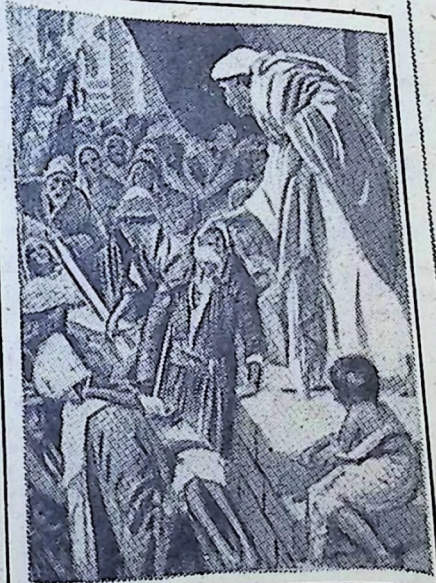


THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

SOCIAL SERVICE SPECIAL NUMBER



JESUS HEALING AMONG THE PEOPLE

Religion Defined

"Pure, unsoiled religion in the judgment of God the Father means this: TO CARE FOR THE ORPHANS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR TROUBLE, and to keep oneself from the stain of the world."

—James 1:27

Moffatt's New Translation

Annual Offering, Sunday, Aug. 16

REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. MELBOURNE FOR TRANSMISSION BY POST AS A NEWSPAPER

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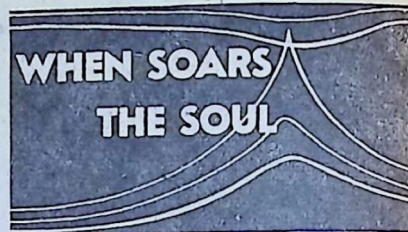
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When soars the soul earth's
clamoring voices cease,
Stilled in the wonder of God's
power and peace.



Obey the message; do not merely listen to it, and deceive yourselves. Whoever looks at the faultless law that makes men free and keeps looking, so that he does not just listen and forget, but obeys and acts upon it, will be blessed in what he does. If anyone thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue, but deceives himself, his religious observances are of no account. A religious observance that is pure and stainless in the sight of God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their trouble, and keep one's self unstained by the world.—James 1: 22, 25-27 (Goodspeed).

I often wish we could have a list of our members in a church posted up in a prominent place, and at the side of each name the particular work that, as members, they are vowed to do, so that, when new members come, it shall be asked of them what piece of service they will render, apart from home business and town duties. The aged and bed-ridden might promise definite intercession, and that could be stated. Some might only promise that, fair or foul, they would be in their place as worshippers, striving to make their worship vicarious. And so throughout. It is not difficult in most districts to-day to get churchgoers of a vagrant order. What we want is churchmen—folk vowed to the Church, and responsibly connected with its fortunes.—A. E. Whitham.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be ministered to but to minister; we beseech thee to bless all those who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of their fellow-men. Endue them with wisdom, patience and courage to strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall, that being inspired by thy love they may worthily minister in thy name to the suffering, the friendless and the needy. AMEN.—G. E. Osborn.

If there be some weaker one,
Give me strength to help him on;
If a blinder soul there be,
Let me guide him nearer thee.

—J. G. Whittier.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

The Walls Are Whispering

Here are four office walls. Just walls. Yet if you could catch their whispering, what secrets you could learn. For much has happened within the walls of this Social Service office. And much has been said: "Oh, yes," whisper the walls, "we've heard some stories in this office. Some fairy stories, too, though the Director has never taken kindly to them. At times like that, and when he's talking about injustice, or the drink and gambling traffics, you should hear him. What a blustering tongue that man can use! Yet we have heard him and the Secretaries putting courage back into beaten men and restoring hope to the widowed—standing alongside with friendship and financial help in the truly grim crises of life." And as you listen you thank God that there have been men like these in the various States, commissioned by their brethren to be ready to help, in the name of Christ and Social Service.

Or think of four hospital walls, anywhere in those of our capital cities where Social Service, in the churches' name, has set aside men to serve as hospital chaplains. "We see the chaplain coming," whisper the walls, "and at the first squeak of his shoes on the polished floor the children's hands reach out eagerly for his sweets or a promised story. We have seen pain-drenched older faces light with fresh hope as he talks or prays with them, or writes a letter for them." And as you listen, you remember that Dr. W. L. Carrington, a Christian doctor in Melbourne, has repeatedly said that the Church's best men should be set aside as hospital chaplains. We can be proud of the help our representatives have given.

Then listen to the walls in some of our Homes, those Homes which have realised so many of the daring dreams

of earlier days. "We have seen peace come again to the lined, drawn faces of the aged. We have seen a new security come to them, born from the Christian love and concern of matrons and nurses, and the knowledge that the brotherhood cares what happens to them." To help such as these is surely worth the best that we can give.

And what of the walls in many of our family homes—walls that could tell the story of sleepless nights, depression, fear? Out of such nights has come new hope, with the resolve to see the Social Service staff. It is homes such as these which will gladly join us all on August 16 in paying something of their debt of gratitude.

Let the walls of our churches echo on that Sunday with the joy of men and women ready to prove again that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

WILL H. CLAY, Social Service Director, links service with . . .

Coronation Vows and Resolutions

On Christmas Day our young Queen, Elizabeth II, made public confession of her faith and trust in God, and her vow that, God helping her, she would dedicate her whole life to his service and ours. This confession was repeated at her Coronation, when she asked the prayers of the people that God would give her wisdom and strength to honor her vows. It is not surprising that the Christian women of the nations, through their respective organisations, made an immediate response and issued a prayer on behalf of all the Queen's subjects, in which are repeated her own words that God would "give her and us wisdom and strength that together we may serve God and help each other all the days of our life."

THE QUEEN'S RELIGION.

While Her Majesty by the Constitution recognises the Anglican form of religion, she is really cosmopolitan, accepting every form of religion known to the Empire, but particularly the Anglican. We commonly accept this as the only position possible to her.

Doubtless she holds her own pri-

vate view of religion and doctrine, but she is at one with her people in her belief in God, and believes that by her works she will prove her faith in him.

THE RELIGION OF THE PEOPLE.

It is commonly accepted that we are a Christian nation, but this is true only in the sense that we are not admittedly a pagan nation. There is, however, a sense in which we may justly claim that we are Christians. As a people we accept the two commandments "Thou shalt love God with heart, soul, mind and strength and thy neighbor as thyself." How far we succeed in keeping them is open to question. There is common belief in the value, if not the adequacy, of a good deed, and by our deeds we manifest our common faith. Really the people are one in charity. Good deeds lose nothing of their value though practised by an unworthy people.

DEEDS THAT UNITE.

By service to men the Church makes an unanswerable impact on the world. While her doctrines may be question-

ed and impugned, her deeds of benevolence speak a language understood by people of many nations.

While divided, the witness of the Church is not as strong or as effective as it could be. Nevertheless, her institutions and her social service give proof to her witness which mere words could not provide.

OUR OWN WITNESS.

The Social Service Department has preached a doctrine of service, and has put it into practice over a period of nearly 30 years. God has signally honored its efforts. In the name of our Lord and Master this department has by faith accomplished great things. Faith has been rewarded. Each difficulty which has been met has been overcome, leading on to others, perhaps greater, to be overcome. Undaunted, we regard the victories of the past as our assurance that the future is secure. With faith in God's leading and supply and in the brotherhood's support the Department faces the future.



Conference Officers Look at Social Service



Dr. G. H. Oldfield.

Miss F. HAINES, Vic. Conf. Secretary, affirms that Social Service Activities are

Windows

Windows let in the LIGHT and let out the SIGHT. By means of life's windows we leave the confinement of four narrow walls and see a vision beyond. Though he spent so much of his life in Bedford Gaol, John Bunyan knew the value of windows; his vision gave us "The Palace Beautiful."

There is also a sense in which every Christian is a window to let the light of Christ's love shine out into the lives of men and women, that they might see a vision of God himself.

A little girl in Palestine could not remember the names of missionaries visited, but said, "I've seen the two ladies who live next door to God." Truly, they were windows!

That is where you and I come in. One of the wonderful things about Christianity is that it provides windows into the practical realm for everyone in the church. Through us, and what we do, others see God.

Social Service, to-day's comprehensive term to express the many-sided activities of this department of our brotherhood's organised work, is interested in (1) benevolence; (2) personal problems; (3) hospital visita-

Dr. G. H. OLDFIELD, Vic. Pres., declares that in Social Services we are

Following Christ's Example and Precept

In the New Testament we have the Saviour's example, as well as precept, for what we term social services. If we love our neighbors as ourselves we will not, if we can prevent it, let our neighbors go hungry, ill-clad, neglected and ill.

It is fitting that we, who lead in the movement for the restoration of primitive Christianity, should be in the forefront with our social services, and we rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of so many to provide for the benevolent work, the aid to distressed brethren, the homes for elderly people, and the nursing home, all of which our Social Service Department has established on our behalf. These, and the other manifold activities of our Social Service Department are our united attempt to fol-

low Christ's example and to live up to some of his precepts.

The more we study the life of Christ the more we realise what a great part of his power was expended on those actions which helped people in their physical necessities, and we must not be satisfied while the Children's Home and Hospital which are planned, are still unbuilt.

Love for our fellow-men ranks next to our love for God. This great work should be done in a way commensurate with its importance, for by it we express in a way which is readily understood, something of the compassion and love of Christ for man. Let it not be expressed in niggardly fashion, but GIVE in the Annual Offering, prayerfully and cheerfully, so that still more people may experience the compassion of the Christ!

tion; (4) homes and hospital for our aged members; and (5) it is a voice of exposure and guidance in the social problems of the day, whether civic, community, or national.

The world to-day has a conscience on social services. Our activities in this realm can be one window through which the outside world can see what Christ means to us.

"Our offering on August 16 will represent our share in this comprehensive work of the Church's Social Services.



Vic. Women's President, Mrs. ALICE B. HODGES, says that Social Service is continuing the activity of . . .

The Ministering Christ

"For the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mk. 10: 45.) Jesus won his way to the hearts of the people through ministering to human need and suffering.

He devoted more of his ministry to helping the needy than to anything else. He "went about doing good." The early disciples followed his example. In Acts 6 we are told that men were set apart to minister to the needy of the early Church.

Social Service is definitely a part of church service.

Real social reform is only of recent years, so we in Victoria are not behind the times in what Social Service has achieved in the little over a quarter of a century it has been in existence, but much still remains to be done. This requires the co-operation of the whole brotherhood.

It is the nature of love to give; by giving, love is expressed; all true giving is sacrificial.

If we do not miss what we give, we do not really give. God, the owner of all things, gave a gift so precious that, rich as he was, he felt the giving of it. It meant sacrifice.—John 3: 16.

"Gracious God, thou who art the giver of every good and lovely thing, teach us how to give.

"Make us ready to understand, and help with more than wordy sympathy. So shall we live!"

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

SPEAKING from EXPERIENCE

Out of his years of experience as a committee member, the present Victorian Chairman, F. P. CHIPPERFIELD, writes on the . . .

The Indisputable Evidence of Discipleship

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples."

While faith comes from hearing, it can come also from seeing. If we hear about something of interest we are not satisfied until we have seen it for ourselves.

There is nothing wrong in demanding evidence to satisfy curiosity or dispel disbelief. Thomas has often been criticised because he demanded to see the pierced hands and side of our Lord. Yet when he had seen he made an affirmation of faith which has inspired succeeding generations. Thomas' attitude provides to-day indisputable evidence of Christ's resurrection and the genuineness of his claims.

Our churches cannot be blamed if they ask for evidence of the service the Department is rendering.

THINGS THAT CAN BE SEEN.

Seldom a day goes by without practical fellowship being shown to someone in need by the experienced staff of our office, and our brotherhood is indebted for the selfless service being rendered. However, most of

this is confidential, and cannot be publicised.

For many years our work was limited to this sphere, and its value was not always apparent. Many of us, however, remember the Town Hall rallies and other meetings—these were the awakening in our brotherhood of bigger things.

At last, many of our dreams have come true, and our faith has been made manifest in the magnificent homes which now are ours.

PROOF POSITIVE.

There was a time when many had to be convinced that this work was the business of the Church—even to-day there are some who claim that the only task of the Church is to evangelise. We believe that evangelism is expressed in deeds as well as words. If we are to prove that we are his disciples we must love all men. Our love must be practical. It must be manifested not by words alone but also by deeds that demonstrate the faith we profess. This evidence must be carried to the ends of the world.

After 12 years as an Executive Officer in Social Service work, W. T. ATKIN, Victorian Secretary, is able to say that . . .

Some Dreams Do Come True

For many years, good men and women under the leadership of Will H. Clay thought and dreamed about a home in which to care for the aged. Their dream came true when the Christian Guest Home was opened on July 16, 1938, to accommodate 16 elderly women. Since then, other units have been added to meet the need, not only of women, but also of men and married couples, until to-day we are in the happy position of being able to provide accommodation in this home for any kind of ambulatory old person.

It was soon realised that the need of the elderly sick must be considered. What provision could be made for those who became seriously ill in the home, and for those who, because

they were bed cases, had to be refused admission?

Again good men and women thought and dreamed about a hospital for the aged. Their dream came true when the Will H. Clay Nursing Home was opened on Oct. 13, 1951, to accommodate 25 of either sex.

Again good men and women thought and dreamed about how to give some home care to the elderly. Their dream came true when the Emmaus Rest Home was opened on July 26, 1952, to accommodate 25 women.

These homes cost £113,000. After liberal support from members of our churches, and a generous grant from the State Government, a debt of only £15,500 remains. This is a challenge



The Social Service Department is proving every day that churches of Christ believe in the gospel they preach, just as Jesus asked those who disputed his claims to believe him because of his deeds (John 14: 11).

My 16 years' association with the department enables me to vouch for the claim that the half of the story has not yet been told. There are larger plans ahead, so let us get behind the Department with our prayers and money.

"All things are possible to them that believe."

to our churches, but not an impossible one. Maintenance costs are heavy, but have never been a drain on the brotherhood.

It has taken a quarter of a century to reach our present position. Nevertheless, our churches may be justifiably proud of their achievement, not only because of the three fine properties, but chiefly because of the service they render, under a capable and consecrated staff, to 85 elderly people.

Surely when the Judge of all the earth shall speak, those who have helped to provide and maintain the homes will hear him say unto them: "When I was homeless you gave me a welcome. In solemn truth I tell you that insofar as you rendered such services to one of the humblest of those my brethren, you rendered them to myself." (Matt. 25: 34-40, Weymouth.)

SOCIAL SERVICE Through the

An Important Arm

B. J. Combridge, Home Missions.

The various branches of the military service are called arms, and each is essential to the other. In the work of this brotherhood of ours there are also various arms, each dependent upon the other, each necessary to a full brotherhood service. The Social Service Department is an important arm of brotherhood service.

Service is the word to be emphasized here. This arm of the brotherhood has been doing things. It rendered marvellous service for years before the first of its institutions was founded, and since then its good works have increased manifold.

This department is not a self-contained unit working for its own glory. It is an arm of brotherhood service. It is working in the name of the churches—in your name, and mine, and above all, in the Saviour's Name. It is not competing with Home Missions, Youth or any other department; it is an important arm of service, co-operating with the other arms to offer a full Christian ministry.

And there are times when its godly service comes very close to you. When someone very dear to you needs a ministry of Christian kindness, tenderness and care, and you don't know where to turn, it's a grand thing to be able to look to your own brethren and know that in Christ's Name they can supply the nearest possible approach to the gentle ministry of one's own home and kith and kin. That's something you can't evaluate.

This is an important arm of brotherhood service. Help it! It needs our help as we need it, and when you help one arm, you help them all.



A Public Relations Department

J. McG. Abercrombie, Advisory Board.

The work of the Church is essentially one, the interpretation and implementation of the message and mission of Jesus.

A well taught congregation is a well balanced church, one that does not give undue emphasis to any aspect of the work to the neglect of other privileges. The teaching, evangelistic and social service facets

should dovetail and present a complete and harmonious whole.

The committees who have over the years had the responsibility of the development among us of a social conscience are to be commended, for their accomplishments. The Homes and hospitals are an irresistible argument for further support and encouragement. No single individual or congregation could possibly have achieved so much.

Vocal platform expression and vigorous press propaganda have been given repeatedly regarding the need to maintain high ideals in our community life. Better standards of living, improved housing conditions, prison reform, the fight against gambling and intemperance have been more than merely slogans to our department. They have continually advocated reforms. Our responsibility to the New Australians, both as churches and as individuals has been stressed. The futility of war as a means of settling international disputes has been drawn attention to, and the high standards of the Prince of Peace raised as the alternative.

This work and these ideals call for liberal giving as well as moral support. We must make it possible for Social Service Committees to continue to help the underprivileged, and at the same time enlarge the sympathies and outlook of all who are called Christians.



Practising What We Preach

R. P. Morris, Christian Union Committee.

For over 100 years we have been pleading for unity in the Christian Church. We have said that unity is essential for effectiveness and efficiency in our work. We have stressed also that unity is not an end in itself, but that "the world may believe..." Even belief in Christ is not an end in itself. It is in order that all men should be drawn back to God and so live in communion with him that mankind will accomplish his purposes and achieve his will for the world.

The principle of unity is one of God's laws of life. It is equally important in home life, in community life, as well as in the life of the Church.

The work of Social Service demonstrates in a dramatic way what can be done by united action. In recent

years we have seen in Victoria what can be accomplished by pooling some of our financial resources. No one church is strong enough to build a Home for the Aged or a Will H. Clay Nursing Home, but a united brotherhood has been agreeably surprised to find that its collective strength has been adequate to build these magnificent institutions. The imagination of the brotherhood has been captured by statesmanlike leaders of the Social Service Department, who have already seen the vision.

The work must still go on. Every member of every church should play his part in the annual offering now before the brotherhood. Social Service work is in motion. Let us carry on the motion unanimously!



A Much Needed Ministry

L. A. Trezise, Youth Department Director.

I have pleasure in commending to the brotherhood the appeal of the Social Service Department.

Perhaps there are a few people about who limit their loyalty to one or other of the brotherhood enterprises, but the responsible people who vote in our Conference, and serve in the churches, are happy to support all of the work we are trying to do. Each department is an expression of the Church's life and witness in the community. Social Service, for instance, is not something imposed upon us from without by a group of interested people. It is something that we want to do because it needs to be done.

The members of the Social Service Committee are the people we entrust to do the work for us. If they are not doing the work well, we can scold them or replace them. If they work hard and faithfully, as we certainly believe they are doing, we should commend and encourage them.

There is a many-sided ministry, calling for every Christian virtue, and needing hundreds of willing hands to fulfil it. Think of the help, comfort and the guidance given to many brethren, and you will support this appeal.

It is not generally known that each year when the appeal for the Young People's Department is made, the old folk in the Social Service Homes send their gifts to advance the work amongst youth.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Eyes of Departmental Secretaries

Voice of the Church

F. N. Lee, Properties Corporation.

The Properties Corporation commends the appeal by the Social Service Department. At the present time many pressure groups representing vested interests are making their claims for special favors. There is clamor for a State lottery to finance hospitals. The liquor business is agitating for extra trading facilities, longer hours, more club licences, and the subtle provision to make all Victoria a single licensing district, so that the present restriction on the transfer of a licence from one district to another can be overcome. The voice of the Church must be heard on such matters. Only through a strong Social Service Department can we make an effective contribution to the Christian forces' united front against social evils.

The programme of good works undertaken by the Social Service department has won your commendation and support in the past. May the present appeal result in a record vote of confidence.



Practical and Positive Activity

C. L. Smith, Literature Committee.

It has been said of our Lord that he added a hemisphere to the moral world by setting his "Thou shalt" over against the Jewish "Thou shalt not." The Social Service Department, by the work it is doing in the care of the aged and invalid, is doing much to restore the emphasis of our Lord. Too often we have been found doing the negative thing, criticising or sniping, when we ought to have been helping even the least of our brethren. The Department has aided in incalculable ways to raise the regard in which the churches are held.

All Christians have been disturbed by the recent proposals to increase the gambling facilities in the name of necessity. The department soon made a contribution to the opposition—it believes in being vocal about any social evils. Who knows that we shall yet so support the department that in the future it will have the resources not only to protest against abuses present or threatening, but by investi-

gation of facts and anticipation of trends make a positive contribution, and take a lead on live questions. That lead to the churches could be as positive as caring for children, the aged, and the invalid. May God continue to bless the work of the department.



One Gospel, One Work

K. A. Jones, College of the Bible Board.

The condition of life to-day demands that the whole Church must preach the whole gospel to the whole world. This will not be an easy or comfortable task for us, but it is, nevertheless, inescapable if we are truly Christian. The gospel is expressed in many ways by differing people of differing color and culture—but there is only one gospel. It is all of one piece, and cannot be sectionalised. Social concern and social service go hand in hand with the preaching of the great salvation.



Partners in One Ministry

A. B. Withers, Overseas Missions.

As most think of it, Social Service and Missions are quite separate, Social Service operating among ourselves, and Missions among other people.

In themselves, too, Social Service and Missions are likely to be viewed as separate.

In their essential purpose, however, these two are one. Social Service is not a ministry of "bread alone": it is concerned also, and even more concerned, in man's need of God in Christ—of him who gave his flesh for the life of the world. And in Missions which, of course, is the sending of men and women with the gospel, there is no thought of ignoring the wants and ills of those to whom they are sent.

When Missions is faced with the plight of millions of starving people. Social Service here leads an appeal for food. When famine again grimly appears and Missions makes its own appeal, it seeks the good-will and support of Social Service.

And so must it be: "For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ."

Missions joins with Social Service in its appeal to the churches.

LOOK AGAIN AT OUR COVER
PICTURE! ! !

NOW READ THIS!

Pure Religion

To say that religion is nothing
but dope,
For the masses an opiate, not
understood;
To say that religion is nothing
but hope,
Pie in the sky when you die
if you're good;
Is to miss altogether the mes-
sage of God
As revealed to mankind in the
life of our Lord.

Religion that's Christian, that's
pure, undefiled,
Is to give to the poor and to
visit the sick,
To care for the widow, the
fatherless child,
To comfort the sufferer, lift up
the weak—
For religion, as lived for our
Father above
Finds expression in sympathy,
service and love.

—G. A. Ewers.



W. W. Saunders, Associate-Secretary of the Victorian Social Service Department, has supplied appropriate copy for this special issue.

P. Retchford has left for U.S.A., following evangelistic service with the N.S.W. churches. The Asquith-Hornsby circuit farewelled him at a social evening on July 17.

Melbourne churches have suffered severe losses in recent weeks in the sudden homelike call to workers of the calibre of G. Hing, H. Trathen (both of Reservoir church), and B. J. Kemp (Essendon). An obituary in this issue shows the wide range of Grenville Hing's activities, while Mr. Trathen had only just completed devoted service as church secretary. B. J. Kemp had also served as a church secretary at Essendon, and was always a man of keen brotherhood activities and sympathies.

At the annual business meeting of Thornbury church, Vic., F. N. Lee, with sec., treas., B.S. supt. and 8 auxiliaries presented heartening reports. Membership has increased, with corresponding spiritual gain and warm fellowship. Treasurer's report indicated that members' acceptance of stewardship has placed the church in a happy position. The church, therefore, had no hesitation in unanimously voting for the Mutual Ministry plan for a further year. The passing of Mrs. J. Aird breaks a link with the establishment of the church in the district. Mrs. Aird and her late husband were foundation members.

Victorian church secretaries who have received copies of a missionary booklet entitled "Out of the Uttermost," are advised that, through the courtesy of an anonymous donor, these are for free distribution. The booklet contains several brief essays written by Mary Finger, one of our valued missionaries in the New Hebrides.

Splendid weather and a large gathering marked the successful opening of a new school hall adjoining the Wingham church, N.S.W., on Saturday, July 18. Proceedings began with a thanksgiving service in the church, conducted by K. W. Barton. The gathering then moved to the door of

the hall where the building was solemnly dedicated. Mrs. M. C. Cross, one of the oldest members of the church, was called upon to turn the key and declare the building officially open. Further ceremonies took place in the hall itself, when representative speakers expressed congratulations to the members for their effort. The hall was erected by voluntary labor, and was opened free of debt.

Many expressions of sympathy have followed news of the death of David W. Chamberlain, of the Federal College of the Bible, on Saturday, July 25. He was student preacher of the church at Montrose, Vic., and was on his way to that district by motor cycle when he suffered his fatal accident. Mr. Chamberlain entered College from the church at Maylands, S.A., where the funeral was held on July 29. Principal Williams visited Adelaide in order to convey to parents and friends the deep sorrow of the College community. Mr. Chamberlain was the secretary of the College Literary Society.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Lowe and family have left Melbourne for Sydney, en route to Canada. Presentations were made at Brighton on July 26.

Church Programme Planning, Vic.

Over 100 men gathered for tea, at the invitation of the Victorian-Tasmanian H.M. Committee, in the Lygon-st. Lecture Hall on Thursday, July 30. The ladies, under Mrs. Lowrey's leadership, served what they themselves called their most ambitious venture yet for so many—a three-course hot meal. The men's appreciation was well expressed by Clive Ward, one of the new members of the H.M. Committee.

A. W. Cleland acted as chairman, in the absence of Committee chairman, K. A. Jones, absent in Queensland on Federal College matters. Welcomes were expressed to all metropolitan preachers and secretaries present, to Miss F. Haines, Conference secretary (the only lady "guest"),

and to K. Clinton, of Castlemaine (representing country churches).

The chairman briefly introduced the theme of church programme planning, while typed sheets setting out details of a proposed plan were distributed to all present. Four men, representing the Church Programme Planning sub-committee, then discussed various aspects in brief addresses.

Secretary B. J. Combridge spoke on "Here's a Planned Programme," and showed that this new venture for the H.M. Committee was an extension of the excellent service rendered by the now non-existent Crusade Committee. "We hope this will be a permanent service of the H.M. Committee," he added. "We must work and plan to make the Church what our Master would have it be."

"Use the Visitation Method," was S. Neighbour's theme. He emphasized "discovery" and "recovery" as key-words in the Church's programme, and urged consistent visitation by church members as underlining the importance of "recovery," or conservation of church membership.

N. R. Arnott was not quite sure whether his title, "Remember the Young Folk," was meant to have a question mark or not, but he was certain that the question mark would be there if we didn't consistently work with and for the young people. "64.5 per cent. of last year's additions in Victoria came from our Bible Schools," he said. "Only a specialist can look after dynamite, and young people are no less volatile. We must help them to find God for themselves, not just at second-hand."

F. N. Lee asserted that "Every Church needs a Planned Programme," and spoke of the heavily competitive field for Sunday night interests. "We must cultivate more the art of public relations, through personal contacts and printing," he declared. "We have to build up a new approach to people, and harness the manpower and womanpower of our churches into active work."

A vote of appreciation for the sub-committee's work, and general endorsement of the plan was carried. Conference President, Dr. G. H. Oldfield closed with prayer. Copies of the 3-unit programme (with details for Unit One) will be sent to all churches affiliated with Conference.

Over-all aim of the programme is that each church should increase its average attendance at the Lord's Table by 25 per cent. The first Unit extends Oct. 11-Dec. 20, with "worship" as the keynote; second unit, Feb. 7-Apr. 18 ("ministry"); and third, Apl. 25-June 6 ("commission").



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

NEW WORKERS FOR THE ISLANDS

PRAY FOR US.

My wife and I appreciate the privilege that is to be ours in taking the gospel to the people in the New Hebrides. We also appreciate the fact that we will represent a group of Christians who have always sought to share with the Saviour his compassion for a sinful world, and to capture the zeal of the early Church for his great missionary work.

Our going means for us the fulfilment of a mutual desire to obey the command of Christ, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," and actually to share in that great work of spreading his message of redeeming love for all mankind. When, over four years ago, I was made aware of the opportunity to prepare myself for this work, I considered that I had a legitimate reason for not accepting that opportunity. My wife helped me to realise that if this was of God, then nothing must stand in the way. Opportunity became a challenge, and we accepted what we believed to be his will for us.

We are confident that we will not be dependent merely upon our own resources, but that we shall know the reality of the promise of Christ to all who undertake his work, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

It is his work, and for that reason it is urgent. Jesus indicated the urgency of his work in the words, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." The world in which our Saviour worked was turbulent and dangerous. The enemy tried to harass him by harsh criticism and threats to his life but Christ never ceased to work, and to demonstrate at every opportunity the compassion of God for all in need.

There is need for us to share this sense of urgency to-day. We are facing a hostile force which is making deliberate efforts to arrest the spread of the gospel, and if possible

to destroy its influence. In some countries, missionaries have been forced to retreat. It is true that there is no actual retreat of the gospel—his servants may be forced to retire, but the work has been begun, and the Holy Spirit will continue to fire the hearts of men, and so keep the gospel in the attack. The urgency remains, however, because there is a need in areas not yet evangelised. We must work now, because night cometh when no man can work.

Our one desire in parting is that you will pray for us as we do the Saviour's work.—Owen Jones.

THE KING'S HIGHWAY.

More than a month ago now, we completed a road through the hills, to make it easier, and about 20 miles nearer to reach the next village of Kandve, about 4 miles from Bhose. Yesterday, we went out on the road after leaving Kandve. It is not a main road, mark you, but even so, a much better bullock cart track than it was before, and you can imagine the thrill we felt, when we were at least able to take our van over it in some comfort, such as one feels on bullock cart tracks, and we knew that local farmers were using the track, and saving repair bills on their carts. Not only this, but we feel that this is a new highway, whereby, after the rains have come to relieve the thirsty land, we can take the message of our Lord and Master to villages we have neglected so long.

On the first test trip over the hills we took old Shankerao, of Bhose, the first Christian there, who was as thrilled as we were, as well as Nilkant Jadhav and our preacher, Daniel Dongre, who had both played a big part in the construction of the road.

Besides being a blessing from this standpoint, the construction of the track caused widespread interest among the village people, so that many good contacts have already been made. Last night, at the government famine relief works, we showed pictures of our venture, as well as getting a good opportunity to show the life of Christ and to sell more than 30 portions of Scripture. May the Word go forth on this another extension of the King's Highway, the Highway of the "King of Love."—C. G. V. Thomas.

New Chapel at Mt. Evelyn, Vic.

On Sat., July 18, at 2.30 p.m., Dr. G. H. Oldfield turned the key and declared the new Mt. Evelyn church building open. The crowd of about 170 could not all get into the building, though all available seating room was occupied with borrowed seats and chairs.

A. H. Pratt (resident preacher) presided, and Dr. Oldfield dedicated the building, after which the doxology was sung. F. Youens (Gardiner) spoke, and Miss V. Barnden was soloist. F. Lee (Properties Corporation) made an appeal, and the total given reached £104/15/-, including gifts from as far as Queensland and Tasmania. Representative speakers included B. J. Combridge, R. Sandells, F. Rodgers (Council), Miss Niles (W.C.T.U.), and spokesmen for the local Ministers' Fraternal and citizens. The church secretary, Mr. Graham, spoke of the growth since the beginning of the cause in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pratt, in June, 1947, and thanked all who had helped in the erection of the building, especially F. Littlejohn and W. Fordham.

A basket tea and sing-song were happy preludes to a service in which L. A. Trezise spoke on youth work, and showed pictures of youth camps, as well as a sunset taken in color at Mt. Evelyn, and a church group. Radiators kept the congregation warm. Mrs. Isherwood (nee A. Leyshon) was soloist. Organists for the day were Mesdames Barnden, Sinclair and Gardiner.

W. Gale was morning speaker on the Sunday, and referred to an early visit to the church in the home of his "very dear friends"; and he congratulated them and the church on the fine building. A. H. Pratt spoke at the afternoon gospel service, when Mr. Gale presided. Mr. Graham (song leader) was soloist.

A recent church meeting decided to commence a Bible School on July 26 at 9.45 a.m. B. Thurrowgood was elected supt.; H. Graham, senr., sec.; and Mrs. A. H. Pratt acting kinder supt. Two organs have been presented to the church by Miss Thurrowgood and Mrs. Watkins, and a clock by Mrs. Pedley. The platform furnishings are borrowed. The church building would grace any suburb, and has a delightful look-out over the ranges, through a spacious clear glass window.—E. Pratt.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

Janelle Evans, Kingsford, N.S.W.
Pat and Victor Robinson, Blackburn, Vic.
Miss J. Orchard, M. Davey, S. Pearce, Caulfield, Vic.
Lorraine Winter, Malvern, Vic.
James Moar, Ian Barwick, Lindsay Francis, Lorraine Symons, Doris Welsh, Prospect, S.A.
Mrs. L. J. Manners, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Walshaw and Miss L. Griffiths, Inglewood, W.A.
R. Bavington, Kyneton, Vic.
Patricia Triplett, Berwick, Vic.
R. H. Mitchell, Middle Park, Vic.

Membership

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Marsden, from Inglewood, W.A., to Subiaco, W.A.
Miss G. Stockbridge, Bexley Nth., N.S.W.
Carolyn Sims, Lynnette Bunning, Caulfield, Vic.
Wilma Simpson, East Malvern, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Bradshaw and John, from Hobart, Tas., to Prospect, S.A.
Miss Beth Grosvenor, Prospect, S.A.
Miss E. J. Moffatt, from Subiaco, W.A., to Inglewood, W.A.
Mrs. D. King, from Dulwich, S.A., to Inglewood, W.A.
Mrs. S. Prossor, Red Hill, Vic.
T. Dingwall, from Scotland, to Middle Park, Vic.
T. Blair, Wingham, N.S.W.
Miss Enniss (wrongly inserted as Mrs. Enniss in last issue), from Camberwell, Vic., to Carnegie, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

B. Ward, Caulfield, Vic.
M. Plunkett, Prospect, S.A.
Herbert K. Trathen, Reservoir, Vic.
Mrs. J. Aird, Thornbury, Vic.
F. T. Slade, Gawler, S.A.
H. Greene, Middle Park, Vic.
G. Hing, Reservoir, Vic.
B. J. Kemp, Essendon, Vic.

Western Australia

Claremont (J. E. Gough).—Active membership now stands at 54. Average attendances over last six weeks are: a.m., 45; and p.m., 40. Weekly offerings average more than £20. New auxiliaries include ladies' choir, J.C.E. and C.M.F. Y.M. have team entered in basketball association. Teacher training lectures in June proved helpful. Men have been attending classes to fit them better for service at Lord's Table. Ladies raised £17 at recent jumble sale. All auxiliaries are in good heart. Church rejoices in recovery of T. Smillie.

Kalgoorlie (H. E. Greenwood).—Further decision has been made. Dutch couple confessed Christ recently. Meetings have been bright with increased numbers breaking bread. Church appreciates messages and fellowship of W. R. Hibburt. Combined Overseas offering and Indian Food Appeal totalled £35. M.B. held successful concert and stall. After careful study of matter church has decided to appoint elders.

Cottesloe (E. J. Sewell).—Gospel meeting was inspiration on July 19, when Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hibburt visited church. Girls' and boys' clubs were well represented. Mrs. Yeomans was welcomed after long absence through accident. Fellowship is enjoyed with Miss B. Galloway, who has completed nursing course in Melbourne. Presentation was made on July 26 to Mr. and Mrs. R. Nelson, who are leaving district. All auxiliaries and youth activities are functioning well.

Subiaco (R. Raymond).—Services have been well attended in spite of wintry conditions. One married man recently made decision, and two have been added by letter. Scholars of intermediate department were guests of teachers at tea in hall, and afterwards attended gospel service on July 5. B.S. is well attended, and most capably led by F. J. Stephenson. Thursday evening services are rich in spiritual value. Church has purchased duplicator. Offering for Indian Famine Relief exceeded £14, and first day for Overseas offering exceeded £33.

Inglewood (G. Smith).—During June, week of visitation reached 90 homes. Week's special meetings, which followed, were conducted by Mr. Fisher. G. Ewers was song leader. Church appreciated willingness of Lake-st. to release minister. One confession was taken during mission, and

three the following Sunday. Work is moving forward, and all meetings are well attended.

New South Wales

Bexley North (R. W. Saunders).—On July 12, K. Fennell (Hornsby) exchanged with minister for morning service. On 19th, Family service was conducted, with help of B.S. teachers and children. L. C. Yelds and C. Baker spoke on B.S. teacher's work and value of B.S. to children. Miss W. Everett was soloist, and G. Saunders conducted song service. Minister gave illustrated address. Mrs. Larcombe addressed Ladies' Fellowship on 9th on work of Ashwood House. J.C.E. social, musical variety evening and car drive to Camden, "the Rotolactor" have been held to aid Building Fund. J.C.E., W.F. and Girls' Physical Culture Club have reached their quotas towards £500 appeal. Work on new building has commenced.

Kingsford (A. G. Elliott, M.A., B.Sc., Dip. Ed.).—At missionary youth tea on July 5 Miss M. Sephton was speaker. In gospel service, 4 Y.P. presented Mission feature. D. Jenner was soloist. 22 scholars sat for scripture exam., conducted by N.S.W. Youth Dept. J.C.E. did well in State C.E. Question Box Exam. G. Elliott 96, F. Elliott 93, P. Martens 93, G. Zambra 82, M. Martens 81, and B. Zambra 76 gained credits. Many visitors attended baptismal service on July 12. Mr. Larcombe spoke at recent morning service.

Wingham (K. W. Barton, L.Th.).—Thanksgiving service was held on morning of July 19. A high percentage of members attended the recent annual business meeting of the church. R. H. Budden and K. W. Germon were re-elected secretary and treasurer respectively. Miss D. Germon was elected organist, and Gordon Norling B.S. supt. Reports indicated progress and a happy spirit. A piano for the new school hall and an electric urn have been purchased. Several new scholars have been added to the Bible school.

Inverell (E. F. G. McIlhagger).—H. Green (U.A.M.) spoke to good attendance at morning service on July 26. Overseas offering was over £50. Good Companions' club for girls, 8 to 14 years, has commenced on Thursday afternoons. Preacher has commenced monthly song service and supper, featuring Sankey hymns after evening service. K. Abrahams (Sydney) was recent visitor.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Hornsby (K. R. Fennell).—E. W. Roffey (Lane Cove) was guest speaker at monthly fellowship tea on July 26. Preacher conducted gospel meeting, and Misses J. Bishop and P. Hynes rendered duet. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Bishop, Misses H. and E. Tewksbury, Mrs. Smith (Tuggerah) and Mrs. Thurrowgood (Adelaide) in passing of uncle, P. W. Tewksbury (Melbourne). Recent speakers were Messrs. Bartholomew, K. Fennell, B. Roberts and R. Saunders.

Earlwood (G. H. Benjamin).—On July 26 one young lady confessed Christ. On 12th, Miss Vawser spoke at Y.F., and again at gospel service. Most of work still to be done on new hall will be by voluntary labor. H. Hudson has completed plastering walls and J. Donnelly, A. Gabb, B. Tabbett, J. Werner, F. Strickland and others have done much work. Church has been helped by exhortations from D. McMillan, E. Oswald, F. Sparks and R. Jones. Recent visitors have included Mrs. A. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. J. Jones and Mr. and Mrs. F. Chave.

South Australia

Grote-st., Adelaide (Claude Candy).—Attendances, particularly at gospel service have been good during cold weather. At monthly youth service on July 5, four were baptised, two of whom were received into church at Nth. Adelaide. Three more Y.P. have made decisions. Present membership is 195, a gain of 11 for year. Annual O.M. offering is all time record. £270 has been received to date. L.M.B. contributed £79. Many parcels and an amount of money have been sent to India in response to Famine appeal. Adult B.C. on Sunday afternoon is popular. 25 attend this class, and many older members are encouraged to attend. C.E. "Flying Squad" continues to serve in homes of sick and aged, and seeks to win others to Lord by witness and visitation to homes of people. Many contacts are being made. Mr. Candy has been inducted as Pres. of State Union of C.E.

Kilburn (H. G. Norris).—Mrs. Linford was soloist on July 26. B.S. attendance was 202. Mr. Norris was granted two weeks' sick leave. Mr. Hollard has agreed to arrange speakers. C.Y.F. plans to meet fortnightly instead of monthly because of interest of Y.P. Dean Lawrence and Marie Holdsworth suffered injuries at basketball, and needed medical treatment. Plans for tent mission are in hand.

Prospect (K. Patterson, B.A., B. Com.).—Progress has been made on hall, and it is hoped to open it in August. Ladies' Guild visited Gepps

Cross migrant hostel on July 22, and provided entertainment for ladies who attended. Books and magazines were distributed. Some members conducted visitation evangelism on 20th and 21st with help of Mr. Hollard in preparation for two week mission. Y.P.'s work is encouraging. Mr. Bradshaw is welcome addition to I.C.E. leaders.

Whyalla (K. N. Roberts).—B.S. anniversary was held on July 19 and 26. G. R. Stirling showed films to scholars and parents on 18th, and conducted services on 19th. Minister presented prizes to kinders, and Mr. Nicholls (Methodist) to B.S. on 26th. All anniversary meetings were well attended. Ladies' Fellowship took active part in combined concert to entertain the aged on 23rd. Mr. Leggo is home on leave prior to departing for U.K. Grading is completed on recently purchased block. Visitors included Miss R. Pickup and T. Edge.

Gawler (G. Rootes).—On July 19 preacher at gospel service was E. P. C. Hollard, and soloist W. Philp. On 26th 35 attended monthly fellowship tea prior to gospel service, after which Conf. Pres., G. R. Stirling, preached to 50 present. Men's choir sang. Retiring offering of £7 was taken for Morialta Protestant Children's Home. During month A. R. Jones (Social Service Dept.) spoke to C.E. and friends on work of C.F.A. Offering of over £4 was given to Social Service. Annual offering for overseas work was £28. Food and cash donations for food for India appeal reached over £16.

Victoria

Brighton (C. G. Taylor, B.A.).—W. S. Lowe gave farewell addresses on evening of July 19 and morning of 26th prior to family leaving for Canada. Mesdames V. Le Page, L. Williams and C. Emmett have made good progress after operations. Women's Fellowship re-elected Mrs. Youens, pres., and Mrs. Davey, sec., with other office-bearers. B.S. is now using renovated hall. Overseas offering was £176.

Hartwell (H. J. Patterson, M.A.).—Church is undertaking additional year's quota to help establish work at Canberra. Average breaking bread for June was 140, although some members have been ill. K. Jones gave appreciated message on July 5. Church sympathises with Mrs. Sparnon in sudden home-call of husband. Attractive book-case, to be used in kinder hall, has been given by Mr. and Mrs. Bell as memorial to daughter, Shirley, who served in B.S. some years ago. B.C. of over 40 and friends had day in snow at Donna Buang on July 18. K. Gerrand is showing im-

provement after hospital treatment. Y.W.F. organised jumble sale in Camberwell Town Hall, and netted over £50. Recent visitors have included Mrs. Taylor, snr., Mr. and Mrs. R. Taylor and Mrs. Salmons (Lane Cove, N.S.W.), and Mrs. Walters (Maryborough, Vic.).

Oakleigh (J. W. Lewis).—Dr. Duff-Forbes was speaker at morning service on July 5. G. Grainger (Springvale) spoke on July 12. Preacher gave gospel addresses. There were two decisions. Musical programme was presented by Mrs. J. Lewis, at Y.W.F. meeting, held at home of Mrs. F. Gillespie. Members of I.O.R. were present at evening service on July 19, when there were 3 decisions.

Blackburn (S. Neighbour).—On July 26 Temple Day was held to celebrate 49th anniversary of church. Wonderful fellowship was enjoyed by past and present members at three meetings and around tea table. Inspiring messages were given by Stanton Wilson, J. E. Brooke, W. Nankivell (tea table), and Mr. Neighbour. Soloists were Hylton Williams, Miss F. Cowper and Neil McCann. Offering amounted to £145. New carpets add to attractiveness of building. Mrs. Lowen was able to attend after long illness. P.B.P. took part in evening service on July 19, and Mrs. Ploog led induction of new office-bearers. Peg Davis and Dorothy Bluhm gained 2nd and 3rd prizes in P.B.P. handwork competition.

Red Cliffs (C. L. Lang).—Women's Fellowship held annual meeting on July 23. £215 has been raised for year ending June 30. Officers appointed were: pres., Mrs. C. L. Lang; vice-pres., Mrs. H. J. Cook and Mrs. A. Taylor; sec. and acting treas., Mrs. Sprigg; pianiste, Mrs. H. J. Cook. Ladies held "Pulling Out" day on S. Milne's property, and made about £11.

Burnley (Hylton D. Sedgman).—Average communicants for June was 48. On May 31 men's tea was held, with 24 present. Service was taken by Mr. Buckmaster (Gardiner). Boys' club conducted camp on June 6 and 7. During evening service 3 lads were baptised, and 3 more Y.M. made decision. B.S. is conducting rally, and is growing. On June 16 Good Companions held birthday social, under Mrs. Rusden's guidance. On July 10 boys' club conducted gymnasium display. Annual meeting on July 8 elected following officers: sec., F. Barnett; treas., L. Cockrell; deacons, L. Cunningham, D. Climas, J. McCartin.

Woorinen (R. A. Banks).—Addresses and visitation of minister are appreciated. B.S. has changed from

afternoon to 9.45 a.m., with increasing results. About 35 children and 4 teachers attend. Senior Berean Club commenced on July 15 with 20 Y.P. On 17th several Y.P. went to Ultima to join Swan Hill and Ultima Y.P. in social. Renovation of chapel will be completed shortly. Mrs. G. A. Mott is holidaying in Qld. D. A. Cockroft is home after operation.

Prahran (Lloyd Jones).—Good attendances have continued, with several strangers attending. Several members have been ill, and church prays for Mr. Niel, who has meningitis. C.M.F. held meeting on July 10, when speaker was Detective-In-spector North. Young ladies of C.Y.F. met to work for children in hospital. W.M.B. met on 20th, when Mrs. English was speaker, and Mrs. Burns soloist. There have been several new scholars in B.S.

North Richmond (R. C. McKenzie).—Minister has completed series of morning addresses on Ten Commandments. Following special evening services, attendances are showing marked improvement. Favorite hymn night was held on June 7, and *Dust or Destiny* was screened on 14th. Mr. Sparks spoke on morning of 21st, and in evening two C.O.B. students gave real life stories. B.S. scholars are showing keen interest in football competition being conducted by V. Gordon. Two Y.P. and preacher attended tea at South Yarra on 29th, when representatives from 7 inner suburban churches decided to form Central Suburban Youth Fellowship. Senior girls' club is preparing for Cinderella mannequin parade.

Red Hill (N. Gilmore).—Annual meeting elected W. Torney (sec.), M. Wright (treas.), N. Brown, V. Holmes, R. Holmes, C. White and A. Salmon (deacons), B. Prosser and R. Holmes (auditors), Mrs. J. Kirby and Miss M. Andrew (co-organists), Mrs. H. Holmes (Y.W.L. pres.), Mrs. A. Salmon (Y.W.L. sec.), and J. Kirby (B.S. supt.). On July 26, N. Gilmore welcomed Mrs. S. Prosser back into church membership. Social service offering was received in evening. Mrs. R. Holmes has returned from visit to N.S.W. Morning attendance has been well maintained during month.

Belmont (D. R. Stirling).—Enjoyable social was held on July 25. New members from mission were welcomed, and each presented with copy of N.T. by E. Mitchell. Thanks was extended on behalf of church members to all who assisted with building of chapel, and for gifts, also to those who worked to make mission a success. Electric urn has been purchased. Increased attendances are encouraging, and B.S. is growing. Mrs.

Melhuish entered hospital, and Mrs. Scurrie has returned home from hospital.

Hampton (Stanton H. Wilson).—In absence of preacher at Blackburn, R. Griffiths spoke on July 26. P.S.A. was held same day. Church appreciated help of C.E. Quartet, R. Killmiller (piano accordion), Loris Eddy (piano), and speaker, A. E. White. Offering was received for carpet fund. H. Maunder is progressing after leaving hospital. Ladies' auxiliary is preparing for fete later in year. Good Companions have created competition for efficiency within club.

Kyneton (W. Bennett).—Record overseas offering was £31. During last three Sundays a married couple and three senior B.S. scholars have made decision. Large group of Y.P. attended youth rally at Castlemaine on July 11. Mrs. M. Andrews is recovering from injury. Boys' club has been formed.

Reservoir (R. E. Burns).—H. K. Trathen passed away suddenly on July 22. He had just resigned after period of 19 years as initial church sec., and was about to move to Mitcham. Annual meeting revealed year of progress and blessing. Those elected were: elders, Messrs. Allison and Johnson; deacons, Messrs. Booth, Baker, Newstead, Whittaker (treas.), and Haniford (sec.); organists, Mrs. Bagot and D. Baker; pianist, Miss M. Burns; deaconesses, Mesdames Garrett and Notman. Building committee was formed to investigate improvements and expansion. Morning service averages over 60, and evening has reached 70 and over. On 19th first of regular film services was held, when over 120 were present.

North Fitzroy (A. O. S. Baker).—Three members have been welcomed into church after baptismal service on June 21. B.C. conducted evening service on July 5. Family social was held on 11th. Invitations were sent to all B.S. parents. On 19th family service was conducted. Attendance at these meetings was encouraging. C.E. Quartet conducted service on 26th. There were three decisions. Minister has commenced second year of ministry. Another youth programme has commenced on Wednesday evening for Y.P. over 14 years. All auxiliaries are working for sale to pay off manse. Overseas offering was £30, and Indian famine appeal, £36.

Middle Park (J. Plummer).—Minister's messages are appreciated. On July 12, Mrs. C. Francis was soloist. B.S. has commenced anniversary practice under Mrs. Plummer. Several members are ill. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Hewins in loss of father.

BIRTH.

WOFF (nee Gibbons).—On July 26, at Dandenong, to Eula and Mac.—a daughter (Lynette, sister for Robert).

DEATHS.

CHAMBERLAIN.—On July 25, David, much loved friend of Mrs. Smith and Don (Hawthorn), Jean (Mrs. R. Stirling, E. Preston), Jack (Mitcham).

"To know David was to love him."

CHAMBERLAIN.—In loving memory of our dear friend and servant, David, who was called home on July 25. His was a full service, and the officers and members of the Montrose church mourn his passing, but will always remember him, for he died in service for Christ.

"Some time we will understand."

MEYER.—On July 26, at his residence, 6 Weeroona-rd., Murrumbena, Albert, loved brother of Rose (Mrs. Cantwell), late of Berwick.

"For ever with the Lord."

IN MEMORIAM.

DOWNS.—In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother, who was called to her heavenly home on Aug. 6, 1945. Always remembered by her daughter and son-in-law, H. and L. Annetts, and grand-daughter Merle.

"Resting where no shadows fall."

McINNES.—Loving memories of my dear wife Florrie, who passed away at Reservoir, Aug. 7, 1951. Loving mother of Horrie, Pearl (Mrs. Alcorn), Bette (Mrs. Richards). Sadly missed. Two long years, dear.

—Wal.

CASLEY.—Treasured memories of my darling husband and our dear father, passed away August 5, 1952.

—Inserted by his loving wife, Lil, family and grand-children.

ENGAGEMENT.

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Goudie, of Wallacedale, have pleasure in announcing the engagement of their second daughter, June Annette, to Harold James, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Bannam, Gray-st., Hamilton.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE.

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OBITUARY

Grenville Hing.

Suddenly called home on June 30, Grenville Hing, of Reservoir, Vic., will be much missed by church and brotherhood. Aged 48, he was the son of William Hing, a foundation member of the Queensberry-st. Chinese Mission. He grew up in the Northcote church, being baptised when 15. He became sec. of the local C.E. Union, B.S. supt. (7 years), and deacon (11 years). After his marriage to Mabel Fisher in 1942, he moved to Reservoir, where he served as B.S. supt., B.C. leader, deacon (later elder), vice-pres. and pres. of Northern District Conference, anniversary song-leader at Reservoir and Northcote, leader of youth choir, and often spoke at services. More than 200 from all sections of the community crowded the chapel for the service, conducted by R. E. Burns (preacher), W. T. Atkin (Social Service), and J. Plummer (Middle Park). 24 members of youth choir formed a guard of honor as the casket was carried from the chapel. At Fawkner cemetery a huge assemblage again paid witness to the passing of a fine Christian. The writer conducted the service at the graveside, and was assisted by W. Graham (Northcote). Both Northcote and Reservoir churches extend sympathy to Mrs. Hing and her young family and relatives.—R. E. Burns.

Bruce Ward.

On July 19, at the Austin Hospital, Vic., Bruce Ward, of Bamba-rad, church, Vic., fell asleep in the Lord after a long painful sickness. Our brother was a patient sufferer, and bore suffering with great fortitude. He was a good man and a faithful servant of Christ. He was a quiet, unassuming disciple, and although he never took any active part in church worship, was regular at the house of God. There was a large gathering of relatives, friends and workmates at the chapel, where a service was held, prior to leaving for the Springvale crematorium. Beautiful floral tributes were an indication of the high esteem in which our brother was held. We will miss him greatly. To his wife and relatives we tender our deepest sympathy.—E. J. Miles.

Fred. Tyndale Slade.

On July 2, F. T. Slade passed away suddenly to be with his Lord. Our brother was a most faithful and greatly beloved member of the church at Gawler, S.A., being baptised during the ministry of E. J. Miles. He capably filled the office of deacon for many years, until his death. He was always found in church on the Lord's



"A Darling Theme"

By EVA JEAN WRATHER.

In 1839 Alexander Campbell wrote a series of articles on the "Union of Christians," which, he wrote, "(is) with me ever a darling theme"; and it is perhaps in his development of this theme that he gives the greatest challenge to the Church of to-day. If, in some quarters, he is nonetheless denied the high place he merits in the history of ecumenical Christianity, it is due in great measure to the currency of two popular but fallacious lines of reasoning in the interpretation of the man and his work.

The first maintains that there were really two Alexander Campbells—the destructive iconoclast of the Christian Baptist, and the constructive master builder of the *Millennial Harbinger*—with the inference that the former somehow contradicts and dims the lustre of the latter. Actually, first and last, he followed a consistent course, and he never uttered wiser or stronger statements on Christian love and co-operation than he did as editor of the *Christian Baptist*. In fact, his famous "Lunenburg Letter" published in the *Harbinger* of 1837 nowhere excels and in some respects does not equal the pungent challenge to unity of the "Letter to an Independent Baptist," which he wrote for his first little magazine eleven years earlier, and in which he up-

braids his separatist correspondent with the caustic words:

"Dear Sir, this plan of making our own nest, and fluttering over our own brood; of building our own tent, and of confining all goodness and grace to our noble selves and the 'elect few' who are like us, is the quintessence of sublime pharisaism."

If the editor of the *Christian Baptist* so relentlessly attacked the evils of the Church, it was because he loved the Church so much, and this he saw clearly: that if the new temple of purity, liberty, and unity was to be built, the people must first be aroused to destroy the old temple of corruption, tyranny and superstition.

The second fallacy in interpretation lies in the reasoning that Thomas Campbell is our great apostle of unity and that, therefore, the ecumenical voice of the Disciples would have been the stronger had Alexander never attained the rôle of leadership. Certainly, no just critic would wish to reduce by an inch the stature of Thomas Campbell as a Christian statesman. He spoke the beautiful, wonderful, fraternal words that laid the foundation of love and trust on which any superstructure of Christian unity must be built. But in drawing the plans of that superstructure his hand became less sure, his words indefinite, even vague.

It was the younger Campbell, more practical, more realistic, who dared face the hard fact that if there is to be a united Church, that Church will have to be defined in terms of its faith, its ministry, its sacraments, its order of worship. Here the difficulties and the differences begin, of course. To-day, we may not accept all of Alexander Campbell's conclusions. But those scholars and churchmen who have struggled with the problems of "faith and order" at Lausanne and Edinburgh, and on the present committees of the World Council must applaud the courage of Campbell's attempt at their solution.

(From an article by Miss Wrather, of Nashville, Tennessee, on "Alexander Campbell on the 'Union of Christians,'" in the *Christian-Evangelist*, 27/5/53. Next week's "Frontiers" will have Miss Wrather's estimation of the lasting value of Alexander Campbell's contribution to Unity.)

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

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7 p.m.: Fellowship in the Gospel.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 7.45 p.m.

Reunion Rally.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 7.45 p.m.

Brotherhood Missionary Rally.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2 p.m.

Ladies' Guild "Annual."

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 7.45 p.m.

Youth Rally—

Drama: "The Carpenter."

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 7.45 p.m.

Social Reunion.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23.

11 a.m.: Communion.

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F. V. Brown, Central Board, C.M.S.

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Since its inception, the Department has brought hope, relief, and comfort to countless folk, and has manifested the true spirit of Jesus, when he said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

We find it in our hearts to wish that many more of us had the same forward look, the same vision, the



W. H. Clay

"Leading Light in Social Service."

same faith in the ability of our Heavenly Father to supply all our needs, and the same dogged persistence and diligence in bringing to a successful conclusion that to which we have set our hands, as the man who has been the leading light in Social Service, and those who have been his assistants and helpers.

We find in our hearts also a prayerer that what this fine Department has done for our churches in its progress over 27 years, may be such an inspiration to us, that we shall all be enthused, have our zeal renewed and our faith strengthened, and shall be able to render greater service to the Christ our King.

The writer extends to Social Service thanks for advice and help given in many ways over a number of years, and urges that all church members

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N.T. Social Ideals

F. Langford, Aborigines' Committee.

Our reading of the New Testament
should leave no doubt in our minds
that therein is expressed a strong
social conscience. The Sermon on the
Mount presents a vital social content.
Jesus in all his teaching was con-
cerned for "the whole of life." In
the parable of the Good Samaritan,
Christian love is revealed—love that
knows no limits of race, and asks no
questions. The early Church, as de-
scribed in Acts, recognises the social
implications of the Christian gospel
in its organisation and practice.

It would seem that this aspect of
Christ's teaching is not taken to
heart by many to-day. An evidence
of this is the state of the aboriginal
people of this land. They have not
been included in our economic, indus-
trial and social life. They live in
pitiable conditions. In many instances
their environment is a blot on our
civilisation. The Church of Jesus
Christ surely has a responsibility to-
ward these people—to change their
environment and bring to them the
life and light of the gospel of Christ.

Our Social Service Department has
felt this responsibility. It has made
valuable contributions to the abori-
ginal work in Victoria. In the wider
sphere it is ever alive to the issues
of our national life. This Depart-
ment endeavors to present the gospel
in action as it fights social scourges.
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lege to find a solution to the problems
of people, however complex those pro-
blems might seem. A real service is
rendered to the whole brotherhood by
this Department in the performance
of her tasks, as it seeks thereby to
make concrete and real the social
ideals of the New Testament.

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