

Fraser

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

### *E. C. Hinrichsen Ill*

The church at Gawler, S.A., was in the midst of a mission with the Hinrichsen-Brooker team when Mr. Hinrichsen suddenly collapsed with a heart seizure. To that time 12 had decided for Christ. P. R. Baker, who preaches at Edwardstown, stepped into the breach, and is carrying the mission through to its end. Mr. Hinrichsen is in Gawler hospital, and it will be some long time before he is well again.



### *Projected Building Drive*

The Federal Aborigines Mission Board has drawn up plans for two new dormitory buildings on the Missions, one at Norseman and one at Carnarvon, and has made application to the Western Australian Government for financial assistance for the cost of materials.

Subject to this financial assistance being granted, it is planned to organise two building drives, one for Norseman in February, and one for Carnarvon in March of next year. These will require two separate teams. Two building contractors have already promised their services, one for each job, to take charge of the work.

This announcement is made so that men may look forward to the project, and make plans to help. We were greatly encouraged by the response for

last building drive, and believe that the men of our churches will rise to the occasion again. It is a great challenge and a great experience for all who are able to go. All enquiries will be gladly answered, and full information given. The contribution of labor in the erection of the Mission properties is very valuable in a monetary sense, but it is also a spiritual investment of great importance.

It could perhaps be suggested that Eastern States men concentrate their thinking on the Norseman drive in February, as Norseman is over 1,000 miles nearer to them than Carnarvon. Travelling time and costs would thus be saved.

### *107th Anniversary*

Grote-st. church, Adelaide, S.A., celebrated its 107th anniversary on Oct. 4 and 5, with J. Turner (Moreland) as guest speaker. A feature of splendid gatherings was the choir's Sunday afternoon presentation of *David the Shepherd Boy*, when nearly 400 were present, and an offering was received to assist the purchase of a new organ. Happy fellowship was enjoyed at a well attended family social on the Monday evening. Full quota has been contributed to the Canberra Fund. Mr. and Mrs. C. Belle have celebrated their golden wedding.



Group of Canberra church members and visitors after first worship service following laying of foundation stone, Sept. 5.



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

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



When I consider thy heavens, the  
work of thy fingers, the moon and  
the stars, which thou hast ordained;  
what is man that thou art mindful  
of him? and the son of man that  
thou visitest him? . . . Behold, the  
nations are as a drop of a bucket, and  
are counted as the small dust of the  
balance: behold he taketh up the isles  
as a very little thing. . . . All nations  
before him are as nothing; and they  
are counted to him less than nothing,  
and vanity. . . . The inhabitants of  
the earth are as grasshoppers.—Ps.  
8: 3, 4; Is. 40: 15, 17, 22.

We have all mastered the truth of  
man's importance and significance in  
the universe. His achievements are  
truly immense. But there is another  
truth which seems to me relevant just  
now. It is that man is a very small  
creature . . . and there is the glory  
of man's utter dependence on God. . .  
For myself, I feel comfort in man's  
littleness. I dream of God's mighty  
architect-plans, and am challenged to  
a faith of equal dimension. I refuse  
to be cast down by the thought of  
even a world in ruins. What is that  
in the perspective of God's purposes?  
Nor need I lie awake at night won-  
dering how on earth things are going  
to work out. God is the responsible  
Person. Christ is the Redeemer. Deity  
is at work on a scale far, far beyond  
my puny imagination. An ant is not  
responsible for St. Paul's, let alone  
what lies beyond it. Wherefore let me  
manfully tackle my crack in the  
masonry, go on my way, live my little  
life and rest.—Leslie D. Weatherhead.

Almighty God our Father, thou  
Creator who dost care for the least  
of thy creation, whose strength is still  
made perfect in weakness, forgive our  
anxious fears and selfish strivings.  
Help us truly to commit all our ways  
unto thee, and, keeping ourselves in  
thy love, serve thee with strong faith  
and undefeatable hope. In the name  
of Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Peace, perfect peace, our future all  
unknown?

Jesus we know, and he is on the  
throne.

—E. H. Bickersteth.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



# THE UNPREDICTABLE CHRIST

**L**IFE was cheap, and changes swift and sudden in that pagan world wherein the Christian faith first fought for survival. But converts centred their faith in "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever." Believing in him, they were unafraid. On him they could utterly depend.

Yet, strangely enough, the men who had known Jesus of Nazareth in the flesh had found him anything but "the same." Obviously, he puzzled even his friends. They could never be sure, not even John, who sometimes seemed so close to him, what he would say or do next. No men were more startled than they, for example, when he rebuked them for their well-meant attempt to send the children away. Surely a great teacher should be saved from peasant urchins and their sticky, clutching fingers. But he thought otherwise. His enemies found him equally unpredictable. Some soon gave up their condescending habit of inviting him to supper; this strange guest said the most unexpected and uncomfortable things. Their snobbish code of social manners meant nothing to him.

Nor did men's attempts to make him fit into the pattern of their planning. For him the will of his Father God was supreme, and all the

## TIMING

of his life's events was dependent on obedience to that will. On any human reckoning, his life was hopelessly bungled. His birth was unnoticed, save by a handful whose memories of angels' song and guiding star grew dim within those thirty years before men heard of Jesus of Nazareth. And when at last they swarmed to hear him, and the mob was his for the leading, incredibly he sent them away. He puzzled men with talk about "my hour . . . not yet come." He said the wrong things at the wrong times, so far as any help from the religious leaders was concerned. It was hardly to be wondered at that when his "hour" finally came, he was on a cross between two thieves—after little more than three years of active ministry. Any modern "tour manager" could have done better for the Son of God than that. He certainly would not have left the disciples still puzzled in the presence of the risen Christ, "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Looking back now we see that of course God was right. It was "the fulness of time" when

he sent his Son, as many surveys of that ancient world have shown. That training at Nazareth brought him close to the heart of the people he was to save. Surrender to the mob would have been as fatal as it has always been to a man's truest self. The cross was the way to man's salvation, and the full revelation of the love of God.

All this we see clearly now. But, oddly enough, there are still Christians trying to fit Christ into their own pattern of events—of the future now, not of the past. "Will he come soon?" they ask, as naively as the disciples questioned their risen Lord. We still need to hear him say, "It is not for you to know the times and the seasons." God's timing is unpredictable—but sure!

Moreover, there was always a surprise element about the

## TEACHING

of Jesus. The first staggering thing was his choice of those who were to be his closest confidants. There wasn't a man among them with any real religious or social influence. That was sufficient to damn him from the outset with most of his nation's leaders. No "friend of publicans and sinners" could be Messiah.

"Never man spake like this man" was true in more ways than one. The rabbis followed carefully tested formulae in their answers to men's questions, but this man said, "Ye have heard that it hath been said . . . *but I say unto you*"—and then followed teaching, breathtaking in its implications. Men who came to him expecting the usual answers were often shocked by the thrusting pointedness of his reply—the rich young ruler; the man seeking his aid in dividing an inheritance; even Peter, who was so obviously startled with the sweep of Jesus' response to his own self-consciously generous suggestion about forgiveness. Later his enemies tried to use this unpredictable quality to trap him into saying something they could use, but always it rebounded on them—as when they brought to him the woman taken in adultery, and were discomfited by this amazing man who scribbled in the dust and flung at them one biting, judging phrase.

It was precisely because he was such a Christ, bigger than all man's planning and systems of thought, that believers found him the unfailing centre of all their faith. And he is still the unpredictable Christ, staggering us, searching us, and—yes, thank God—saving us.



J. E. BROOKE, of Balwyn, Vic., finds a "wealth of goodness" in . . .

# The Challenging and Encouraging Christ

In the portrait of our Lord which the Gospels present, we see him varying in aspect from the severely challenging to the kindly encouraging. For instance, in the record in Mark, chapter 10, of his encounter with the rich young ruler, and his subsequent conversation with his disciples, we witness a swift transition from a clamant to a comforting temper.

## Strong Challenge

He had dealt rather rigorously with that young man. First, in response to his greeting, "Good Master," he bade him measure the real and full meaning of his words. Next, in reply to his question, "What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" he quoted the stern ethics of the commandments. Finally, upon his assurance that he had always observed these, came the piercing demand for complete renunciation of his wealth, its bestowment upon the poor, and his following the Master in full discipleship.

It is this challenge, which the rich young ruler turned down, that many, from those first days till now, have thrilled to take up. How many have gladly pledged themselves, in the strong spirit of the old prayer: "Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will." That was the spirit with which the first disciples responded to the Master's call.

Such an attitude, however, is not easy to maintain at all times. After hearing what his Master said to the rich young ruler, and his further strong warning as to the peril of riches, Peter broke in, "Lo, we have left all and followed thee." Did he say this in a kind of holy pride, contrasting himself favorably with the unwillingness of the others, or was it rather the expression of uncertainty, an effort after reassurance in the midst of all this challenging talk? Matthew's record adds to his claim, "Lo, we have left all and followed thee," the question, "What shall we have therefore?" which seems to introduce a note of anxious selfishness. In any case, his interjection shows that, like many of us very often, Peter had slipped in spirit, and was not, at this moment, on the highest level of discipleship.

Well, what will the attitude of Jesus be? Will he rebuke his disappointing disciple? Will he use the same high, demanding tone he has just used to the young ruler? No; now, instead of being the Challenger, Jesus becomes the Encourager. Why this change?

## Patient Understanding

Because I think he knew that what Peter said was true, however unworthy or wavering his accents; he had left all and followed him. It may not have been as much as the ruler would have had to leave, but it was his all, and he had left it. Jesus also knew that his followers, however strongly committed and loyal in intention, would have their seasons of reaction, when doubts and misgivings come into the mind. The old selfish attitudes die hard, and often try to reassert themselves. So he was tender with Peter; and the first part of the encouragement he gave him was just the knowledge that he understood what he was thinking and feeling.

And isn't that what he often does for us? However bravely we started out, we somehow drift, down to a lower level, our motives get all mixed up, we are filled with doubts and with dispeace, and we sometimes wonder whether we are Christians at all any more. When we come to such a pass, our salvation from despair and hope of renewal is in the patient understanding of our Lord. "If our heart condemn us, he is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." From our failures we appeal to his understanding — "Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that we love thee."

## Glorious Promise

Beyond his understanding, however, Jesus encouraged his disciple with a great—we might almost call it—an extravagant promise. "There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake and the gospel's, but he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time . . . and in the world to come eternal life." The promise has been proved true by dedicated disciples in every age. Every sacrifice made for

Christ's sake leads to immeasurably enriched fellowship, heightened appreciation, and spiritual enlargement. Everything we put willingly into God's hand, he gives back to us in fairer form and magnified measure. And then, beyond the abounding blessings of this life, stretch out the limitless horizons of life eternal.

Is there not really something embarrassing about such a stupendous assurance? I can imagine Peter dropping his eyes and shaking his head, crying, "It's too much, Lord, too much. Such generosity is so great that it hurts."

If we are really Christians, truly consecrated to the Master, even in our worst weariness and darkest depression, we do not need a great deal of encouragement to set us up again. Dr. A. J. Cronin tells of a certain District Nurse whose example was one of the great inspirations of his life. "For nearly twenty years," he writes, "she had worked single-handed in this district—a ten-mile round, a never-ending day. I marvelled at her fortitude, her patience, her cheerfulness. She was never too tired at night to rise for an urgent call. Her salary was most inadequate, and late one night, after a particularly strenuous day, I ventured to protest to her. 'Nurse,' I said, 'why don't you make them pay you more? God knows you're worth it!' She smiled. 'Doctor,' she said, 'if God knows I'm worth it, that's all that matters to me.' In a flash, I sensed the rich significance of her life, and the comparative emptiness of my own."

We only need a little encouragement; how typical it is of Christ to give us far more than we need. This multiplication of mercies—all this, and heaven, too. With what a wealth of goodness he sweeps us out of our solemn smallness. A little experience of this wondrous grace of God—and who of us has not known it?—and we are ashamed that ever we doubted, and are lost in the wonder of how we can ever thank him enough.

## "With Persecutions"

Even in the gladness of this glorious promise, however, Christ still strikes the stern note of realism. The "hundredfold" of blessing—"houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children and lands"—is to be "with persecutions." But is there not en-

(continued at foot of next column.)

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# WOMEN

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

## Topic for November

### THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN ASIA

Mrs. A. E. White, Nth. Essendon, Vic.

In one of the closing addresses of the Mission to the Nation, Alan Walker said, "Australia is not a European, but a Pacific Power, and her future depends on building bridges with Asia." Politicians, military advisers and other public leaders are constantly telling us the same story.

Since ancient times, Asian women have been given a much lower place in society than Western women. At the lowest end of the scale was the Moslem woman, who was deprived of almost all human rights. At best, she was a man's plaything, more often she was his slave or one of his animals. Other Eastern religions kept women in varying degrees of subjugation, with the exception of the Buddhist cult, which improved the position of women, taught that they were individuals and not men's chattels, and even provided a religious order for women, the Order of Alms-women.

At the beginning of the Twentieth

(continued from previous page.)

centurage in this, too? When hardships come, we may know that they are part of the pattern of God's purpose for us. The bitternesses will not obscure or spoil the blessings. Each, we may be sure, will work together for our good in God's great will, as through it all, we love and are loyal to him. Even more, shall we not feel, the blessings being so abundant, and the reward so rich, that we will welcome a few trials and adversities, to give us the chance of showing our gratitude, our trust, and our loyalty.

So, by the encouragement of Christ, we find ourselves rising once more to the higher level, and taking to ourselves more firmly the challenge of his high, heroic spirit, no longer needing for motive "the hope of gaining aught, nor seeking a reward," but vowing rather:

"E'en so I love thee, and will love,  
And in thy praise will sing;  
Solely because thou art my God,  
And my eternal King."

Century, when European women were fighting for the vote and for economic freedom, Eastern women lagged far behind. The reasons for their slow awakening are not hard to find. Almost all were illiterate, suffered extreme poverty, were tied to large families, and lived far away from the centres of the new movement. It was amongst the educated women of the cities and in the small oases of Christian missions that the new ideas spread. But nothing could be done to improve the status of women until men and governments also became persuaded of the need. There was a gradual permeation of ideas, but the impetus for action was not felt until the Asian peoples were given self-government. It was not until Britain left India and Pakistan, and the Netherlands left Indonesia, that the women of these countries were liberated.

To-day, we find that Asian women have, in theory at least, just as much freedom as their Australian sisters, in some cases, more. In most of the countries of Asia, women can now be Members of Parliament, judges, doctors, lawyers and teachers, and they have the vote. They take a prominent part in industry, and are showing a great interest in the nursing profession. In Burma and Ceylon, professional women such as teachers receive equal pay for equal work, an improvement on Australian conditions. Even in Pakistan, a Moslem country, women now have wide rights.

Asian women appear to be more grateful for their freedom than Australian women. Educated Asian women are excited at the new developments, and are anxious to take their place in the world. It is an Indian woman, Mrs. Pandit, not a European woman, who has been elected President of the General Assembly of United Nations. It is an Indian Christian, Sarah Chakko, who is the only woman President of the World Council of Churches. Japanese women were given the vote for the first time in 1946, but by 1952, they had twenty-four women in Parliament. The women of the Philippines have been working to displace incompetent and corrupt public servants. In all these ways, the women of Asia are setting us an admirable example.

The influence of the Christian Church on the status of Asian women

has been of great importance. Unfortunately, Christianity is, numerically, one of Asia's minor religions, but its influence has far out-reached its numbers. Converts to Christianity adopted the teachings of Christ on the sanctity of human life and the reverence due to womanhood. Their new attitude to their women and the attitude of the missionaries, were a shining example to the rest of the community. The new reverence for womanhood in Asia can be directly attributed to the spreading of Christian ideas. The actual status of Asian women in the churches has varied according to the ruling of their particular church, but in general it can be said that true converts have been most anxious to play their part. Women have thrown themselves with enthusiasm into the nursing and teaching professions, they have done much relief and missionary work, and they have become Bible women and evangelists. The time can still be remembered when one hundred per cent. of the women employed as school teachers in India were Indian Christians, and among Indian women doctors there were no representatives of any other community but the Indian Christian. In female education, the Christians have far out-distanced the other communities. Rajalah D. Paul in *The Cross Over India*, quotes these figures, "In general literacy and literacy in English, Indian Christian women are far ahead of any other community, the proportion per 1,000 being: 29 for Christian women, 1.4 for Hindus, and .9 for Moslems." These figures, although reflecting great credit on the missionaries, must appal us by their smallness.

We have seen that great progress has been made in the emancipation of Asian women. But so long as poverty, illiteracy and bad marriage laws remain, the plight of the women of Asia will remain a challenge to all thinking Australian women, and a particular challenge to all missionary-minded Christian women.

## For Discussion:

1. Do you think Australian women have anything to learn from Asian women regarding their community responsibilities?
2. Can you suggest any reasons why it was not until Britain made India self-governing that the position of women was improved by law?
3. What have the people of Asia learned from Christianity regarding the treatment of women?
4. In what ways can Australian Christian women help to improve the status of Asian women? Is it important that we do so?



# MISSIONARY NEWS

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

## BUILDING ON FRIENDSHIP.

(The news of the home-call of Mr. T. Escott reminds us of the work done by pioneer workers. The effort put in by Mr. and Mrs. Escott at Diksal cannot be estimated, and its influence will continue. The following article, which is particularly appropriate, was written in India with no thought in mind that so soon our brother would be called from us. Missionaries on the Field and Indian people, among whom he labored, will mourn his passing, and remember Mrs. Escott and Edgar in their sorrow.)

A few very busy and happy days were spent at Diksal, now known as Bhigwan. Here Mr. and Mrs. Escott labored for many years, and over wide areas they are known for their work, and the friendship built up over the years continues to bear fruit. Their successors in this work, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Heard, followed by Mr. and Mrs. B. K. Munro, have worthily carried on the programme of building friendships. After the retirement of Mr. and Mrs. Escott, a gap had to be bridged. This period was successfully accomplished by Mr. and Mrs. Heard. The work was re-organised and ready for Mr. and Mrs. Munro to carry out a progressive programme.

As one moves around the various villages, and they are numerous in this area, one is impressed with the warmth shown to our missionaries. It goes much deeper than curiosity, though it must be admitted that caste and tradition do not make it easy for these people to openly confess Christ. We thank God, however, that there have been some decisions in recent months.

One evening, a visit was paid to a large village, with the object of giving a lantern lecture on "The Life of Christ." A Muslim family invited us to evening meal, and whilst the meal was not elaborate, it could be seen that great pains had been taken to study the needs of the visitors. There was no question as to the sincerity of their welcome. When we reached the village square after the meal, we were met by the Patil (Chairman), who said, "The village people are glad you

have brought God with you." This man was a Hindu and intimated that after the pictures he wanted us to drink tea with him. In the quietness of the evening, the story of Christ was retold to a very attentive audience, which was estimated at well over one hundred. Entering the Patil's house later, he remarked once again how the people were glad God had come to the village. Mr. Munro was not slow to point out to him, that here in this very room, there was evidence of the spirit of God since Hindus, Moslems and Christians were all sitting in a friendly way drinking tea together.

This village is particularly friendly, though until recently one Hindu family was very anti-Christian, and the missionary had no entry into that home. On one occasion, however, the parents of this home rushed to the missionary beseeching him "Come, ere our child

dies." The child was very sick, but fortunately relief was given. Now the picture is changed, and friendly smiles take the place of dark scowls.

An almost paradoxical thing is seen in the fact that the Bhigwan Mulla (Mohammedan teacher) is very friendly. He runs a school, teaching as far as he is capable the ordinary subjects, and also teaches that in which he is more able—the Koran. Nevertheless, practically the whole of this group of children come to the Mission Sunday School. The Mulla sees nothing inconsistent in such proceedings. In person he came to the Mission house to invite us to see his school. One morning we went, and all was in readiness for a good welcome. The children first sang a welcome song, and garlands were presented, and then for about an hour splendid action songs were performed by the children.

It is estimated that upwards of one thousand children are contacted in various village groups. Medical work also brings daily contacts, and often people come many miles for attention. Preaching, healing and teaching all form part of the daily round. Our missionaries here are seeking to reflect the spirit of the Master, and praying that the friendly contacts will some day result in a splendid harvest.

## S.A. Newsletter

The reports of the recent State Conference will indicate that the work in this State is healthier than for a long time. Some of the older members who are ardent conference attenders, declared it to be the "best in living memory." The spirit of enthusiasm which marked the meetings augurs well for this coming year.

There are many movements and highlights from around the churches.

### MINISTERS.

President of Conference, G. M. Mathieson, recently inducted A. E. Cremin to the Strathalbyn-Milang-Pt. Sturt circuit. Mr. Cremin is not new to S.A., having had ministries here in recent years.

P. E. Whitmore, who has served at Tumby Bay-Ungarra on the West Coast, will commence with the church at Murray Bridge in January. The Bridge work has been carried on by Theo. Edwards, who goes there week-ends. During his time, 15 have made decision, and all branches of the work have been built up.

Roland Pritchard has resigned from the Bordertown circuit, where he has been associated with C. E. Curtis for several years.

I. J. H. Durdin has commenced an interim ministry with the Queenstown-Cheltenham circuit pending the recovery of Mrs. Durdin from the motor accident, which upset their plans for beginning at Loxton-Moorook.

S. E. Matthews, after 7 years with the Semaphore church, has resigned, and will serve the church at Dulwich after Geoff. Whiting leaves to take up his new work as Youth Director.

### MISSIONS.

Jas. E. Webb is in a mission with H. G. Norris and the church at Kilburn. Reports indicate that large meetings and keen interest are maintained, with one decision on the first Sunday night.

The writer is with D. G. Hammer and Balaklava church for one week. This is a remarkable church, filled to capacity every Sunday morning, with a keen brotherhood spirit evident all the time.

### BUILDINGS.

There's a spate of building operations going on among the churches. The Rest Home's new wing has captured the imagination of the brethren, and is a magnificent addition to our overall work.

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Recently the foundation stone was laid for the new building at Clovelly Park, when G. M. Mathieson officiated. Now Albert Park walls are going up, and they expect to be using their new building by Christmas time. This church brings together members of some of our well known families; the Fax, Thomas, Bain and Hollams families will be a splendid basic group.

News comes of another sponsoring group of churches, as the Western Suburban group have gathered together to commence a work at Kurralta Park, an adjacent suburb to Cowandilla. A block of land has been selected, and it is expected that a move will be made soon.

The Edwardstown church has long faced difficulties in coping with Bible school and church gatherings. The result is a new work at Ascot Park, a suburb about 1½ miles from the present building. They confidently expect that within a year the work will be established on a sound footing.

#### PERSONALITIES.

The recent passing of Mel Jacobs, of the Mt. Compass church, sees another of the "old guard" leaving us. For many years he served the H.M. Committee, and was church elder and community leader. He was over 80, and leaves behind him many memories of good works.

Miss E. Vawser was farewelled at the boatside as she set out again for her work in India. She is always a popular figure in S.A., and is an "event" whenever she comes to the churches.

The new Conference President is G. M. Mathieson, of Hawthorn church. Mr. Mathieson has served in Victoria and New Zealand. The Hawthorn brethren have declared themselves willing to release him as often as possible during his official year, and local men will fill the pulpit.

The Vice-President, M. A. K. Crosby, comes from one of our old families, and his election is a fitting tribute to the family. The roots of the Crosbys go deep into the work at Prospect. Mr. Crosby is a responsible officer in the Administrative and Engineering branch of the Electric Supply Company.

The Sisters' Conference likewise honored an old family as they called Miss A. Z. Mann, of Unley, to the presidency. The Mann family has been well known in city and brotherhood life for many years.—E. P. C. Hollard.



In order to complete the manse at Geraldton, W.A., by Jan., 1954, our Western brethren are planning a working bee, Dec. 28—Jan. 3.

October 13, 1953.



#### THE BIBLE AND THE CHURCH.

• "I wish 'high Anglicans' would not always bring up the argument that 'church tradition should be of equal importance with Scripture,' since, after all, the New Testament is simply 'a product of the Church,' as form criticism and church history so plainly show. The explanation supposed to prove this then follows: (1) that there was a Church before there was a New Testament, and thus the New Testament was a product of churchmen; (2) that it was a Church Council—the Council of Carthage in 397—which proclaimed the official list of books to be included in the canon; and (3) that since this is the case, the Church with its general tradition exists alongside of, and even above, the New Testament as its promulgator, interpreter and general nursemaid.

"This business really needs clearing up, for it is a basic difference, not lightly to be overcome in our mutual desire for unity. Of course the New Testament was written by men who were already members of the Church. But this is all that can be shown to be historical; often the Anglican talks about the New Testament as being 'the product of the Church,' as though the corporate entity known as 'the Church' sat down one fine morning and wrote the whole thing out. This, however, is not a relevant point. The fact is that both Church and New Testament were products of a prior event, namely, all that we mean by the sending of our Lord Christ into the world by God the Father. And while the Church, with its tradition, was historically primary, nevertheless it was precisely because general church oral tradition was found not adequate to preserve the necessary apostolicity of teaching that the New Testament was written, collected and published.

"This is precisely what form criticism teaches. The New Testament books were written not as just another part of tradition, but rather to settle, codify and edit the general tradition, which was becoming less and less adequate and more and more fallaciously nonapostolic as the age between the ages became a matter of years, and eventually of generations. This editing was intended to preserve as authoritative only that portion of tradition which was apostolic in teaching and attitude, to the exclusion of all else.

"The theory, then, that 'since the

New Testament is simply early tradition, tradition in general is equal in authority to the New Testament,' does not stand up very well when one remembers that this 'early tradition' was something more than just an earlier stage of tradition in general. It was tradition of a very distinct kind; namely, apostolic tradition.

"And then this business about the Council of Carthage and the canonisation of the 27 books. To these Anglicans, apparently, this means that since the Church can make the New Testament, it can break it as well, and that at any rate the Church's authoritative tradition stands on the same level as, if not above, the New Testament. But let us not imagine that the venerable Council picked 27 books out of the air at random and foisted them on the churches as canonical. It chose the books purely and simply because they were — as nearly as the Council could determine — apostolic writings and, because of their apostolic character, authoritative in themselves. The work of the Council was not 'making up a canon' but recognising the books which, because of their apostolicity, were intrinsically and in their own right the canon. Furthermore—and this is a point which it should be difficult to ignore—the Council by the very fact of its act of canonisation surely implied that this, and no other part of the Church's tradition, would be in and by itself authoritative. So far as I can see, these 'high Anglicans' are suggesting that the Council was just pretending to canonise the 27 books, when all the time it really meant to say: 'These books will be nice to have around, and they are pretty good reading, but actually, of course, it is councils and traditions that have the real say around here.'

"Far from exalting 'tradition' at the expense of Scripture, both form criticism and a study of the Council of Carthage show rather that the books of the New Testament intended to be, and were admitted on the basis that they were, only such early tradition as was apostolic. Thus they are alone basic and alone normative, because alone apostolic." (Charles R. Andrews, an American Baptist, writing in *The Christian Century*, 29/7/53.)

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



# here and there

East Preston church, Vic., had a helpful mission Sept. 13-20, with A. R. Lloyd (Coburg) as missionary, and E. T. Duffy (Ringwood) song-leader. Messages on the theme, "Tremendous Truths," centred on N.T. doctrines, and were planned with a teaching as well as an evangelistic objective. Week-night attendances averaged 66, reaching 86 on two occasions. Four young people made their decision.

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines on Aug. 30 in Manila commissioned its first missionaries for united service in Indonesia and Thailand. In writing about this event, church officials said, "This is indeed a red-letter day in the history of Protestantism in the Philippines. While other Filipinos have worked abroad, possibly with some Philippine support, this is the first time official representatives have been sent out."

The Vic.-Tas. Young Women's Fellowship reports a very successful rally on Oct. 6. Over 200 enjoyed a social programme. Mrs. Watson handed a cheque for £78 to an Aborigines Mission Board representative for the Living Link, also £86 (incomplete) to a College of the Bible representative for the refurnishing appeal.

Attention of Melbourne metropolitan readers is drawn to an advertisement in this issue for a performance by the combined Malvern and Box Hill choirs of Elgar's oratorio, *The Kingdom*. The work has as its theme the church in Jerusalem, and has many passages of beauty, fervor and power.

Good attendances and one decision marked the opening services of J. H. Cain's ministry with the church at Camberwell, Vic., on Oct. 4, thirty-seventh anniversary of the church. E. L. Williams was thanked for his help during an interim ministry. New scholars and Cradle Roll members have resulted from B.S. "barometer competition." The men's efforts have greatly improved both chapel and manse.

Gympie church, Qld., celebrated its 67th anniversary with a mission, Sept. 13-20. Missioner was E. T. Hart (Toowoomba), whose messages and personal help, combined with brief talks each night on "What churches of Christ stand for," were greatly appreciated. Highlights were the men's

tea (with the mayor present), the home-coming tea (served to 70, exclusive of children), and Temple Day, when offerings reached over £145, and R. T. Roberts (minister) met members, discussed spiritual issues, and prayed with them. Monkland folk attended the meetings consistently, and joined in combined worship service on morning of 20th. There were four decisions, and a quickening interest as a result of the campaign. Cottage meetings are being held weekly at Monkland, in preparation for Happy Hours and evangelistic meetings there this month, with K. Horne as missionary. L. Friend (Roodepoort Mission Press) was visiting speaker on Sept. 26 and 27.

The Australian Christian Youth Commission advises that the official report of the Third World Conference of Christian Youth, Travancore, 1952, is now available. The report is entitled "Footprints in Travancore." Copies of the report may be ordered through the Young People's Department of Victoria and Tasmania, 161 Flinders-lane, Melbourne. — L. A. Trezise (Youth Director).

The Department of Christian Education of the Canadian Council of Churches estimates that 600 summer camps are being held this season, under the auspices of member Churches and provincial Councils of Christian Education. Children, young people, adults, and family groups are included in the Church's summer camping programme. Missionary giving of boys and girls in many of these camps will provide a summer camp experience for refugee children in the city of Trieste, a project sponsored by the Canadian Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. Over 1100 church vacation schools are being conducted during the summer. The 5000 leaders enrol an estimated 80,000 children. Their missionary and service project is the support of an orphanage in Florence operated by the Waldensian Church.—E.P.S., Geneva.

After being on show daily during August in London Bible House, the exhibition, "They Triumph," has begun its travels throughout Britain, being fully booked for a year. The display consists of seven stands, or units, enclosed in cabinets of polished wood, which fold into a small space

for travelling, and which illustrate various phases in the Bible Society's 150 years. One caption reads, "Since 1804 an average of 10,000 copies a day has been produced. In 1952 approximately 4 tons of Scripture were despatched every working day."

## News of British Churches

Two points raised by the President of Conference in his address from the chair have aroused much interest: Religion and Healing, and Eschatology. Articles on both topics have appeared in the *Christian Advocate*, and the editor has invited discussion, particularly of the former, with special reference to the interpretation of the New Testament and information of the practice of healing where such ministry has been attempted.

The Year Book, which contains the President's address to Conference, with the reports, etc., presented to Conference and the minutes of the business sessions, has been published. It is sold at 3/6, about half the cost, the committees paying the remainder.

A missionary house has been dedicated in Thailand. It will be the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cherryhomes, the American members of the Mission staff. Writing of the event, Mrs. Clark says that it is twenty years since she and her husband, Dr. Percy Clark, were on furlough. Dr. Clark is frail, and unable to take any active part in the work of the Mission.

Overdale College is to receive a valuable addition to the library. Two generous donors have ensured that the college will receive the twenty-six volumes of the History of Christian Classics, as they are published. The first two volumes, *Early Christian Fathers* and *Zwingli and Bullinger*, have been received.

The Overdale correspondence course for the winter is based on Geoffrey Nuttall's book, *The Holy Spirit and Ourselves*.

Personalia.—Mr. and Mrs. George Massey have been welcomed by London churches at the beginning of the ministry at Wandsworth Bridge Road. Both were trained at Bethany College, West Virginia, and have been working with churches in Canada.

Dr. and Mrs. John Sala, who are making an extended visit, have been preaching and lecturing in Bristol.

R. Blampied, minister at Nelson, N.Z., has been able to visit churches prior to sailing for home. He will serve as ship's chaplain on the voyage.

Many schools are taking part in the extended celebrations which mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the National Sunday School Union.—G. J. Hammond.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN





# INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

## Discipleship

Wendy Schilling, Brian Shaw, Judith Hillbrick, Rosemary and Gwen Lacy, Morwell, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Randle, Hamilton, N.S.W.

Miss D. Smallman, Cardiff, N.S.W. Alan Fry, Oakleigh, Vic.

Ruth McKelvie, Colin Lobegeller and Lewis Vincent, Ann-st., Brisbane, Qld.

Mrs. R. Potter, Koongarra Park, S.A.

Robert Hayes, Camberwell, Vic.

## Membership

Mr. and Mrs. James, from Collingwood, Vic., to Morwell, Vic.

Mrs. R. Townsend, from Brooklyn Park, S.A., to Balaklava, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Newton, from Auburn South, N.S.W., to Hornsby, N.S.W.

Mrs. Chance, Middle Park, Vic.

## Marriage

Laurice Reidhead to Peter Beyer, Hartwell, Vic.

Stella Gates to David Hancock, Balaklava, S.A.

Alison Nugent to Royce Price, Bentleigh, Vic.

Margaret Webb to B. Ward, Parkdale, Vic.

## Fallen Asleep

Mrs. White, Clayton, Vic.

W. Brown, Preston, Vic.

Mrs. A. Shaddock, Mayfield, N.S.W.

I. Rookes, Dandenong, Vic.

G. Woodbridge, Moreland, Vic.

Mrs. D. Good, Long Plains, S.A.

Mr. Norman, Brunswick, Vic.

## Queensland

Toowoomba (E. T. Hart and F. J. Winter).—Worship service on Sept. 20 was broadcast by 4 GR. F. J. Winter spoke, and Dawn Pitman was soloist. Girl Guides attended, as it was commencement of Carnival of Flowers week. E. T. Hart conducted mission at Gympie. H. J. Lowe, L. Enchelmaier, H. Scholl and H. Christensen assisted F. J. Winter in absence of

E. T. Hart. L. H. G. Pedler, on behalf of Margaret-st. Ladies' Guild, conducted film evening on 17th. Proceeds were donated to Crown-st. At service at Crown-st. on 27th a boy made his decision, the first in chapel. Gospel services at Harlaxton during Sept. featured assistance of B.S., C.M.S., Sunshine Group and Ladies' Fellowship concluding with choir conducting choral service.

Ann-st., Brisbane (R. W. Graham, B.A.).—Seventieth anniversary celebrations continued on Sept. 27, with well attended services, at which minister spoke. B.S. children sang in morning, when one girl made decision. She and two B.S. boys were baptised at night. Well attended Men's Fellowship tea was addressed by R. G. Clymer (Boondall-Zillmere). At social on 29th Y.P. made presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Smith in appreciation of use of house while church extensions were being made. Celebrations concluded on Oct. 2, when B.S. presented concert in new social hall. Further smaller improvements are planned for church, and it is expected to have these completed for Federal Conference.

## Western Australia

Lake-st., Perth (A. J. Fisher).—Recent Sunday evening addresses have been on texts supplied by congregation. Visiting speakers included L. Broadbent (B. & F.B.S.), J. K. Robinson (Conf. Pres.), and R. Raymond (anniversary speaker). Special occasions were hospital Orange and Flower Day, Bible Sunday and Temperance Sunday. Cottage prayer meetings have been held in homes of Mesdames Murphy and Panton, Misses Williams and Davidson, and J. K. Robinson. Popular after-church medley of song took place in homes of W. Beck, J. Bridge, H. Shenton, V. Conigrave and Mesdames Carr and Payne. Services were broadcast on August 23 and Sept. 27. Thorough visitation of old and possible re-interested members by active members preceded anniversary services on Sept. 20, 24 and 27. B.S. anniversary was held on Oct. 4. Pathfinders' Club is active. Special evening was illustrated Artists' Evening. B.S. made feature of B. & F.B.S. Sunday with money gift to this work. Choir has rendered pleasing service on special occasions.

## New South Wales

Taree (K. W. Barton, L.Th.).—On Sept. 20 two B.S. scholars responded to invitation. Good attendances marked all services on 27th, when

B.S. anniversary was held. Church was happy to welcome Laurie Thomas, son of former preacher P. E. Thomas, who spoke at afternoon demonstration, and gave illustrated address at night. G. Branch led school choir, and church organist, Mrs. A. J. Halpin, was pianiste.

Hamilton (L. G. Read).—Attendances following recent mission have been good. Recently formed C.E. is meeting enthusiastic response, and Y.P. night tennis club is well supported. Mr. and Mrs. H. Menson are enjoying visit to U.S.A. Church recently had fellowship with Mr. and Mrs. Vidal (nee Menson) and Kerry, prior to departure for Canada, where they are to make their home. Mrs. Down is ill, and Mrs. Ongley is in hospital. Mrs. Roffey (Pres. of Women's Conference) was recent speaker at local Women's Conference.

Rockdale (G. J. Andrews).—Attendances continue up to average, with addresses by Messrs. Crossman (Wiley Park), Verco (Chatswood) and Creek (elder). G. J. Andrews has been at Inverell on presidential duties. Boys' club recommenced under leadership of Mr. McDonald. £5/10/- has been sent by B.S. for overseas mission food parcels. On Sept. 18 B.S. held successful concert, and raised £26 for kinder extension fund.

Kingsford (A. G. Elliott, M.A., B.Sc., Dip. Ed.).—B.S. teachers engaged in special visitation to parents of scholars with invitations to anniversary. Principal A. W. Stephenson was preacher on morning of Sept. 26. Guest service was conducted at night, when soloist was Miss D. Knight. Other soloists in recent services have been Mrs. McWilliams, Mr. Cooper, Denis Jenner and Franklyn Elliott. Visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. F. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Turriff, Mr. and Mrs. York, Mrs. Pope, Mrs. Barnes (Vic.), and Gwenda Black (W.A.).

## South Australia

Fullarton (A. H. Lennox).—B.S. anniversary services commenced on Sept. 30. School singing was conducted by A. C. Mau. School orchestra of two violins, two recorders, piano and organ contributed to programme. Kinders gave items in afternoon. At night B. Bryson (Everyman's) gave illustrated talk to children. Mr. Craddock assisted orchestra with viola. Preceding prize giving on Tuesday night, tea for children and adults was held. Ladies visited Christian Rest Home, and Mrs. Lennox spoke. Mr. and Mrs. Thorpe have been ill. Mrs. Outlaw is re-



covering and able to attend services. Anniversary services continued on Oct. 4. In afternoon R. Burrow (late of Bolivia) spoke to children. Minister spoke at night.

**Kilburn (H. G. Norris).**—First week of mission with J. Webb concluded with one decision and evidence of interest by others. Splendid support was received from sister churches. Both preacher and missionary are visiting, and some local people are attending. L. Milne is leading song services. Musical items have been contributed by Sisters Kelly, Limford and Stacey, Croydon Male Quartet and Kilburn young ladies. Mrs. Wormald is able to attend services again.

**Berri-Winkie (J. Manallack).**—Enjoyable day was spent by 12 ladies who attended Sunraysia district M.B. rally at Dareton. Week-end of Sept. 26 and 27 was happy time of fellowship, when 22 men from Kadina visited church. Visitors toured district on Sat. afternoon, returning to chapel for tea and social evening. R. Ewers spoke at both services on Sunday. There was one baptism at night. Both B.S. gained honors in recent State efficiency campaign.

**Maylands (E. R. Sherman, B.A., Dip.Ed.).**—Owing to numbers, beginners were featured on first afternoon of B.S. anniversary and kinder on next. Maylands was well represented at Conference. Choir assisted on Sat. and Wed. nights, and Sun. afternoon. Evening to further interest in C.O.B. was arranged by C.E.F. on Sept. 18. Y.P. from eastern suburban churches attended, and speaker was K. A. Jones. Owing to lack of facilities at Koongarra Park to conduct baptismal services entire congregation visited Maylands on evening of 20th.

**Long Plains-Avon-Owen (M. D. Williams).**—Walls of youth hall commenced at Owen four weeks ago are now completed. E. P. C. Hollard addressed meeting of church anniversary on Sept. 6, and Commander Harvey spoke at all services on 6th and 7th at Avon B.S. anniversary. 25 Y.P. journeyed to Longwood Camp site on 19th for inspection, and attended Adelaide C.Y.F. at Grote-st. in evening. Men's Fellowship was addressed by M. Williams on Oct. 7. Long Plains held B.S. prize-giving on 4th, when honor certificates were presented by Youth Dept. to six scholars for 5 and 10 years' unbroken attendance. An honor certificate was presented to D. J. Daniel in recognition of 35 years' service as supt.

**Balaklava (D. G. Hammer).**—B.S. anniversary was best attended for some years, with 161 at Lord's Table and crowded afternoon meeting. Speaker was B. Burn (Glenelg). Sing-

ing was led by S. Lovell. Church regrets removal of Mr. and Mrs. Lovell to Adelaide. Y.P. enjoyed social evening in R. Shepherd's barn, and took up offering for Y.P. Dept. quota. Church was saddened by bereavement of Mr. and Mrs. M. Drayton in loss of young son. On Oct. 4 one week's mission with E. Hollard commenced with excellent meetings.

## Victoria

**Bambra-rd., Caulfield (E. J. Miles).**—Interest in all phases of church work continues. Three adults have been added to church. Offering for Aborigines was £46, Overseas £80; and Social Service £71. Improvements and alterations to church furnishings, including memorial to Nth. Essendon and local Y.P., has evoked much interest. Sacrificial giving and working bees have been responsible for what has been achieved. Attendances on Sunday are improving after illnesses among members during winter.

**Clayton (D. Holloway).**—Messrs. K. Fordham, Mills and Reid have helped with services. M. Woff brought message in song. One young lady confessed her faith. K. Munyard took number of boys to Monbulk camp. Valuable assistance has been received from Oakleigh, Bentleigh and Springvale churches with church hall, which is nearing completion. B.S. is growing each week, and now numbers 80. Mrs. Hill was welcomed at W.M.B.

**Preston (J. E. Searle).**—Mr. Thompson (B. & F.B.S.) conducted well attended film service on Sept. 20. Church choir held successful concert on 19th in aid of Building Fund. Remodelling of building and additions to school hall are well advanced. In planning for forward move church is stressing visitation. Meetings continue to be well attended. During Sept. there was one confession, and 3 were restored to fellowship.

**Ivanhoe (S. F. Davey).**—In conjunction with other churches in district, church has engaged in week of United Witness. These services in Town Hall catered for children, civic leaders and public. Reports at annual meeting revealed good work by auxiliaries. New Board is Messrs. Anderson, Lauder, Combridge (elders), Chipperfield, Earl, Fisher (sec.), Hamilton, Perkins, Reed, Rowe and Thurgood (deacons). On Oct. 4 new Board was charged with responsibility and prayer of dedication offered by preacher.

**Maldstone (E. H. Randall).**—B.S. teachers at their meeting made arrangements for senior tea, picnic and concert. Attendances are improving. Dawn Taylor has been added to staff. Mrs. Lumb has now left hospital. Mrs. Kirby was knocked over by bicycle, and sustained broken collarbone. Sixteen Explorers went to Combined

Sports, and acquitted themselves well. B.S. scholars are practising for anniversary under leadership of Vin Waters.

**Newmarket (D. W. Hibburt, B.A.).**—On evening of Sept. 20 Moreland choir led worship in song. Illustrated address on John Wesley was given on 27th. **Beyond Our Own** was screened on Oct. 4. At after-church fellowship cricket trophies from last season were presented by W. Crichton. Five Y.P. attended Courtship Clinic and tea at Ascot Vale.

**Mildura (D. A. V. Thomas).**—B.S. anniversary was held on Oct. 4, when A. R. Lloyd (Coburg) was speaker. Attendances were excellent. 33 Cradle Roll prizes were given in afternoon. On Sept. 19 men of district churches held combined working bee on new B.S. hall at Buronga, N.S.W. Hall should be completed before end of year. Kinders have purchased 15 new chairs made necessary by increased attendances.

**Warragul (V. Quayle).**—Kitchen tea was tendered Laurice Reidhead and P. Beyer prior to their marriage. M.B. presented Laurice with supper set, and officers with matching fruit set, in appreciation of faithful services as organiste. The First Step was screened at evening service on Sept. 20. Mr. Byatt (Inter Church Aid) spoke on morning of 27th. Mr. Buntrock spent some days in hospital following motor cycle accident.

**Morwell (J. G. Shaw).**—Report of auxiliaries revealed satisfactory progress over last year. £12 per week has been contributed by members to all phases of work. E. Read and I. Humphrey continue as sec. and treas. respectively. Appreciated help has come from West Preston C.E., who have donated more than £50 for B.S. work. Visits by K. Jones and party of C.O.B. students, Miss B. Bates (Y.P. Dept.), and Miss Vawser have been appreciated. During winter months prayer meetings have been held in homes of members at Morwell, Newborough, Yallourn and Yallourn Nth. Completion of fences around manse and chapel has enhanced buildings. Several B.S. scholars have made decision. Following visit by representatives of C.M.S., a local branch has been formed, with H. Preston, pres., and R. Hillbrick, sec.

**Bentleigh (J. Wiltshire).**—Two B.S. scholars have responded to invitation since last report. At half-yearly meeting treas. reported that for period under review church had given £909, and of this amount £290 had been given to missions and other non-local interests. Anniversary and home-coming services were held on Oct. 4, when addresses were given by L. Jones and K. Macnaughtan. Revival Convention



is in progress. M.B. has provided heavy platform curtains, which are pleasing addition.

**Balwyn (J. E. Brooke).**—B.S. anniversary services were continued on Sept. 27, and church was crowded at both services, when speakers were J. Wiltshire (Bentleigh) and J. E. Brooke. Church extends sincere thanks to D. Warmbrunn for conducting singing and organising orchestra. On Oct. 4 film service was held at night. Cricket team won opening match of season. Church is praying for Mrs. Leonard, Mrs. Hare and Catherine Skilbeck, who are ill.

**Brunswick (C. Watson).**—Cricket team won first game of season. Y.W.F. is preparing for sale of work. Good Companions are busy practising for annual sports. Church has been pleased to see much loved elder, Mr. Mann, able to attend morning services after long illness.

**Middle Park (J. Plummer).**—At morning service on Sept. 27 Mr. Collie spoke on his work among aborigines. Ladies' Friendly Hour held successful afternoon on Oct. 8 in aid of W. H. Clay Nursing Home. Sympathy of church was extended to Mrs. Keurins in loss of mother.

**Dandenong (A. R. Pigdon).**—On Oct. 3 Y.P. Fellowship visited Berwick for special youth night. At church anniversary on 4th Dr. Oldfield was speaker at morning service, and J. W. Lewis (Oakleigh) at night. Latter is conducting week's mission with church.

**Red Cliffs (C. L. Lang).**—Gift evening was recently held for Debrae and Doug. Cameron. Splendid attendances marked all services at B.S. anniversary on Sept. 27. Mr. Outhred (Methodist) spoke in afternoon, and C. L. Lang screened colored pictures of Cinderella at night.

**Oakleigh (J. W. Lewis).**—H. Earle spoke at Sept. meeting of C.M.S. There was one decision on 27th, when minister conducted baptismal service. 171 broke bread for day. In absence of preacher at Dandenong on Oct. 4, R. Bust conducted evening service. J. W. Lewis as pres. of Ministers' Fraternal led large delegation to Oakleigh City Council to protest against council's decision to permit Sunday football match.

**Moreland (J. Turner, B.A.).**—Church was addressed by V. Foster on Sept. 27, and by P. Foster and R. Combridge on 4th, when J. Turner conducted services in Adelaide. Guest speakers on first Sunday of B.S. anniversary on Oct. 11 were C. Watson and R. Muller. Average B.S. attendance has been almost 100 scholars. Preparations are being made for sale of work on 31st. K.S.P. were re-

cently entertained at home of Mr. and Mrs. Beatty. P.B.P. basketball team won premiership. Mrs. Orr is home from hospital.

**Chelsea (D. R. Turner).**—On Oct. 11 church commenced special series of planned programmes. Recent attendances have been increasing. Deepest sympathy of members is extended to Mr. and Miss Morley in their bereavement.

**Yarrawonga (R. V. Holmes).**—Overseas offering reached £184. Dr. Oldfield was guest speaker for 28th church anniversary on Sept. 20. At conclusion of evening service he showed pictures of India. On Tuesday at fellowship tea he again gave compelling message. Visitors were present from Albury, Wangaratta, Cobram, Drumcondra and Tasmania, also former members from Bambra-rd., Brighton, and Rutherglen. Thankoffering amounted to £244. Mr. Holmes has returned after holiday in W.A. Mrs. Holmes and children are returning later. During his absence services were taken by B. J. Combridge, Dr. Oldfield, and local brethren. Social Service offering was £14.

**Parkdale (C. M. Dunse).**—Newly formed kinder is having excellent attendances, 90 being present on Oct. 4. Recent film evening raised over £6 for equipment for kinder. Church held kitchen tea to honor Miss-Webb and B. Ward prior to marriage. Special planned services commenced Oct. 4. Gospel service took form of guest night, followed by social hour of singing and cup of tea. Mr. Box is making satisfactory progress following operation. Mrs. Holmes is in hospital recovering from operation.

## Aborigines Missions News

### NEW CHILDREN FOR NORSEMAN.

Mr. and Mrs. Felton, of Norseman, recently made a trip in the Mission truck to native camps along the Perth-Kalgoorlie railway line. At Merredin they were able to induce some parents to place a girl in the care of the Mission. At Coolgardie, which they reached at night, they found a man and six children in a wretched hut, without light or food, and only one bed. Four of the boys were at the local picture show. The father, after some persuasion, agreed to let the four boys be taken to the Mission. Mr. and Mrs. Felton got them out of the picture show, and talked with them. "What did you have for breakfast?" "Dry bread and tea." "What did you have for dinner?" "Nothing."

"What did you have for tea?" "Dry bread and tea." They were dressed in filthy rags. They agreed to go to the Mission, where they are settled in happily, though the missionaries say they are wild young creatures. Pray God that the Mission may be used of God to transform their lives and make Christian citizens of them.

### WANTS TO BE A SCHOOL TEACHER.

Duxie Bateman, of Carnarvon Mission, has done well at school. She is now aged 14, and has the ability to go much further. Efforts are being made to secure a home for her in Perth so that she can attend High School and start on the road to her chosen profession, to be a school teacher. Pray that Duxie's wish may be fulfilled, and that every obstacle will be overcome. Perhaps one day she will be a teacher on one of our Missions.

### IN THE NEWS.

On the morning of Sept. 18, 1953, the following item was included in the A.B.C. Regional and Short-wave News Service from Perth:

"High praise of the Carnarvon Native Mission has been made by the North West District Officer of the Western Australian Native Affairs Department, F. E. Gair. The Mission is directed by the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Missions Board. In his annual report, Mr. Gair says it is an excellent institution, and is well directed and staffed. It now has 94 children living there, and a big waiting list of prospective Mission children. Mr. Gair says it is hoped that in time the Mission will cater for all native children in the Gascoyne and Ashburton areas.

"Last March the Board organised an effective building drive at the Mission. About 30 supporters from all over Australia contributed their services voluntarily for three weeks. During that time they almost completed a large kindergarten block and built the skeleton of another dormitory for girls."

(Note.—The kindergarten building is now fully completed, including painting, and is occupied, to the great satisfaction of the workers. The new girls' dormitory is ready for lining, but this will wait a few weeks until the electrical installations are completed. For this work, Ray McLaren, a fully qualified electrician, has offered his services free, but is unable to go to Carnarvon until the end of October. The McRobertson-Miller Aviation Company has offered free return transport for Mr. McLaren. This is a contribution offered at the time of the cyclone, which blew this particular building over when Mr. McLaren had completed the electrical wiring last March.—J. K. Robinson.)



# N.S.W. Social Service Newsletter

## THE MENTALLY ILL.

At the recent Premiers' Conference, the N.S.W. Acting-Premier (Mr. Heffron) said the way the mentally ill were treated was a blot on civilisation.

"It is to the everlasting discredit of Governments that this particular section of the community has not been adequately cared for, properly housed, and receiving the requisite medical treatment," he said.

## GAMBLING AND DRINK.

Sir John Northcott, the State Governor, in opening the Returned Soldiers' League annual congress stated:

"Gambling has taken place in some clubs, and in some there has been too much attention paid to the bar," (Daily Mirror quote). He also appealed to members to guard the "character" of the clubs. A Staff Correspondent of the *Herald*, in a series of articles on "Drinking in Australia," wrote that the present trend is, "More Beer, Less Milk," and pointed out that the American author James Michener, after visiting this country, wrote: "Australians must consume ten times as much beer as they do milk." Further references from these articles show, "that New South Welshmen are the most cosmopolitan of Australian drinkers; they drink great quantities of all spirits. . . . Last year Australians spent £162,500,000—or £19 per capita—on beer, spirits and wine. This figure is often quoted as incontrovertible evidence of Australian extravagance and sinfulness. . . . The incidence of drunkenness in N.S.W. has always exceeded the incidence throughout Australia. . . . The death rate and the incidence of drunkenness will probably continue to rise as long as the average Australian continues to drink more liquor. And he will probably continue to drink more liquor, especially more beer, so long as his personal income continues to rise."

## THE NEEDY AGED.

Commenting on the village of Hammondville (founded by the late Archdeacon Hammond, near Liverpool), which is 21 years old, B. G. Judd said, "We are trying to meet a new emergency at Hammondville now — the plight of needy old people. In the past couple of years we've built 4 duplex cottages there for eight old age pensioner couples; also a large cottage for six single women and widows. It's only a beginning. . . . For every pensioner we've got at Hammondville there are hundreds in misery. It's basically a question of accommodation, getting them a decent place to live. The proportion of old people in the

community is increasing, so the problem gets worse all the time. Australians are only just beginning to realise how serious it is."

The N.S.W. Social Service Committee is desirous of setting up homes for aged couples, and with limited funds (viz., about £500), but with faith in the future, is seeking a large area of land suitable for the establishment of such homes.

## RETURN OF LIQUOR COMMISSIONER.

With the return of the Liquor Commissioner from his world tour, it is expected that the State Labor Government will extend the trading hours of hotels and restaurants. Mr. Justice Maxwell is quoted in the daily press as saying that "the Government can change the hours if it so desires." —L. C. Yelds, chairman.

## DEATHS.

MARTIN.—On Sept. 3, at Brisbane Hospital, Thomas Martin, aged 88 years, loved father of Mary, Charlie (dec.), Kate (Mrs. C. Duke, Toowoomba), William, Minnie (Mrs. G. Bishop), Thomas, John (Bendigo), Norman (dec.), Annie (Mrs. L. Smyth). Peace perfect peace.

WOODBIDGE.—On Sept. 18, at hospital in Sydney, George Bartlett, of 8 Wattle Grove, Coburg, beloved husband of Irene, and dear father of Alva (Mrs. Candish), and father-in-law of Tres. Aged 57 years.

## IN MEMORIAM.

LAWSON.—In loving memory of Ernest Alfred, dear father of Dulcie, father-in-law of Albert and loving pa of Dawn, Joan (dec.) and Marilyn. Called home Oct. 8, 1950.

"In the sweet bye and bye, we shall meet on that beautiful shore."

GRUHL.—In loving memory of my dear mother, Cadella Gruhl, who passed away at Murray Bridge on Oct. 5, 1947.

—Inserted by a loving daughter, Lillian.

LOVELL.—Treasured memories of my beloved brother, Rev. Ormond Esk, called to rest Oct. 14, 1952, at East London, South Africa.

—Inserted by his devoted sister, Mrs. Potgieter.

AMERY.—Treasured memories of our dear mother (Margaret Louisa), who passed to higher service, Oct. 19, 1952.

—Inserted by her loving family and sister-in-law Emma.

MCCANN.—Treasured memories of our darling little daughter Jan, suddenly called to the heavenly home, Oct. 19, 1952. "In his pleasant garden."

—Inserted by Mr. and Mrs. Neil McCann, Robln, Peter and Merran.

## BIRTH.

FAULL (Harrison). — On Aug. 30, at St. Andrew's Hospital, to Connie and Horace, a daughter—Merilyn Joy.

## SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

MARTIN — PEDERSEN. — John Kenneth and Phyllis Myrtle Martin (nee Pedersen) announce the 25th anniversary of their wedding at Waragul church of Christ on Oct. 13, 1928, by the late T. H. Scambler and W. A. Wigney. Present address, Allan's Walk, Bendigo.

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

## BROTHERHOOD CENTRE, VIC.

For some time past a small group of members of the Vic. brotherhood have interested themselves in the project of securing funds for the establishment of a central building in Melbourne to house all departments of Vic. churches of Christ, and in which could be conducted also the various activities associated with our expanding work, including Conference gatherings. This group approached the Executive of Conference, and have now been advised that the Executive felt that, whilst it is inadvisable for Conference to engage directly or indirectly in any kind of business which has as its objective the earning of profit,

## THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



it saw no objection to private individuals, as such, devoting commissions from a business enterprise to such purposes. Hence the group has now established an insurance agency, and commissions up-to-date for the purpose of building such a centre already approximate £50. This amount can be increased very quickly if members will support the agency by placing insurance business with the Company, The National Employers Mutual. The company is one of repute and integrity, and the arrangement is that members who place policies with the company will enjoy a discount of 15 per cent. off tariff rates (that is 3/- in each £), but in addition the Agency receives an over-riding commission of a further 15 per cent. All the money received by the Agency will be devoted to the cause outlined. An annual statement of receipts and expenditure will be forwarded to the secretary of the Vic.-Tas. Conference Executive. A trust deed has been prepared, the trustees have been appointed, and it is now for the members of the brotherhood to assist in having the objective realised by placing a part or the whole of the insurance policies with the company named. A copy of the trust deed is deposited at the Executive Office, and can be perused there by any who wish to do so. The secretary of the Trustees is C. G. S. Daff (WX 2967), and further particulars can be obtained from him. Much can be achieved if members support the scheme. If you contact the company direct, please mention the Christian Building Trust, so that your agency may be credited with the full commission.—J. Wiltshire, Bentleigh, Vic.

#### THE LORD'S SUPPER.

The article on the above by E. P. C. Hollard (1/9/53) should not go unchallenged. He states he does not believe in the real Presence; i.e., flesh and blood, the Roman Catholic idea. Then just what does he mean? He quotes John 6, where Christ mentioned eating his flesh and blood. Surely he must know our Lord was speaking in a metaphor. Does he not know that the Lord's table, with the emblems thereon is only a memento, lest we forget his great atoning work on the cross? There is no efficacy whatever in the Feast. It is a keepsake to remind us of his death, his resurrection, and ascension, and his coming again, when those that look for him shall enjoy his real presence. Churches of Christ are sadly lacking in emphasis on this great truth, yet this was the glorious hope of the early Church. Tell the people to get ready for this great event; never mind about his presence in the Feast.—L. J. Price, Brighton, Vic.

October 13, 1953.

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## Anniversaries and Homecomings

**FOOTSCRAY.**—Bible School Anniversary, Sunday, October 18, 3 p.m., special kindergarten demonstration and distribution of Cradle Roll cards. Wednesday, October 21, at 8 p.m. A new venture in anniversaries. Scholars present the challenge, "Let's make the best of life."

**MALVERN-CAULFIELD.**—Bible School Anniversary, Oct. 18, 3 p.m., kindergarten session: 7 p.m., R. Muller. Special invitation to all.

**NORTH RICHMOND CHURCH OF CHRIST.**—63rd Church Anniversary. Oct. 18. 11 a.m., Communion Service. Speaker, S. Neighbour; 3 p.m. Pleasant Sunday afternoon. Guest speaker, Stanton Wilson. A suitable programme has been arranged. 5 p.m., Fellowship tea; 7 p.m., Gospel service. Speaker, R. McKenzie. Past members and friends welcomed.

**PRESTON.**—51st Anniversary, Oct. 18. 11 a.m., V. L. Gole. Dedication of Church Officers. 7 p.m., J. E. Searle. After church fellowship under leadership of D. MacDonald.

**TOOTGAROOK.**—Third Anniversary, Sunday, Oct. 25. Church anniversary, 11.15 a.m. Speaker, R. Brittain. Bible School Anniversary, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Speaker, R. Muller.

**BRUNSWICK.**—Church Anniversary, Oct. 25, 11 a.m., C. E. Watson. 3 p.m., Pleasant Sunday afternoon. Speaker: Chaplain H. A. G. Clark. Soloist: Violet Barnden. 7 p.m., Principal E. L. Williams. C.E. Quartet Party. Past members and friends invited to be present. Hospitality provided.

**COLLINGWOOD.**—Church Anniversary Services, Sunday, Oct. 25. 3 p.m., W. W. Saunders; 7 p.m., Dr. G. Oldfield, Conf. Pres. Tea provided. All welcome.

**IVANHOE.**—Bible School Anniversary. Oct. 18, 2.45 p.m., Kindergarten and Primary afternoon, Miss Rogan, of Presbyterian Youth Office; 7 p.m., S. F. Davey. All are welcome.

**CARNEGIE.**—Bible School Anniversary, Oct. 18 and 25, at 3 and 7 p.m.

**LYGON-ST., CARLTON.**—Home Coming Day, Nov. 1: 11 a.m., C. G. Taylor, B.A., 3 p.m., P.S.A., S. R. Baker, Soloist, Laurence Cowan. Xylophonist, Joan Atkinson. 7 p.m., Gospel in visual presentation. Film, Decision. A cordial welcome to all past members and friends to enjoy the happy fellowship of this home-like mother church on this very special occasion. Accept our hospitality.

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## OBITUARY

**Minnie Turnbull.**

The church at Collingwood, Vic., has lost one of its loyal and faithful members in the person of Miss M. Turnbull. For over 40 years our sister was in the active service of the church, serving as B.S. teacher and treasurer, and always interested in the work of the local cause and the larger interests of the brotherhood. On Wed., Sept. 9, a large company of relatives and friends gathered in the church for a service, when her favorite hymns were sung, and tribute made for the years of devoted life. To her family she was and ever shall be remembered affectionately as "Aunt Min." To her relatives and friends the church conveys their sincerest sympathy. "Until the day dawns and the shadows flee away."—T. A. Fitzgerald.

**Stanley Chipperfield.**

Our brother was baptised at the age of 14 by the late T. Hagger at the North Richmond chapel, Vic. During his association with the church at Coppin-st. from that time (except for a short period at Northcote), he served in many ways—as deacon, church sec., president of Mutual Improvement Class (of former years), presiding brother, B.S. teacher and supt. On Sept. 20 in Epworth hospital he was called home—bringing to an end long months of suffering and pain. Our brother will be missed at Coppin-st. He was respected by all who knew him. Many people attended the chapel service (and at Springvale) in a fitting tribute to our brother. G. P. Pittman (who married our late brother and his wife) led in prayer. R. Bolduan assisted the writer in both services. We extend sympathy to Mrs. Chipperfield and her children. But we know that our brother has gone to be with his Saviour, where there is no more pain or suffering. Our brotherhood has lost another of its valiant workers. He was the last of the Chipperfield brothers, whose names are well known in our churches. To the remaining member of that family—Mrs. Frill—we extend our sympathy also.—R.McK.

**J. Byrne.**

In the early thirties Jack Byrne was baptised at Ararat by C. L. Lang, and since that time, until his passing, he revealed qualities of Christian character and devotion to the Church which commended him to the esteem of his brethren. During his association with the brethren at Minyip, Prahran, Black Rock, and briefly at Ringwood, he shared in the active life of the Church. He filled acceptably the offices of deacon, church treasurer, Sunday school teacher and

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assistant organist. He had an active  
part in the earlier youth camps of  
churches of Christ in Victoria. The  
gentle and gracious spirit which char-  
acterised our brother stood out in  
bolder relief against a background of  
ill health in the closing years and  
months of his life. He was a patient  
and uncomplaining sufferer. As a  
teacher at the Melbourne Technical  
College he won the high esteem of his  
colleagues and students, a large num-  
ber of whom attended the funeral  
services at Ringwood, and participated  
in a working bee at the home of his  
widow since his decease. To our sis-  
ter, Mrs. Byrne, and the two small  
sons, the love and sympathy of the  
brethren have been extended. We  
share with them the eternal hope of  
the gospel.—W.F.N.

**Hannah Staney.**

At the age of 90, and after a brief  
illness, Hannah Staney passed to be  
with her Lord. She had a long as-  
sociation with churches of Christ.  
Arriving in Bendigo from Boort, she  
linked with the brethren at Short-st.,  
and soon won a place in the hearts of  
those who knew her. Though unable  
to meet with the church for some  
time, she continued to have fellow-  
ship with the church in other ways,  
and her last thoughts were for the  
work of the Master. She spent her  
life in the service of her family and  
the Master. The fragrance of her  
memory will remain and remind us  
of her Christian character. After a  
service at the funeral parlor the cor-  
tege moved to the Bendigo Cemetery,  
where the minister who conducted the  
service commended the loved ones to  
our Heavenly Father, looking forward  
to meeting again on the great resur-  
rection day.—J. K. Martin.

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