for I am strong just when I am weak.—2 Cor. 12: 7-10 (Moffatt).

The best wine of the Christian life comes, not at the beginning but at the end, not in our early enthusiasm but in our later development and more mature insight. A man in touch with Christ should grow a bigger soul as he gets older. Time may seem to be telling against him, but he discovers the longer he is in the Master's service the more rewarding and wonderful the Master proves to be. James Smetham thus describes a member of his Methodist class: "He stumbled along on hot days with a tendency to hernia, selling a bit of tea, and with a small pension, but when he came into his class he prayed as though he had ten thousand a year." The man knew that his weakness was being replaced by the unlimited strength of his Lord.—A. A. Cowan.

O God our Father, deliver us from the foolishness of self-confidence, from all boasting and vanity, from pride of energy and false notions of success. Teach us that our springs are not in ourselves but in thee . . . and may we feel, pouring through all our impotence, the tides of thy mighty Spirit, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. AMEN.—R.E.S.

Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.—I John 4: 4.

Soldiers of Christ; arise,
And put your armor on,
Strong in the strength which God
supplies
Through his beloved Son.

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INFANTS AND BAPTISM

BAPTISM is still a subject of lively concern among scholars and inquirers alike. It is several years now since Karl Barth's vigorous treatment of *The Teaching of the Church Regarding Baptism* won almost startled approval from those who practised believer's baptism, and set the equally startled defenders of infant sprinkling hastily re-assembling their counter arguments. The eminence of Barth as a theologian ensured that his statements could not be lightly thrust aside. Dr. O. Cullmann was foremost among those who set out to answer Barth, and to justify infant sprinkling. One of his main emphases is that "faith is only decisive in so far as it is man's response to the grace of God, and therefore ought to succeed rather than precede baptism." He adds further that "before baptism a declaration of faith is demanded from adults who individually come over from Judaism or heathenism, but in other cases lacking," while "during the baptismal act faith is demanded of the praying congregation." He also joins many others in finding support for infant baptism in mention of household baptisms, the Old Testament "precedent" of circumcision, and Jewish proselyte baptisms.

Our interest in Dr. Cullmann's arguments has been re-kindled by the use made of them in a recent issue of *The Anglican*, by Dr. S. Barton Babbage, Principal of Ridley College, Melbourne. Dr. Babbage conducts a "weekly question box," in which he has dealt helpfully with many questions submitted to him. In the June 12 issue he discussed this question, asked by a Brisbane reader: "Would you kindly explain to me how infant baptism came about, as in our Lord's time they believed, and then were baptised?"

Dr. Babbage begins with a reference to Karl Barth's book, including his assertions that infant baptism is "unscriptural . . . indefensible in theory and disastrous in practice," but, without indicating what reasons Barth gives for such judgments, he immediately turns to Cullmann's main arguments. On the basis of these, he says in closing: "The postponement of baptism (for children born to Christian believers) is contrary to the general teaching of the New Testament, where natural birth within the Church is to be regarded as the sign of the divine will to salvation, and consequently a claim to reception into the fellowship of Christ. There is, then,

no scriptural support for the Baptist claim that only adults can be baptised."

To say the least, this is a curious and unconvincing answer. Dr. Babbage ought to know that opponents of infant sprinkling are not advocates of *adult* baptism, but affirm "the New Testament truth that the only proper subjects of baptism are penitent believers in the Lordship of Christ." He also fails to acknowledge the wide scholastic agreement that "infant baptism" arose late in the second century. William Robinson, in reviewing Cullmann's book, says that "he does something less than justice to Barth's argument," and we may add that he certainly does less than justice to New Testament truth. There is nothing in Dr. Cullmann's arguments, nor in Dr. Babbage's use of them, to destroy the position we have always held on this matter.



LUCK OR STEWARDSHIP?

THE Victorian Government's post Coronation policy of a lottery bill and increased facilities for racing and liquor has stung many less cynical folk to vigorous and vocal protest. So much so that a somewhat pained and petulant Acting-Premier, who had earlier talked about sweeping aside petty objections from the "self-righteous," is now ready to meet a deputation from the Social Service Secretariat of the Protestant Churches, and discuss the issue. City Church leaders have received much publicity for their strongly expressed views, especially in their attack on the attempt to make Party members toe the Party line on a moral issue. Some contributory tax scheme has been urged as both more moral and democratic than a lottery which, in Henry Fielding's words is "a taxation upon all the fools of creation."

Our churches, we feel confident, will be actively behind those who fight to remind the Government of its moral responsibility to the community in this and other matters. But behind the protests must be lives which compellingly recommend to others, in the Bishop of Armidale's fine words, "not a life of chance but a life of faith; not a life where you use your money in any way under the influence of the god of luck, but where you use it in stewardship, under the guidance of the Providence of God."



DAVID G. HAMMER, of Balaklava, S.A., writes of

“A GREEN BOUGH”

It is said that Charles H. Spurgeon and Dr. Theodore Cuyler, after some hard work together, went out into the fields for a holiday. They enjoyed themselves thoroughly, chatting and laughing together as old friends can on such rare occasions of freedom. Cuyler told a story, and Spurgeon laughed uproariously. Then suddenly Spurgeon turned to his friend and said, “Theodore, let’s kneel down and thank God for laughter!” And there in the fields they joined in thanksgiving for the innocent joys that make life so pleasant. What a fruitful field for thanksgiving these little pleasures of life are!

Before long your list of thanksgiving blessings will come to the things we usually call “temporal blessings.” Food and clothing and such things so necessary to our everyday lives come from the hand of God. Let us thank him for them. For

“Back of the loaf is the snowy flour
And back of the flour is the mill;
And back of the mill is the wheat
and the shower
And the sun and the Father’s
will.”

Though rains come soon or late, in heat or in cold, we may well rejoice in the provision God makes for his children.

Not Always Appreciated

There are things we do not always appreciate.

Of course, God always sends good things. But sometimes they do not seem good to us. Should we not give thanks for the trials and afflictions that the Father permits to come into our lives also? Dr. George Matheson, known as a preacher and hymn-writer who triumphed so gloriously over his affliction of blindness, once wrote a prayer containing these words: “My God, I have never thanked thee for my thorn. I have thanked thee many times for my roses, but not once for my thorn. . . . Show me that I have climbed to thee by the path of pain. Show me that my tears have made a rainbow.”

But can we recognise these troubles that come to us as “gifts” for which we should give thanks? Thomas a Kempis in *The Imitation* reasons that a gift is appreciated by us, not so much for its monetary value, as by the esteem in which we hold the giver. Therefore, if we esteem God

as we ought, even his least gifts should cause us to be thankful. “For that cannot be little,” he says, “which is given by the most High God. Yea, if he should give punishment and stripes, it ought to be a matter of thankfulness; because he doeth always for our welfare, whatsoever he permitteth to happen to us.”

Whether we can see it or not, and though the gifts may not be appreciated at the time we receive them, yet we know that it is true, as Paul tells us, that “all things work together for good to them that love God.” In the R.S.V. it reads “In everything God works for good with those who love him.” All these things are his gifts. Let us give thanks.

God’s Greatest Gift

No word on thanksgiving could be complete which listed the temporal and personal gifts from God, and omitted the source of all God’s good gifts, and the greatest gift of all, the Lord Jesus Christ. But how can we put an appreciation of this gift into mere words? Even Paul, with his flow of language and inspired rhetoric has to say, “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” The R.S.V. gives us “inexpressible gift.” Beyond words to express, beyond terms to define, beyond figures to compute, beyond bounds to contain. . . the love of God expressed in Christ Jesus. He saves to the uttermost. He satisfies the utmost longing of our soul. He glorifies our earthly pilgrimage with his presence. He provides the strength for every testing. Thanks be unto God!

Yes, if our hearts have the green bough of thanksgiving within them, then the singing bird of joy will not be far away. The poet Carpani once asked his friend Haydn why his church music was so cheerful. “I cannot make it otherwise,” came the reply. “When I think of God my heart is so full of joy that the notes leap and dance from my pen; and since God has given me a cheerful heart, it will be pardoned me if I serve him with a cheerful spirit.”



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An old saying gives us this message: Keep a green bough in your heart, and God will send you a singing bird.

If the singing bird in our hearts is Joy, then surely the branch upon which it finds rest is the grace of Thanksgiving. A despondent missionary in China said years ago that he tried all ways to regain the joy he felt should be his. He prayed, but the dark clouds remained. He read the Bible, but still no light broke through. Nothing seemed to help him. Then he visited a mission hall in Shanghai, and saw a poster on the wall with the words, “Try Praising.” “That is God’s message to me,” he decided. He began to give God thanks for all the things he could think of, and soon the clouds began to dispel, and the sun broke through. In his case, God did send the singing bird, once there was a bough upon which it could rest!

“Be careful for nothing,” writes Paul, “but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

Thank God for These!

There are many things for which we ought to thank God.

So numerous are these things, even in the saddest heart, it is just about impossible to enumerate them. “Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.” It truly is a glad surprise! We would perhaps begin our list with what we consider the larger blessings . . . those we miss so much when they are temporarily withdrawn, such as health and strength, love, life and laughter.

WOMEN

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

QUEENSLAND.

On May 28, at Ann-st. chapel, the Coronation Prayer Day was held, when Mrs. McLane (State president) presided, and Mrs. Potter (Federal pres.) gave a greeting. Mrs. C. H. J. Wright inspired all present with her address on "Christian Citizenship, National and Individual Righteousness."

The Auxiliary meeting was held at the Aged Christians' Home on June 3, when minutes were read and preparations were made for the forthcoming "Community Fair." Mr. Vanham (H.M. Evangelist) addressed the meeting.

On Thursday, June 4, the Overseas Rally was held at Albion, when Miss E. Vawser was guest speaker. The women of Queensland have been very blessed at having Miss Vawser with us, both at our annual conference and at many meetings held in the State. Miss Vawser has thrilled the sisterhood with her reports and news of the work in India. At the conclusion of the Overseas Rally, Miss Vawser was presented with over £20 to be used in the work.

VICTORIA AND TASMANIA.

The June meeting was an extra large one, attendance being 128. Mrs. Hodges presided, and Mrs. Holden led devotions. Mr. and Mrs. Barnett (Norseman) were guest speakers. Mr. Barnett gave a clear picture of conditions at Norseman on the Mission Station as compared with those on the Government Reserve. Mrs. Barnett told of the needs of the children at the Mission in the way of clothing, etc. Mrs. Withers reported Mission Band contributions to date, £115/13/10. Reports of visits to country were received. These visits are proving very helpful. Visitation to Tasmania this year is being planned by the Executive. Eight sisters had a share in entertaining underprivileged children at the Town Hall, Melbourne, arranged by the Lord Mayor. The new C.O.B. Auxiliary is busy already, and has arranged a community hymn singing night to aid furnishing fund of the College.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The president, Mrs. C. P. Hughes, presided over the business session on Thursday, June 4. Obituary report was read by Mrs. L. C. McCallum, and prayer was offered by Miss H. Grant for the bereaved families of Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Norton (Mile End), Mrs. Mortimer (Cottonville), and Mrs. Nankivell (Tumby Bay).

The H.M. supt., Mrs. Green, in her report showed that progress is being made in many of the H.M. churches, and new preachers are entering the fields.

As the meeting in June is Overseas Day, the supt., Mrs. Mathieson, then took the chair, and members of the committee took part in the programme. The address was given by Mrs. Bruce Coventry, who thanked the sisters for their prayers and their interest in the operations performed upon Margaret. She was happy to report that her sight had been restored. Mrs. Coventry gave a very comprehensive survey of the work in "Our India." It was one of the largest meetings held this year as well as being a delightful programme. Miss Foreman closed the meeting with prayer.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

On May 5 the devotional session was conducted by the president, Mrs. Digwood, who spoke on her motto for the year "Our Utmost for Christ." Roll call was answered by 66 members, and there were also several visitors present. Mrs. J. K. Robinson was elected president-elect. Financial statement showed balance in hand of £305/4/4.

The Christian Guest Home fete proved very successful. Takings on day of fete amounted to £238/14/7; donations from churches and individuals brought the amount to £361/5/7 which was handed to the Social Service Committee. Goods left over from the fete are to be on sale at the monthly meetings. The Women's Conference Auxiliary will continue to work for the clearance of the debt on the Home by holding special efforts throughout the year.

More than 100 girls accepted an invitation of the Auxiliary to a tea, when a happy time was enjoyed by

all. Mrs. G. Elliott (Life Member) gave interesting sidelights on work of the Auxiliary in early days, and Mrs. Digwood spoke on the work at the present time.

WOMEN'S FEDERAL EXECUTIVE.

Mrs. E. Lade, vice-president, has had to resign her position through ill-health. We wish for her a speedy recovery. Mrs. C. Burdeu has been elected to fill the vacancy on the Executive. Mrs. Potter (president) has been elected as president of the Queensland Women's Inter-Church Council. Congratulations!

Sunraysia District Conference, Vic.

Women's Conference opened the series of meetings at 2.30 p.m. Friday, June 12. Mrs. Furze capably presided. Dr. Oldfield was guest speaker. Mrs. Keatch (incoming president) sang a solo. After a basket tea, youth night was held. Keen interest was displayed by all the young people, and two delightful items were given by the youth choir. Main item of interest at the business meeting on Saturday afternoon was the Buronga (N.S.W.) Sunday School Project. Plans are now in hand for the building of a Sunday School hall there. Children are at present being transported to Mildura for Sunday School. Mildura ladies catered for a delightful fellowship tea on Saturday night. The meeting at night was one of inspiration to all.

D. A. V. Thomas was welcomed as incoming president. Items were given by Mildura Male Quartet. Dr. Oldfield gave an inspiring message to a packed church on Sunday afternoon. The Chislett sisters gave a message in song. All feel helped and inspired by the addresses given at all meetings by Dr. Oldfield.—H. J. Cook, hon. sec.

In response to the Queen's appeal at Christmas for prayers on her behalf, a committee representing British churchwomen of all denominations, and working under the aegis of the British Council of Churches, has issued a leaflet calling upon men and women to unite in prayer daily throughout Coronation year. It is suggested that each day of the week be dedicated to a particular theme: Our Queen, ourselves, and our responsibilities, our home, our neighbors, our country, the peace of the world, and the Church.

JAMES G. VAN BUREN ("Christian Standard") reflects on those
tantalising words—

TO BE CONTINUED

In reading an article or story too long to be included in a single issue of a magazine or newspaper we frequently come upon the words, "To be continued," at the end of an instalment. That which we are reading has then to be left unconcluded for the time being, until later issues are received. Often we wonder how the tale will turn out, or what further points the writer will make. In most cases, we know the article in question has been completed, but we have only seen part of it. This phrase is particularly pertinent with reference to many areas of concern to us as Christians.

OLD TESTAMENT RELIGION HAD "TO BE CONTINUED."

The systems of ethics, codes of laws and rituals of sacrifice instituted in the Old Testament eras were not final. There was about them an impermanence and a sense of incompleteness. We know that many of the most penetrating spiritual minds of that time felt that the blood of bulls and goats was far from a satisfactory sacrifice for man's sins. "Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil?" This query is found immediately after one just as striking, "Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?" (Micah 6: 6, 7).

True it was that God had revealed the sacrificial system to the Hebrews, but it was not a final or ultimate revelation. The very fact that the Hebrews anticipated the coming of the Messiah indicated the partial nature of the religious life they enjoyed. Prophecies such as the many found in Jeremiah, for instance, could not but indicate the future reference which characterised their religious hopes and activities. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jer. 23: 5, 6).

Of course, it is a fact that the feel-

ing of incompleteness in the Jewish religious community was intensified during the exile, but it was there in essence even before. It is in the New Testament, however, that the incomplete nature of Judaism is most clearly explained, and its completion in Jesus, the Messiah, vindicated.—The Hebrew letter begins with an assertion that God "at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets." Now, however, he has "spoken unto us by his Son." The whole emphasis of the letter is on the fulfilment of the Old Testament types and symbols in the life and work of Christ and his church. "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did . . ." (Heb. 7: 19). The law had, indeed, a "shadow of good things to come," but not "the very image of the things." The apostle Paul indicates that "the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." (Gal. 3: 24).

THE PERSONAL MINISTRY OF JESUS ON THE EARTH WAS "TO BE CONTINUED."

Jesus recognised the fact that his teaching about the Church and about the application of his truth to life was not completed. He said to his apostles, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me, for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." (John 16: 12-14). This promise was fulfilled later when the Spirit guided the apostles as they molded the life of the early Church into those forms of worship and organisation desired by our Lord Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul was very conscious of the fact that he was continuing the revelation of Jesus. He asserts that the things he writes to the Corinthian church are Spirit-directed. "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth . . ." (1 Cor. 2: 13a). He insists that his proclamation of the gospel is the announcement of truth

Christ has revealed to him. "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal. 1: 11, 12).

The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper were means by which men participated in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Men were baptised into Christ, and in the communion participated with Christ in his death for our sins and in his life as expressed through his body, the Church. In a sense, too, the New Testament records themselves perpetuate the knowledge of Christ and continue his outreach to the world of men who are lost in sin.

OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH IS "TO BE CONTINUED."

The Church of Christ and the way of Christ were not to be available only to the generation which accepted him in the first century. Jesus' words to his apostles prior to his ascension are full of an awareness that the good news must be propagated in order that it may be perpetuated. "Go into all the world," "witness among all nations"—these injunctions show us the note of onward-moving continuity which he impressed upon the minds of the early disciples. Of these saving truths of God, the apostle Paul said, "The things that thou has heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (2 Tim. 2: 2).

We must be aware of the reality of the tenuous hold the Christian faith has on the world. Each generation must be taught the truths of Jesus afresh. To each life these redeeming realities must be held up, applied and enforced almost as though it were being done for the first time. People are not made Christians by inheritance, association, good intentions or by legislation. It is through the preaching of the gospel, and the teaching of the outline of truth given in the New Testament, that Christians are made and developed in the Lord. Unless our faith is continued in the lives of others it will be concluded. Unless it is passed on to the succeeding generations it will die. A world

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without churches, without hymns, without the graces of Christian living, without Christ and without hope is the inevitable result of not continuing our faith and hope.

OUR LIFE WITH GOD IS "TO BE CONTINUED" IN ETERNITY.

Over many terminal points in human affairs we can write "concluded" with a sense of finality. The "world passes away and the lusts thereof." The vanities of earth, the pride of fashion, the vain glory of life, the exaltation of office, the strength of youth—all these pass away.

Yet the Christian has the grand assurance of his Lord that because he lives we, too, shall live. That eternal life which was with the Father and was in the Son, he has now com-

municated to us. We have eternal life now, though we are dwellers in time at present. As our Lord said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." The first Epistle of John informs us that the world of sin may, indeed, be transitory, but, "he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." We have an "inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven" for those who obey the commandments of our Lord.

This life is not all there is. The Christian can live abundantly here, with the peace of God in his heart, the pardon of God for his sins, the presence of Christ for his companionship, the purity of Christ as his ideal, and the power of Christ as his resource. But he looks beyond the con-

fines of earth's narrow sphere to the life eternal he shall know, "beyond this bourne of time and space." Then he shall know that this life does not end at the grave, for all the glad fellowship, joy and devotion of his life in Christ is to endure forever. Upon his gravestone he could well have inscribed, "Life abundant has been mine—now it is 'to be continued'—in eternity." As Browning says,

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.



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

Investments—Wise and Foolish

"While passing the Ramabai-Mukti Mission at Kedgaon recently, the subject of investments seemed to force itself before the mind, and press for consideration.

The day had been spent in Poona, and just before its close, a rushed visit had been paid, on the pillion seat of a motor cycle, to a factory about seven miles along the Poona-Ahmednagar road, where there was supposed to be a large quantity of building material being disposed of very reasonably.

The lady who responded to the knock on the door proved to be the director of what had been a large fertiliser company. She had started out in life as a doctor, but soon found herself very much involved assisting her husband to build up this large business. Their property was very extensive, and immense sums of money must have been invested. Thousands of people had there found employment. But some weeks before, her husband was killed in a road accident, and now the place was al-

most desolate, and in the hands of the liquidator. Doubtless the bottom had fallen out of her golden dream casket. What had become of all her investments? What did the future hold for her?

The Mukti Mission likewise has very extensive fields, wells, pumps, all sorts of equipment, and long lines of buildings. Tremendous sums of money have also been invested there. But what a contrast! Behind those high walls, loving hands minister both day and night to hosts of needy women and children; the blind, the lame, those afflicted with tuberculosis or leprosy, widows, orphans and other unwanted ones. All are given some useful work to do, and are instructed in the Way of Life. There is no question of liquidation there. In spite of what may happen in the future, the work of the past will continue to pay handsome dividends right on throughout eternity.

May we see to it that all our talents are being invested in the building up, not of earthly but of heavenly treasure, which cannot be affected by moth or rust which corrupt, or by thieves who break through and steal."—L. J. Michael, Dhond.

A Dream Comes True

Ivor Powell in the book *We Saw It Happen*, tells how a grave (bank vault) was opened with a pen.

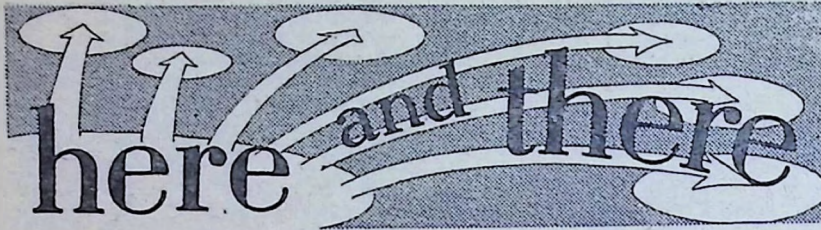
"A few years ago a missionary in India sat looking down on a highway that led to Tibet, and dreamed of building a rest-house. It would be just the thing. Through its portals would go the weary travellers, and as they rested and listened they would ask, 'But who is this Jesus who died for us?' And the story of the Saviour's love would be told again. A little later, renewed in strength, they would continue their journey, but possessing something new. They had heard of his fair name, and secreted within the mysterious fold of their garments would be some tracts, telling yet more of the Christ of the cross.

Oh, it would be wonderful! But the dream faded. The light went from the seer's eyes. The road was still there; the people, weary and ignorant, were still there, and where the road-house had stood in his dream was just an open space — waiting, calling, challenging.

That missionary had a very sympathetic hearing when he appealed to his society for a financial grant. "I must have my road-house," he cried. But the kindly directors could only listen in silence—there was no money. "But I must have it," he said again. They knelt down and prayed, and God told a man to open a grave!

That road-house is now there, beside the distant highway. The dream has come true: Some of my friend's resurrected treasure made it possible. He cannot preach; he plays no outstanding part in any society or meeting, but in one thing he is expert—he's an excellent grave-digger!"

Remember July 5



South Australian churches of Christ are planning their annual Conference meetings for Sept. 9-16. Geoff. Whiting, B.A., Youth Director-elect, will preach the Conference Sermon on the afternoon of Sept. 13.

Toyohiko Kagawa, Japanese Christian leader, plans to combine an evangelistic campaign in Brazil with an investigation of the Amazon River country as a possible area for development and Japanese immigration.

Victorian preachers are advised that J. McG. Abercrombie will be guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Association on July 6, in the Swanston-st. lecture hall. After last month's successful experiment, preachers are again asked to bring lunch (sugar and tea provided) at 1 p.m. for informal fellowship prior to the meeting at 2 p.m.

Rosa Page Welch has returned home to U.S.A. after an 8-months' goodwill world tour, in which she visited and sang at mission stations, schools, hospitals and community centres in Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Thailand, Burma, India, Pakistan, Beirut, Palestine, the Belgian Congo, the French Cameroons, Liberia, Portugal, England, Scotland, Paris and Geneva. She reported keen interest in race problems, and added, "We should be mighty proud of our Christian missions abroad. If it had not been for missions we would not have the respect we have to-day in those countries."

The great grandson of William and Catherine Booth was one of two hundred Salvation Army cadets (representing 8 countries) who received their commissions in the Royal Albert Hall, London, on May 8.

The E.P.S. notes that this spring 72 Christian schools in Japan opened the doors of their nearly 200 departments to 103,000 students, of whom only about 18 per cent. are Christian. As long as the schools meet the required standards of the Ministry of Education, they are free to add any religious training they wish. The schools aim to draw the students into closer affiliation with the local churches and their programmes so that they will feel their

identity with the Christian Church, not just with a school which they attended for a few years of their lives.

Dr. Henry Appenzeller, of the Korean National Christian Council, reports that food, clothing and relief supplies, valued at more than a million dollars, reached Korea between Oct. 1, 1952, and March 31, 1953—a larger amount than any received in Korea before in a comparable period.

All who were impressed by the contribution made by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Geoffrey Fisher) to the memorable Coronation service, will be interested in this comment on him, made by Principal Gray in the "Christian Advocate," after attending the British Council of Churches as representative of churches of Christ. "How I should like my brethren to experience the geniality, humor and firmness of the Archbishop of Canterbury as he presides throughout the two day meetings—how unpontifical he is, how informal! Yet he wastes no time and is quick to pounce on an inconsistency or to turn a laugh against a member who is being cantankerous!"

Australian Christian Endeavorers are looking forward to the 25th annual convention, planned for Launceston, Oct. 15-22. Guest speaker will be Dr. Ernest Bryan, general secretary of the World Union.

Due to a change in his interstate programme, Frank Byatt, of the Inter-Church Aid Office, has intimated that he will be free to supply Vic. city and country pulpit appointments during July, and would be glad to help any church in temporary difficulties. His address is Inter-Church Aid Office, 37 Swanston-st., Melbourne. Phone Cent. 5033. He can bring with him strip or sound films. We commend this opportunity to our churches to hear this New Testament story of relief being re-enacted by the churches of to-day.

Ian Craig, of the Australian touring cricket team, is an active member of the Congregational Youth Fellowship of Mosman, N.S.W. We note with pleasure that he plans to visit as many Congregational churches as

possible during his visit to Great Britain.

Because blind babies in a Sunshine Home in Sussex, England, could not receive gifts of Coronation New Testaments, which were presented to all other children in the town, they were given a flower bed of fragrant roses.

Eastern District Conference, Vic.

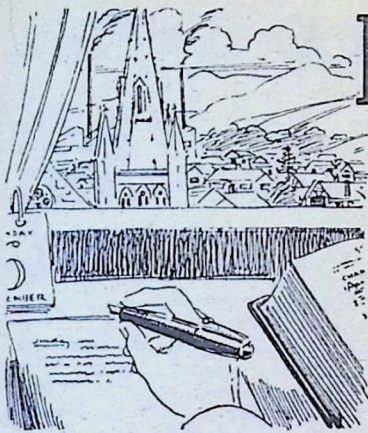
The annual conference of the Eastern District churches of Christ, Vic., was held in the Boronia church on June 6, 7, and 8. The president, C. Smith (Boronia) ably conducted the sessions. He gave the devotional address at the commencement of Conference, and suggested some ideas which could be beneficial to the churches. At the business session which followed, the reports from the churches generally indicated a healthy tone, and in most instances definite progress was shown. It was decided that the Conference aim for the forthcoming year be to refurnish a room at the College of the Bible, the cost being £125. There being no Queen's Birthday Holiday this year, the Youth Session of Conference was held on the Saturday night, the speaker being Mr. Dargaville (C. of E.), who gave an informative talk, illustrated by film strips, of the Youth Conference held recently at Travancore, India. The Boronia Girls' Choir pleasingly rendered two items. J. E. Brooke (Balwyn) gave the conference sermon to a capacity congregation on Sunday afternoon, with a challenging message on "The Christian Attitude in Daily Living." Miss V. Barnden's two solos were appreciated.

The Women's Conference gatherings were held on the Monday afternoon, under the presidency of Miss Jordan. Mrs. M. Morrison (Hartwell) was the speaker at the devotional meeting, and Mrs. J. Warmbrunn was the soloist. The following officers were elected. General Conference: Pres., S. Neighbour (Blackburn); vice-pres., A. Handasyde (Bayswater); sec., R. J. Sandells (Box Hill); treas., F. Rogers (Montrose); auditor, A. Cleland (Ringwood); song leader, P. Jordan (Boronia); pianist, Miss B. Lowen (Blackburn).

Women's Conference: Pres., Mrs. Somerville (Boronia); vice-pres., Mrs. Dickson (Ringwood); sec., Mrs. H. Steele (Croydon).

The next annual Conference is scheduled to be held at Montrose during the Queen's Birthday weekend, 1954.—R. J. Sandells, hon. sec.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



MINISTER'S MUSINGS

SUNDAY.—Last week the Sunday school "tinies" apparently heard the story of the lost sheep, and our little Catherine, with still-vivid memories of wandering off, on one occasion while an anxious Alison and I scoured the district, obviously applied the lesson to herself. (I wish some older folk would do that more often!) When her teacher asked this morning what last Sunday's story was about, Catherine immediately piped up: "About me when I got lost, and daddy didn't growl!" Poor dad, what a reputation he'll be getting! After that, I probably needed the "morale-builder" of an interview late to-night with some folk facing a serious problem. "We felt we could talk about this to you," said one of them. I'm sure that all of us who have been preaching for a few years would rather win that sort of trust than preach the finest sermon—however high were the preaching hopes of our youth. Not that we give up trying to preach!

MONDAY.—A new book by James Stewart is always an event. When his latest, *A Faith to Proclaim*, arrived by mail I couldn't resist diving almost immediately into the first chapter. This trenchant preacher certainly makes the faith ring.

TUESDAY.—After listening to Alison talk of all the latest "gadgets" for the housewife's convenience which she saw temptingly displayed at the winter sales, I was more than interested in the *Christian Standard's* "Epistle from Thistle" on the subject of "Gadgeteering." The typical preacher is subjected to some good-natured bantering. "There are certain devices it would be nice to instal in the pulpit. One would be an 'old story silencer.' This would render any old illustration we have heard five hundred times, such as the jigsaw map of the world with a man's picture on the back of it, entirely inaudible. . . . As soon as it was over, we would hear the preacher's voice saying, 'And so, my friends, we pass

to the next point . . . and we'd not have missed a thing. Another device would be an 'interest detector.' This would work something like a 'lie detector,' and would flash signals to the pulpit showing the degree of interest the auditors were feeling toward different ideas. If it glowed red, it would show absolute indifference; pink, relative indifference; brown, some concern; polka dots, high interest and excitement. . . . A still further improvement would be a 'zip inducer' serum. Every time a preacher became dull and boring a needle would shoot out from the side and make an injection in his arm. This serum would enliven his remarks, spur his enthusiasm, and fire his imagination." And so the torturer's dream goes on. As if preaching isn't hard enough already! And, to make me feel even more rueful, I'm due for an injection from the doctor. But not for the above reason. How could you possibly think that?

WEDNESDAY.—I've been checking through the list of names returned to me following a united church census in Graysley. Some are marked "church of Christ," with heavy question marks following, indicating rightly how little convinced the callers were. I notice one name that is simply marked "None," followed by this comment in brackets, "Church interests, but doesn't bother." That's not an isolated case, I'm afraid, as any church census will show. There are many names, even on church rolls, against which it could be fairly written, "doesn't bother." I was amused yesterday, in the monthly meeting of our local Ministers' Fraternal, when someone mentioned how a Victorian politician, much in the news these days, had claimed to be a good member of a certain denomination, one of whose representatives in our midst happened to know the said politician's district well, and could vouch that he had never, to his knowledge, been in the local church. Whereupon, one of our Anglican brethren, who had quietly suffered several earlier references to "nominal Anglicans," looked up with a twinkle and said, "I'm glad to know that you also have nominal members!" But we would all agree that there is no room in any church for the merely nominal—the need was never more urgent for strongly convinced, dedicated and working Christians.

THURSDAY.—Whatever else may be said about Beverley Nichols as a writer, his books are certainly easy to

read. I was interested in his *A Pilgrim's Progress* after reading David Hammer's review of the book in the *Christian*, and, like him, found it a fascinating survey of certain religious alternatives in modern Great Britain. But it lacks depth, and it is always a journalist, at least semi-detached, and not a man for whom it is a life-and-death quest, who sets down his findings on spiritualism, Christian Science, Jehovah's Witnesses, etc. One phrase near the close of the book rather startled me. Nichols refers to a certain church leader as "a great Christian, and one of the few men in Britain who seem able to discuss the problems of the Church in terms of the 20th century without giving offence." "Without giving offence"! That judgment tells more about Beverley Nichols than it does of the man he means to praise. Did Jesus never give offence? And what of Paul, etc.? All the same, I know some zealous folk who are surely more offensive than they need be!

FRIDAY.—Alison and I were more than interested in some *British Weekly* comments on an inquiry into manse, conducted among American Presbyterians. Questionnaires were sent to 268 manse-wives, and the sum total of their answers to 24 leading questions showed general satisfaction, with complaints far outnumbered by expressions of gratitude. But some of the informal comments were very illuminating. One wrote, "In a previous manse the trustees used to enjoy a good laugh telling about the poor minister's wife who had to wear galoshes in the kitchen to keep her feet warm. But my predecessor here saw that the trustees had a meeting in the coldest room in the house. From a warm room upstairs she watched as one by one the men slipped out to the hall to get their overcoats. After that they did some insulating." There were several references to folk who thought they had a right to enter the manse at any time without knocking, because "the church owns the manse." I wonder what a similar survey of Australian manses would show.

SATURDAY.—The sight of another local church's notice board almost sent my own sermon thoughts flying. The two sermon subjects stood out in bold letters, and the passing eye, reading the two together, discovered this amazing "menu" for the Sunday — "GRASSHOPPERS AND GIANTS" "MORNING AND EVENING." What a "diet" — even for sturdy non-conformists!



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

Gordon Christensen, Clarence Christensen, Don Gherke, Rosevale, Qld.

Mr. and Mrs. Field Carter, Moonta, S.A.

Miss L. Wilson, Subiaco, W.A.

Josephine Miller, Pat Taylor, Murray Bridge, S.A.

Mrs. Jones, Barbara Jones, Linda Aldred, Lillian Ennis, John Gluyas, Northcote, Vic.

Shirley Sampson, Graham Bradley, Footscray, Vic.

Miss R. Williams, Miss E. Lodge, Invermay, Tas.

H. Whitehead, Leslie Mynott, Hurstbridge, Vic.

Margaret, Pamela and Jill Barnard, Graeme Williams and Mr. Dowling, Gardiner, Vic.

Warren Hacker, Doncaster, Vic.

Membership

Mr. and Mrs. E. Wilson, from Nedlands, W.A., to Subiaco, W.A.

J. Lake, from Northam, W.A., to Subiaco, W.A.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Leigh, from Brighton Baptist, Vic., to Murray Bridge, S.A.

A. W. Norton, St. Kilda, Vic.

D. Foletta, R. Foletta, L. Foletta, from Belmont Mission to Northcote, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Easton, from Horsham, Vic., to Footscray, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Spull, Wynnum, Q'ld.

Mrs. Perkins, senr., and Mr. and Mrs. B. Perkins, from Gardiner, Vic., to Ivanhoe, Vic.

Marriage

Elva Barrett to Harry Picker, Bordertown, S.A.

Alison Verco to Adam Salamon, Bordertown, S.A.

Beryl Inglis to Don Wiese, Bordertown, S.A.

Violet Allan to Reg. Tischler, Footscray, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

Mrs. J. Wilkers, Footscray, Vic.

Tasmania

Invermay (R. M. Willson). — All church activities are flourishing, and members are very loyal to the services. Attendances at gospel services are an inspiration, 95 attending on June 7, and 98 on June 21, when two young ladies made their decisions. Others are seeking further teaching. Attendance at Bible school was over 150 on June 14, with 78 of these being kinders. At a concert given by ladies of church on June 5, an offering for kinder piano was over £20, and building was packed.

Western Australia

Subiaco (R. Raymond). — Services on Coronation Sunday were large and inspiring. There have been four additions in recent weeks. Visiting speakers have included Mr. Scott (sec. B. & F.B.S.). At recent business meeting Mr. Constable and A. C. Olds were re-elected sec. and treas. of church, and Ron Raymond and Lois Riches were elected organist and pianist respectively. Church has extended sympathy to Mrs. Bradshaw in passing of husband. Mr. and Mrs. Woods, workers in B.S., have left district.

Inglewood (G. Smith). — Meetings have all been well attended. B.S. is thriving, and embarrassed for room. During preacher's absence in Kalgoorlie church was indebted to Messrs. A. Wilson, Walkerdon and Ware for help. Ladies' Guild entertained elderly ladies connected with the congregation; ages ranged from 70 to 92 years. A very happy time was spent.

Queensland

West Moreton Circuit (W. R. Jarmyn). — Mrs. Lobegeller, senr., is home from hospital. Karen Hinrichsen (Rosevale) has been sick. All Youth Fellowships are flourishing, with about 60 attending in circuit. A number attended Youth Workers' week-end at Albion, and enjoyed fellowship and help. Services are very well attended. M. Wood is giving considerable help with speaking.

Wynnum (W. Giezendanner). — Visits from T. H. Andrews (B. and F.B.S.) and Edna Vawser have been greatly appreciated. At a social evening good wishes were expressed to Mrs. Shaw, Sandra and Gyneth who are paying a visit to Scotland. Preacher has commenced seventh year of service with the church.

Gympie-Monkland (R. Roberts). — Successful garden party was held at manse on June 20. Mr. Roberts is

giving a series of Sunday morning addresses on "The Lord's Prayer." Sis. Webster (Monkland) is progressing after operation.

New South Wales

Earlwood (G. H. Benjamin). — On June 14 youth leaders and friends met for tea with R. Greenhalgh, Youth Director, as speaker. It was arranged to meet weekly as Youth Fellowship for discussion and tea. Gospel service was arranged for youth, and Beverley Condon, Marjorie Tabrett and D. Thorpe assisted minister. Recent morning speakers have been G. Benjamin, R. Jones and D. McMillan. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. H. Clymer and R. Clymer in home call of mother and grandmother.

Wagga. — Mr. Burgin (Newcastle) gave a week of addresses on the Sabbath question. In spite of extreme cold weather, meetings were strongly supported, and all members were very grateful for the messages and clear explanations and references given by Mr. Burgin. During that week we had visits from Lloyd Jones, of Melbourne, and Sister Chadwick, of Adelaide. A farewell was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace on their departure to New Zealand, and best wishes were expressed to the young couple. We are glad that Sisters Wallis, senr., Blyth, senr., and Dorothy Blyth have all left hospital. Mr. Pearson is again confined to bed following another heart attack.

Bexley North (R. W. Saunders). — On June 14 W. French and C. Bowser spoke in absence of preacher. On 21st Mr. Saunders addressed church in morning, and Miss Vawser showed films of missionary activity in India at night. 103 attended, and much blessing was received from the message. Mrs. Bagley sang, and the Misses Marshall recited. Successful and enjoyable efforts for building fund have included apron afternoon for ladies at home of Mrs. Beckingham, young people's squash at home of L. C. Yelds, and cooking demonstration arranged by Mrs. Greenhalgh, guild president. Men of church have done further work on new building foundations.

Kingsford (A. G. Elliott, M.A., B.Sc., Dip. Ed.). — Youth tea on June 7 was addressed by Miss L. Roach (Woolwich Bible College), and an interesting discussion on social service work followed. Work of Mr. Lovell in putting church notice board in order is appreciated. School continues to record good attendances.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Recent morning preachers have been Messrs. Terry and Andrews (Conf. Pres.). Visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. D. Price, of Qld.

South Australia

Murray Bridge (Theo. Edwards).—Coronation services were held in chapel on May 31 and united one in town hall on June 2. 41st anniversary of church was held on 7th, with good attendances. About 100, including Mayor and Mayoress, sat down to tea. Special singing by northern suburban churches' quartette was delight to all. £50 was raised for Building Fund. Young girl and her father recently made decision. These people had journeyed 90 miles to do this. Ladies' Guild held special meeting when Mrs. Green and Mrs. Glover (H.M. Committee) visited on 16th. There was good attendance, and offering of £8 for Home Missions. Members of C.E. attended State Convention in Adelaide. Two carloads went to Mt. Compass for leaders' conference. Entire furnishings of kinder room have been replaced at cost of £30, £28 of which was given. Several Y.P. spend Friday evening at manse for table tennis.

Bordertown (C. E. Curtis). — B.S. anniversary services were crowded when G. Mathieson (Cottonville) was speaker. B.S. picnic was held recently. Kitchen evenings have been given to Misses A. Verco and B. Ingalls. Men's Society has visited Naracoorte, and also enjoyed an evening of records. Institute Hall was full on May 10 when B. & F.B. Soc. showed movie films to combined service. Youth tea on May 31 was well attended, and several Y.P. assisted Mr. Curtis in evening service. Church was pleased to have fellowship with J. Western while on C.O.B. vacation.

Hindmarsh (J. E. Shipway).—Ninety-eighth anniversary of church was held on June 21, when G. Stirling, Conference Pres., was morning speaker. "Back to Hindmarsh" fellowship service was held in afternoon, with G. Mathieson speaker. Reunion tea crowded out lecture hall. T. P. Richardson, pres. of Men's Class, presided, and many brought greetings and reminiscences. J. Shipway conducted well attended evening service. Choir under leadership of G. Trevas-kis brought anthems at morning and evening. Solos were given by M. Wilton and Mrs. A. Russell. On 17th Young Ladies' Fellowship conducted social afternoon in Croydon Bowling Club hall. On 14th 76 attended time of inspirational singing, at which film in aid of U.N.A.C. was screened. Three Y.P. recently baptised have been received into fellowship.

Fullarton (A. H. Lennox). — A crowded meeting farewelled Mr. and Mrs. Manning, who have served church for eight years; neighboring churches and H.M. dept. were represented. A. H. Lennox was chairman. Mr. Hollard (H.M. dept.) spoke, and was supported by others. Church sec. handed a wallet and cheque to Mr. Manning as token of esteem of church. Mrs. McLean presented Mrs. Manning with chromium tray and handbag from ladies. W. V. Wright on behalf of B.S. presented Miss J. Manning with shoulder bag, and E. Lucas, past supt., presented Mr. and Mrs. Manning with framed text. Miss Thorpe sang a solo, and Mrs. Rose-warne contributed pianoforte solo. Male choir also assisted. Meeting closed with basket supper.

Kilburn (H. G. Norris).—On June 21 A. Anderson spoke on overseas missions at morning service. In afternoon junior classes of B.S. had tea with teachers, and enjoyed strip films and community hymn singing. About 70 attended. Youth service was held at night, when minister gave illustrated flannelgraph talk. Basket ball clubs paraded. I.C.E. under Dean Hamilton is having good meetings. Minister is conducting J.C.E. Work is in good heart.

Wampoony (R. E. Pritchard).—All meetings have been well attended through recent months, the building being practically filled each Sunday. Church received resignation of minister from end of year with regret. His work in the circuit, especially the pioneering at Padthaway, has been appreciated, and he is greatly beloved by all Y.P.

Moonta-Wallaroo (B. W. Manning).—Wallaroo Ladies' Guild recently held social afternoon with Kadina ladies attending. Large parcel of food was sent for India. On June 14, at Moonta there was baptismal service. One third of evening audience was unimmersed people, all local and interested. Mr. and Mrs. Manning have settled into part of manse.

Victoria

St. Kilda (C. C. Fletcher). — On Coronation Sunday church used special order of service. Illustrated talks for Y.P. are feature of evening meetings. Monthly socials arranged by Ladies' Fellowship are enjoyed. New scholars are being welcomed at kindergarten and junior school. On June 6 working bee gave attention to hall and grounds. On 14th L. Finger gave morning address. Annual meeting elected following deacons: A. Box, M. Elliott (sec.), A. L. Finger (B.S. supt.), A. M. Norton (treas.), and Aleck Norton. Deacon-

esses are Sisters Box, Elliott, Finger, Healy, Norton and Warne.

Ormond (F. Buckingham).—Average attendances for May were: a.m., 90, p.m., 80. June, a.m., 96, p.m., 75. Church has had number of visitors. Plans for new church are advanced. Sympathy is extended to Sis. L. Morgan, who met with accident. Mr. Osborne entertained with films in aid of B.S. picnic. Ladies and men of Caulfield church gave delightful concert to full house for church furnishings' fund. K.S.P. and P.B.P. held debate on June 22, with Mr. Pearson (Caulfield) as adjudicator. Minister has commenced second year of successful work.

Footscray (A. E. Hurren).—Despite cold weather attendances are averaging 110. Christian Choristers' Choir helped with a service in May. Mission Band birthday was celebrated on May 12; Mrs. Hodges, Women's Conference president, was speaker, and Mrs. Burns soloist. To celebrate Mothers' Day, P.B.P. girls entertained mothers and ladies of the church. An evening was tendered Violet Allan in honor of her approaching marriage to Reg. Tischler. A presentation was made on behalf of B.S. and friends. Coronation Sunday was observed with special order of service. A very fine display was arranged for the kindergarten by Joan Buckley. E. H. Randall spoke on morning of June 13. A total of £44/7/- was contributed to Indian Famine Relief fund. The amount included donations from auxiliaries, and also a large box of tinned food. The newly formed choir is rendering excellent service.

Doncaster (F. B. Burt).—Special meeting of the church was held on June 30 to consider building proposals. Mission Band held a picture night on June 5 to raise funds for Christmas cheer. The slides, which were much appreciated, were transparencies from the collections of I. Morrison, R. J. Tully, F. B. Burt and D. W. Petty.

West Preston (A. B. Withers).—On 15th Y.P. combined with S.C.E. for meeting, at which speaker was F. V. Brown. K.S.P. visited Argus office on 16th, and on 19th combined with Preston club. R. Story (U.F.M.) spoke at J.C.E. missionary meeting on 21st. On 22nd W. R. Hibburt spoke at Y.P.S.C.E. meeting. Service of preacher is greatly appreciated.

Red Cliffs (C. L. Lang).—Dr. Oldfield (Conf. Pres.) was speaker at night on June 14. Red Cliffs Rotary Club held church parade on June 21. The Chislett sisters sang a trio. The new B.S. hall is almost completed. All meetings have been well attended.

and good interest is maintained in all auxiliaries.

East Kew (D. W. Mansell).—Explorers gained fourth place in final of indoor sports competition. Nurse Beth Prince, from Prince Henry hospital, spoke to J.C.E. at Sunshine Committee meeting on Sunday, June 21, and juniors brought gifts of fruit and eggs. Mr. Mansell preached at both services, and after gospel meeting a sing song was enjoyed at home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Pope. At Y.W.F. meeting on June 22, Mrs. C. R. Prince was elected pres., Mrs. H. W. Farmer vice-pres., Mrs. J. Pope, sec., and Mrs. E. Buchanan, treas. Mission Band visited Oakleigh Guest Home on afternoon of June 23. Members of Trompf family and Mrs. Blackwell have been sick.

Merbein (M. D. Keatch).—Junior and Intermediate C.E. Societies have recently been formed under leadership of Mr. Keatch. Members who attended district conference in Milldura had very enjoyable time. On June 14 Dr. Oldfield addressed morning service. M.M.B. ladies are busy with work for their winter fair. Plans are being drawn for erection of B.S. hall.

Hurstbridge. — On May 31 there were three confessions of faith, speaker being from West Preston church, Secretary D. McIntosh is visiting Tasmania. Speakers from Fairfield, Reservoir, West Preston, Ivanhoe, and local brethren have assisted meetings.

Gardiner (F. A. Youens).—Snodgrass-Pollock mission converts are mostly very regular at Lord's Supper. Evening meetings, often assisted by visiting singers, have been excellent. All auxiliaries are in good heart. K.S.P. second degree has been revived. Y.P. Fellowship and the Children's Fellowship are popular. Owing to development of structural faults in church buildings, a special effort has begun to raise sufficient for repairs and improvements.

Carnegie (L. G. Crisp, L.Th.).—B.S. scholars paraded on morning of June 14. At evening service on 21st the film *The Power of God* was shown. Attendances at all recent meetings have been encouraging. Alf. Bailey has left for trip to Switzerland with Rover Scouts. Mrs. B. Ferguson is now agent for C.F.A. C.M.S. met at home of B. Ferguson on June 20, when members of Parkdale C.M.S. were visitors. Mr. Marshall, R.N. officer during war, gave interesting talk on life in a submarine. Mrs. S. Bowman, formerly of Carnegie, is in Will H. Clay Nursing Home.

THE CHRISTIAN HOPE

Next year at Evanston, U.S.A., the World Council of Churches will meet, and the suggested theme for those meetings is "Jesus Christ our Lord, the only Hope of the church and the world."

A Commission was appointed consisting of twenty leaders of religious thought to do advisory and preparatory work concerning the above theme.

They met first at Rolle, Switzerland, for ten days in July, 1951, and again from September 1-9 last year at the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey.

Their findings are presented in a 26-page booklet, which we could wish might be placed in the hands of every student of this great theme. Limitation of space permits only a brief reference to the conclusions reached, but the following quotations must surely gladden our hearts. In the opening paragraph "Why we must speak of hope," we have these arresting words: "In such a time as this, the Church of Jesus Christ cannot but speak of hope. He is our hope, and as we hope in him we are bound to proclaim that hope to the world."

Again "The word 'hope' in common use describes a projection of our desires into an unknown future. The mind of man entertains many such hopes. But the Christian hope is hope for a certainty. It encompasses the future, and therefore governs the present. Faith already possesses the title-deed of that on which our hope is set."

"In Jesus, God became man, entering fully into and sharing man's predicament. Jesus had compassion, he suffered, he knew the loneliness of man bereft of God, he died. But God raised him from the dead. It is to this resurrection of Jesus that we point when we speak of the Christian hope, for in and through it is declared the lordship of Christ over death, and therefore over every power." "When we say that Christ is risen we must say also that Christ will return; for to affirm his lordship is also to affirm that that lordship will be finally made manifest."

"At present this lordship is only discerned by faith, and is maintained amidst conflict and evil, but Jesus himself has promised that he will return in glory and that returning he will judge the earth."

"It is the Crucified who reigns. Because he reigns, there is no room for an ultimately tragic interpretation of history."

We have given a few only of the challenging quotations which have called us again to a fresh study of

this vital theme. In their concluding statement the committee responsible for this report remind us again that the crucified Lord who is even now present with us in our Christian fellowship in his risen presence is our Peace. He is also our Righteousness—a righteousness which is not of ourselves but which our faith finds in him alone. Furthermore, he is our Freedom. In and through him we are free for God and our brethren, free to live a life of gratitude and service to him. As our Life we have in him the assurance that a future awaits us in which there will be no death, and that Jesus Christ, the word of God made flesh for our sakes, is himself the living Truth in whom all wisdom and knowledge are comprehended.

Believing all this to be "sound doctrine" we look forward with keen expectation to the outcome of those meetings in Evanston, and will unite our prayers with the Church around the world that the day may be brought still nearer when the prayer of the Saviour himself may be answered, "that they all may be one that the world may believe."—Ira. A. Paternoster.

IN MEMORIAM.

SOUTHWICK.—In loving memory of our dear mother, Christina Southwick, who passed away on July 5, 1952.

—Inserted by Evelyn, Millie, Isa, Jessie and Bert.

DEATHS.

MOORE. — On June 14 at her daughter's residence, 4 Scott-st., Maroubra, N.S.W., Margaret, beloved wife of the late Harry, loving mother of Ted, Jim, Bessie (dec.), Mavis (Mrs. Barton), Jean (Mrs. Giles), mother-in-law of Ella, Russ, Fred, dear nana of Isobel, Ian, John, Evan, Heather, Beth and Freddie. Late Nailsworth, S.A., and Bambrard.

CLIPSTONE. — On May 31, at Kaniva, Will, second son of the late William and Mary Clipstone (pioneers of the Restoration Movement in the West Wimmera), dear husband of Nellie, and loving father of Robert, Stanley, Mary (Mrs. Finger), of New Hebrides, Dolly and Daisy, loved brother of Herbert (deceased) and Oliver, Castlemaine.

SILVER WEDDING.

WESTWOOD—CAMERON. — Mr. and Mrs. T. G. H. Westwood, 27 Bedford-st., Dandenong, have pleasure in announcing the 25th anniversary of their marriage, celebrated at the church of Christ, Boort, on June 27, 1928.

OBITUARY

Mrs. McKay.

The church at Drumcondra, Vic., was saddened by the Home Call of Mrs. McKay on June 3, following a stroke. She was only nine years of age when she first gave her life to Christ at Meredith, and following teaching by the late Thos. Hagger, she and her elder brother, Will Combridge, were baptised in the old Hope-st., Geelong, chapel, four years later. She was one of the eleven foundation members of the Meredith church. Until she moved to Geelong and transferred to the Latrobe-terr. church in 1918, she was organist and B.S. worker, and when the cause at Drumcondra was commenced in 1925 she transferred membership, and for 12 years served the new church as organist till ill health forced her to relinquish service. She was always keenly interested in women's work, especially the Mission Band, of which she was president for many years. Our loving sympathy is extended to her husband and children, Enid, Allan and Jean, her sister, Mrs. Readhead (Warragul), and her brothers, Will (Ballarat), Bert (H.M. sec.), Charlie (Geelong), and Arthur, Hal and Fred (Albury). The funeral service was conducted by the writer, assisted by her nephew, Reg. Combridge, student preacher at Colac. The crowded chapel, masses of floral tributes, and almost endless stream of messages, indicate something of the esteem in which Mrs. McKay was held in every State.—R.W.

Mrs. Wilkes.

On May 29 the church at Footscray, Vic., lost one of its most faithful members in the person of Mrs. Wilkes (formerly Mrs. P. Easton), who passed away after a long and painful illness at the age of 62 years. Mrs. Wilkes was a woman of very happy disposition and sincere Christian character, and was loved by all who knew her. She loved to be in her place in the house of God, and took an active interest in the work of the Women's Mission Band and Ladies' Aid. The church extends sincere sympathy to Mr. Wilkes and members of her family, Cr. Harold Easton, of St. Albans, secretary of Footscray church; Olive (Mrs. T. Hampton, of Maidstone), and Roy Easton, of Footscray. Our prayer is that God will bless and comfort all with the realisation of the great hope that is in Christ.—A.E.H.

Suzanna Parker.

The church at Sunnybank, Qld., has suffered a real loss in the passing of Mrs. Parker. For over twenty years a member of the church, her

June 30, 1953.

life of quiet faith and service has been an inspiration to all who knew her. Until recently she was able to visit and share in the communion service in the homes of "shut in" members of the church. On such occasions her visit was always a blessing to those unable to attend the services of the church. Of recent months she had to limit her activities because of illness, and a few weeks before her death she was confined to bed. It was here that she perhaps was able to influence others even more, by her quiet confidence in God. Several of her family are active workers in the church, and one son (V. T. Parker) is the preacher at Kedron church. We offer to her loved ones our Christian love and sympathy, and rejoice with them in that this parting is only "until he comes."—K.D.II.

Sarah Jane Milton.

On February 18 our beloved sister, Sarah Jane Milton, passed to be with her Lord whom she dearly loved and served. Baptised at 15, she lived to be a member in the visible church of Christ on earth for 75 years. For some years she lived at Goulburn, when, as there was no church of Christ, she linked up with the Baptists. She came to Manly, N.S.W., 39 years ago, and when the church was opened in the Library Institute by G. Burns she became one of the pioneer members. She had a great love for Christ and his Church. Through all her long illness, she was strong in faith and good works. She was a lovable and devoted soul. The church at Manly pays sincere tribute to her, and extends to loved ones Christian love and sympathy, knowing that those in Christ will meet



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to part no more. G. Burns conducted the funeral service, and paid tribute to our sister's Christian character and fortitude.—T. J. Jones.

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"All Things New"

E. C. Hinrichsen.

We are all familiar with the many new things which will be revealed at some future date, however many new things are ours to enjoy to-day. Some of these were in evidence at the Belmont mission.

1. The New Look. Many remarked about the new look on the faces of the men and women who had decided for Christ. Once Christ enters the heart, the sense of sins forgiven, the assurance that all is well for time and eternity, as well as a worthwhile work to do and the indwelling Spirit, account for this, in almost every case.

2. The New Outlook. One outstanding case of conversion was that of a business man and his wife who had not been inside a church for forty years. This is a record as far as the writer is concerned. Some years ago there was a business man converted who had not been inside any church for 20 years. He wept as he said, "I realise I have wasted 20 years of my life." In another mission there was a woman who had not been to church for 30 years. She tried to make up for lost time by constant works for the Lord after her conversion. But this man who had not been to church for forty years is a record. His outlook on the whole of life has been changed. There is joy for him as he regularly remembers the Lord and contrasts his former life with this new life of joy, and he says, "I must get my family." But he knows it will not be so easy, now that they have gone from his home to homes of their own.

3. The New Spirit. There was a wonderful spirit of co-operation on the part of the Latrobe-terr. church, which merits a special word of commendation of the work done by T. Fergusson and all the officers and members. No church could have helped better. A great many attended every night. Although Drumcondra was not officially in the mission, they co-operated splendidly, as did R. Wilson, the preacher. But there is now a new spirit and an even keener spirit for evangelism than before.

Latrobe-terr. was crowded on the final Sunday morning, with nearly 300 people present, although Drumcondra had their own service.

4. New Workers for the Lord. The missioner conducted a mission in Geelong 17 years ago. Many of the converts are there working wholeheartedly for the Lord. They supported the mission wonderfully, and brought relatives and friends to

Two men known far afield for their great contributions to preaching and missions respectively are retiring this month from the faculty of Yale Divinity School, New Haven, U.S.A. They are Dr. Halford E. Luccock (68) and Dr. K. S. Latourette (67).

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Christ. Now there are more than 60 new workers. Some of them will do an outstanding work. One is a man of unusual brain-power—a University graduate here, then he studied abroad at Leeds, Oxford and Cambridge. His humility becomes his great ability. He asked for an interview, and said, "One needs a church, but I want to make sure I don't make a wrong move, and I would like to know what the church of Christ stands for." It is the first time that a Doctor of Science has come into the Church through our mission, although in one mission 6 men with University degrees accepted Christ. We praise God for the coming of this man, and pray for him a life of great usefulness.

5. A New Cause. Belmont has opened her building. In a marvellous way Latrobe-terr. is helping. D. R. Stirling is the preacher, and the cause is self-supporting with the help of the Terrace, if needed. Praise God again, and pray for Belmont and watch this church grow.

6. A New Love for the Old Paths. Geelong brethren are particularly faithful to the Word. That spirit seems to be coming more and more evident. Apart from requests for missions overseas, there are more than fifty requests for missions in the hands of the missionary. That is surely encouraging. People and preachers love the Lord and his Church and his Word so well that they literally plead for missions. There is a desire for souls and a keenness to work for him that is a cause for great thanksgiving.

7. A New Leader. W. E. Philp has been the song leader for many missions. The people love him, not only for his ability but for his deeply spiritual character. He has served magnificently. The writer wishes to place on record his very deep appreciation.

Unfortunately for a while he cannot continue although he would love to do so. Since it is impossible for him to continue at this stage, L. E. Brooker will conduct the singing at the mission in Lismore. It is thirty years or more since many read of a Hinrichsen-Brooker Mission. We shall be together again, for what we are worth, but will you pray for God's blessing upon us as we conduct a tent mission, in the middle of winter, at Lismore.

Thank you for past prayers, we have been greatly helped.

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