

THE AUSTRALIAN *Christian*

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Federal H.M.--Canberra Progress Report

The Australian brotherhood has been thinking "Home Missions." Each State Committee has presented its programme and made its appeal for the annual offering. There is manifest a lively sense of commitment and a readiness to move out into more adventurous ways.

The cause in Canberra has been established by Home Missions on a Federal level. For years there was frustration and stagnation. Now there is enterprise and achievement to report.

Meetings have continued in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Buffinton, 26 Donaldson-st., Canberra City, since July 8, 1951, with an average of 17 breaking bread each Lord's Day.

Generous giving has characterised the group. They were the first to raise their quota in full, and since have accepted liability for an additional £2,500, which has been advanced by the Campbell Edwards Trust.

The following brethren were appointed deacons by the church at Canberra: Sidney Moignard (chairman), Benj. Buffinton (sec.), Ira Raymond (treas.), James Dunner, Ron Fergie, Leslie Le Couteur.

There is an energetic Women's Fellowship and a progressive Bible School.

G. R. Stirling and family expect to go into residence at Canberra during the last week in January next, and begin the new ministry on February 1.

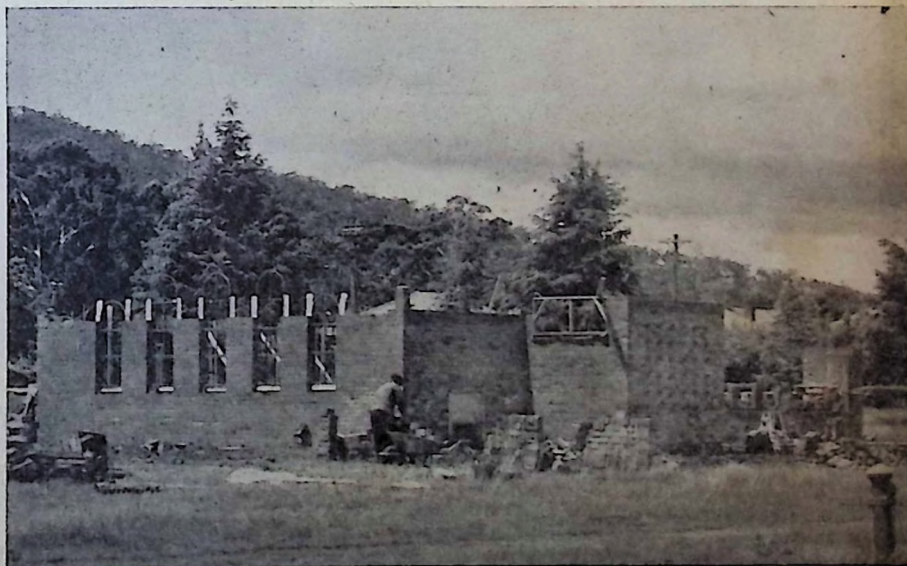
The contractor is making good progress with the buildings. The manse is ready for tiles and the multi-pur-

pose building is well on the way, as the picture, taken four weeks ago, indicates.

The response to the Canberra appeal has been steady. But we shall need a special effort before the end of the year if we are to reach our objective. Victoria and Tasmania have contributed £2,683 of their quota of £4,300; South Australia, £1,124 of quota of £2,000; Queensland, £588 of quota of £900; West Australia, £211 of quota of £800.

New South Wales has made its total quota of £2,000 available through the Campbell Edwards Trust.

The Federal Home Missions Committee still requires just over £3,000 to meet the cost of buildings being erected. It is confidently expected that a special drive will be made through the "Canberra Florin Fund" and by a "Christmas Gift" in every church in the Commonwealth before the end of the year.—Howard Earle (sec., Federal H.M. Committee).



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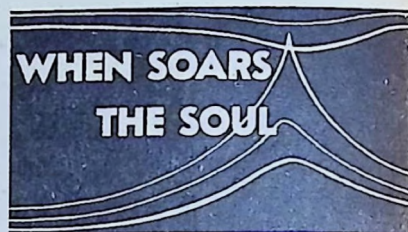
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When soars the soul earth's
clamoring voices cease,
Stilled in the wonder of God's
power and peace.



After this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house' . . . He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject unto us in your name!" . . . In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit.—Luke 10: 1-5, 16, 17, 21 (R.S.V.).

What is ministerial success—crowded churches, full aisles, attentive congregations, the approval of the religious world, much impression produced? Elijah thought so, and when he found out his mistake and discovered that the applause on Carmel subsided into hideous stillness, his heart well nigh broke with disappointment. Ministerial success lies in altered lives and obedient, humbled hearts: unseen work recognised in the judgment day.—F. W. Robertson.

O heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest; have respect, we beseech thee, to the prayers of thy people, and send forth more laborers into the harvest. Fit and prepare them by thy grace for the work of thy ministry; give them the spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind; strengthen them to endure hardness; and grant that thy Holy Spirit may prosper their work, and that by their life and doctrine they may set forth thy glory, and set forward the salvation of all men; through Jesus Christ our Lord.—G. E. Osborn.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
The precious things thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.
—F. R. Havergal.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

WILL H. CLAY, Vic. Social Service Director, sums up on . . .

Tattersall's Lotteries for Victoria

The Tattersall's Lottery Bill has now passed both Houses, and all the objections raised by the churches have been overruled. It may be stated that never in the history of our State Parliament has the State so blatantly and defiantly subjected the Church to such treatment. In this one instance, even the Roman Catholic church joined the Protestant churches in urging Parliament to reject the proposal of the Government, but all to no avail.

The original proposal to establish a State lottery was dropped when it was discovered that Tattersall's was for sale. This provided a ready-made lottery which was an established business.

THE BASIS OF THE PURCHASE.

The trustees of the George Adams Estate of Tasmania, realising that the greater part of its business came from Victoria, were quick to seize the opportunity to transfer to this State. For not less than ten years a licence has been granted the trustees to conduct their lottery business, provided that not less than three of every five pounds of the total subscriptions shall be set aside for prizes, that nine pounds in every hundred shall be retained by the trustees to cover expenses and provide dividends for them, and that thirty-one pounds in every hundred shall be paid into consolidated revenue to be appropriated in proportions fixed by the State Treasurer for the Hospitals and Charities Fund and for a fund to be known as the Mental Hospitals Fund.

THE HISTORY OF TATTERSALL'S.

It is impossible to give the whole of the history of Tattersall's, but a brief survey may be presented. The lottery business was born in an hotel. George Adams was the owner of Tattersall's Hotel, Sydney, from which place he conducted his business. In spite of the fact that the N.S.W. Government had declared lotteries illegal, he persistently broke the law, and was heavily fined. The payment of fines, however, was no deterrent. The Police Department, without doubt due to the apathy of the Government, did not take the breach of the law seriously. In 1891 Adams sought sanctuary in Tasmania. Both Queensland and Victoria refused to legalise a lottery. In 1895 the first office of Tattersall's lottery was established in Hobart. The then Premier, Sir Philip Fysh, and a few political friends were named as beneficiaries in Adams' will. Families of these

friends continue to participate in the profits of the lottery. A five million annual turnover, which is anticipated, will yield the trustees and the beneficiaries approximately half a million pounds. This sum is not subject to an audit. It would appear that this is a part of the bargain made with the trustees.

In 1896 the Gaming Bill was before the Tasmanian House, and gambling was further encouraged by a clause allowing lotteries for church, charitable, or any other purpose. Churches opposed the Bill but to no avail. In 1902 the Act was again amended so that it would apply till 1905. (The trustees were thus safe from any immediate restrictive legislation.) However, in 1904 any limiting period was repealed, and Tattersall's has been free to operate ever since.

TATTERSALL'S HAS COME TO STAY.

The Government has given its blessing to gambling, and gamblers are

to be encouraged to gamble still further.

The hope has been expressed in Parliament that there will be a continuing increase in the turnover of Tattersall's from five to ten million pounds, during the ten years' licence period granted. We cannot believe that any Government will be bold enough to discontinue it. With the increase of revenue from liquor and gambling, these may constitute the biggest legalised bribe known to responsible government. A few good men in our Parliament could have saved the situation for righteousness and posterity, but the opportunity has gone. Until there is a spiritual revival in our country which will bring about national repentance the future is mortgaged with the devil. Only a national tragedy of unprecedented gravity which will compel acknowledgment of God will save us.

(The above historical notes have been taken from Hansard.)

THE GREAT WAIL

—Editorial.

Yes, Mr. Press-man, we heard you. We know what you think of the N.S.W. Government. It's a long time since we've known you so indignant. But, of course, you are defending the freedom of the press, and that is important. You have always shown a tender regard for freedom—including the freedom of that much-abused man-in-the-street to give to hospitals through State-sponsored lotteries, or to rid himself of those outmoded and harassing liquor restrictions which you have so often told us make Australia the laughing-stock of the civilised world. Yes, you are certainly concerned about freedom!

And so are we. We are with you in the fight for the freedom of the press. The threat of police state measures affects us no less than you. Fight that

cause with honest purpose, and you have our support.

But, Mr. Press-man, what about these other causes which surely also vitally affect our nation's welfare? You gave the Mission to the Nation and its leader unprecedented publicity, and we appreciated that. But we look for an even more positive lead from you than that—certainly not the cheap jibes which have so often been headlined in connection with the Church's stand on gambling, drink and other social problems.

You have told us, in effect, to go to the howlers' wailing wall; well, you have one of your own now! And there is certainly plenty to wail about. But there's a lot more to work for. We must be in on this together, for the good of our nation. Can we count on you—and, yes, *can we count on ourselves?*

"We work in the very sunrise of hope," concludes G. P. PITTMAN (Parkdale, Vic.) after urging a life of . . .

Going Out After Them

Spurgeon used to say that a Christian should attend church in the morning for the sake of his own soul, and go out in the evening after the souls of other people.

Some of us attend once, and then go out hunting for pleasure, not for souls. Cars are used not for bringing outsiders to hear the gospel, but to scatter the flock. Sunday visitors are not brought to the meetings, but made an excuse for our own absence. Our leisure is too often spent not in winning the souls of others, but in losing our own.

The early Christians who were scattered abroad by persecution went everywhere preaching the Word. We are scattered abroad, but we go everywhere talking about anything but the Word. Some of us compass sea and land to make proselytes to some pet theory, but we do not introduce sinners to their Saviour.

A celebrated preacher used to speak of the deadening effect of long pastorates. The deadening effect of habit and custom may be a peril to us all. Not only pastorates, but diaconates and teacherships may act similarly.

On the mission field, if they were to build chapels and wait for outsiders to come in, they would wait for ever, as all chapels are taboo. They have worship for the Christians; but as for the non-Christians, they must go to them, and keep on going, and we ought to be doing the same.

Our Bible schools are our finest evangelistic agencies, but there is that awful gap between school and Church. Good Christian films seem fitted to help fill the gap, and as Paul thanked God for anything that helped the progress of the gospel—bondage, envy, strife, pretence, faction—anything so long as Christ was proclaimed, we also should thank God for anything that helps to win souls.

Open-Air Witness

The other day I met a young man who is conducting open-air services for children on the sea-shore. He and his wife take a harmonium and accordion, and a supply of attractive cards for the children. At first he used to tell stories of any kind, but he has proved from experience that Bible stories are the best, drawing larger audiences, and holding the attention longer. Not only children, but, a number of adults

attend these services. When he has to be away, his wife carries on.

Jesus was an open-air preacher; so were the apostles and most of the early Christians. To-day, with loud-speakers and records, it should still be possible to gather audiences in the parks and other places. We may have some incipient Donald Sopers in our midst, who might be able to use this method in a new and effective way.

John Wycliffe's open-air preachers popularised his first English translation of the Bible, denounced transubstantiation and the political ambition of the Church, and paved the way for the Reformation.

If it were not for open-air preaching, there would be no Methodist Church or Salvation Army to-day, for John Wesley travelled all over England, Scotland and Ireland, driven into the open-air by the opposition of the Church of England, and the common people swarmed round him.

Our own movement used open-air preaching largely at the first, in England, America and Australia. We may almost say that the open-air is our element, redolent of primitive Christianity.

In England to-day, Roman Catholic priests carry light pulpits to open spaces, deliver lectures, invite questions, and discussion, and draw good crowds.

The old Crusaders felt it was their duty to leave their homes, organise armies, and lay down their lives to reclaim sacred places from the infidels. We are faced with the problem of lost souls, each of them worth far more than all the sacred places, and they should be fought for, and, if necessary, died for. We should all be Christian Crusaders.

Avenues of Personal Work

Personal work is not easy. It is much easier to speak to the heathen about spiritual matters than to the average Australian. But prayer opens doors. If we pray and have faith, openings will occur, together with the courage to take or make them. As surely as Philip was told to join himself to the Ethiopian's chariot, and an angel was told to run and speak to a young man in old Jerusalem about spiritual things, the Spirit can speak to our spirits in ways we cannot

understand, if we seek his guidance, for we are "led by the Spirit."

The homes of Bible school scholars provide a fine field for visitation, and a kind enquiry about the children will often pave the way to an invitation, and perhaps a talk. You need not wait to be appointed, as you have already been appointed by Christ to witness for him.

Women have a great work to do in spreading the Word. Paul was not, as some say, a woman-hater, determined to keep all women in subjection. On the contrary, he asserts that there is no male or female in Christ. He tells us that women labored with him in the gospel. He sanctioned women's prayer and prophecy in the Church. I am sorry that I cannot get over 1 Cor. 14: 34 and 1 Tim. 2: 8-15, but with that exception he leaves a door wide open for women. On the foreign field women do a magnificent work among women, children and the sick. Here there is much evangelistic work for them in Bible schools, fellowships, visitation, and other ways, as the reports of women's conferences testify.

The Lord's Day should be looked upon not so much as a day of rest, but as an opportunity for Christian work. We are not Sabbatarians, but the whole Church has always observed the Lord's Day in commemoration of his resurrection and in obedience to his command. John says, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day," and Ignatius of Antioch, who died about 115 A.D., says that Christians were "No longer keeping the Sabbath, but living in the Spirit of the Lord's Day." Ever since the resurrection, all Christians have kept the Lord's Day, and used it for him. We cannot impose a Christian custom upon non-Christians, but prudence alone would suggest that we should take full advantage of the unique opportunity, and thus we, too, can be living in the Spirit of the Lord's Day. Other days should be levelled up to the Lord's Day, not vice-versa.

All the nations of the world are now beginning to realise that we should work for peace as earnestly as in the past for war and self-defence. All Christians of every denomination should be working together for the salvation of souls as earnestly as in the past we have spent our strength.

(continued at foot of next column.)

A Christmas and a Jubilee

Time marches on. Christmas is drawing near, shop windows are decorated, and crowds, urged by the "Shop Early" slogan, fill our streets. This is the season of good-will when people forget themselves, as is right and just, and think of others; this is the time when presents are bought for loved ones and cheques drawn for those less fortunate than ourselves. The wave of rejoicing sweeps round the world. The story of the first Christmas is read, and carols sung in every land where Jesus Christ is known. From Greenland to Patagonia, from the Amazon to Japan, the good news is proclaimed. Yet although nearly 2,000 years have passed since "Shepherds watched their flocks by night" and heard a celestial and angelic song, there are still multitudes to whom Christmas has no meaning, for whom the Christ-child is not yet born. There are many lands unreached by the gospel and into whose languages the greatest of stories has not been told. Yet it is a marvellous fact, one for which we cannot be too thankful, that through the combined efforts of missionary, philologist and Bible Society, backed up by Christians of many Churches, that story has been translated into over 1,000 tongues. Yet when God has been praised for a

W. H. RAINEY

great achievement, the fact still remains that there are more than 1,000 tongues into which no portion of Scripture has yet been translated. It is true that these are not the languages of powerful peoples, but of small tribes, but they, too, have a right to a place in God's Kingdom. Small peoples have ever had a big place in history; Palestine itself is but a small country—smaller than Tasmania, but its influence in world affairs, whether in the spiritual or material realm, has been of the first order. So it is possible, even probable, that some of the forgotten peoples to whom we have referred will have an important part to play.

Outpost of Western Culture

Australia, an outpost of western culture in the east, is strategically placed for influencing the life of the Orient. She stands at the crossroads watching many nations pass by. It has been said, and we believe with truth, that one half of the world's population lives within five thousand miles of the heart of Australia—that is less than a day's journey by plane. In this polyglot area innumerable tongues are spoken, hundreds of which are still without the Scriptures. It is good to know that the British and Foreign Bible Society in Australia, eager to help in the common task, has accepted responsibility for providing the Bible for the peoples of the New Guinea-Papua and South Pacific areas, and has already a long language list to its credit. The fact that Scriptures are now in the press in the following fifteen languages — Arosi, Aranda, Bamu, Ewa-ge, Hula, Jabem, Maloese, Manus, Maravo, New Britain, Petats, Roviana, Teapipi, Wedauan and Bwaidogan, shows that the good work still continues. It is good to see Manus in the list, for there is a story attached to this version. We lack space to give it in full, but the facts are these — when the Japanese over-ran Manus Island they killed the German missionaries, with the exception of one who was interned by the Australians, and destroyed a manuscript of the New Testament in the native tongue. For a long time it was believed that this work of many years was irreparably lost, but to the great joy of the people a copy was discovered. After revision by the surviving

missionary, this is now being printed. Bamu is also in the list; this is the tongue of a small tribe on the Papuan river of the same name, for whom Mark's Gospel has been translated. One of the missionaries thanking us for the books, writes: "On Sunday all were very excited to see the big pile of lovely blue Gospels. It was a tense moment as each came and took in his own hands this precious book. Payment continues to come in—sago, butterflies, garden work and kitchen jobs. Five school children asked for brown-paper for covers, so they are caring for the precious book." What a Christmas present! How thankful they were, and we were, that they should possess this portion of God's Word in their mother-tongue. You will readily understand what an expense to the Bible Society the provision of Scriptures for primitive people represents. Most of them, like the Bamu people, know little of money and pay for their books in service, but as far as the Bible Society is concerned, the book is a gift. Then editions are small—in the case of the Bamu Gospel, 1,000 copies, and the costs correspondingly high. Would you like to sponsor as a Christmas present, the printing of a Gospel in some language spoken in Papua, New Guinea, or the Islands of the Pacific? The cost, of course, varies with the particular part of Scripture printed and the size of the edition. Please write to your local Bible Society Secretary and he will give you any information you require.

Our Third Jubilee

Then there is another matter that interests us Bible Society folk most keenly. This is our Third Jubilee—our 150th Birthday, which will take place on March 7, 1954, when our Patroness, Her Majesty the Queen, will be in Melbourne. The Jubilee campaign, which is now in full swing, is not concerned only with the raising of additional funds to enable us to take advantage of the special opportunities presented by the world situation, although this is very important, but is also an endeavor to place the Bible in every Australian home. You will have noticed both in our capital cities and in our smaller towns, huge placards showing an open Bible and an invitation to read it. The placing of these placards in places where people congregate is a part of this campaign, a step towards making the reading of the Bible a regular part of home life. Pray for success in this effort, as well as give to our funds, and you will make a maximum contribution to a great cause.

(continued from previous page.)

brains and money in competition against each other. Union in soul-winning will win unity.

The A.V. says, "He that winneth souls is wise," and the R.V. says, "He that is wise winneth souls." Both are true. To win souls is a wise procedure, and those who are truly wise will certainly win souls, and wisdom is had for the asking.

"They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." When social and dramatic stars are extinguished for ever, humble souls that turn others to the righteousness of Christ shall shine forever in spiritual glory.

"There shall be abundance of corn upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon." In the most unlikely places the gospel will succeed. In the slums, in the palaces, in the wilderness, among rich and poor, wise and unwise, abundance of fruit may be expected. The gospel is optimistic to the verge of folly. There is no room for doubt or gloom. We work in the very sunrise of hope.

MISSIONARY NEWS

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

"Toiling, Rejoicing, Sorrowing."

Night school is in, in the small village of Bhoose. Our path to "school" led us through the field of growing grain. It was the moonlight half of the month, and the nights were very beautiful, as we came from the tent, along the path-way, to the home of Shankerrao.

A little thatched-roofed, mud-wall- ed room, with door-way three feet high, is our "schoolroom," our pupils, two young married women. As we approach, there are sounds from the small kitchen near-by. "We'll be there in a little while," they call. They have not long finished their day's work in the fields, and after that, has come the task of the cooking for the evening meal. Here they come with a cheery "Salaam," and we all sit down together on the mud floor. Our light is the light of the lantern set in the middle of the floor. Its brilliance does not exceed the joy that we have in this work. There is such good humor as these women seek to learn. In one corner of the room, the children are sleeping on the floor. "Grand-mother" sits behind, enjoying it all, until sleep overtakes her. She pulls up her blanket and goes to sleep.

Our pupils put in a good effort until sleep overtakes them, too. They are busy working in the fields all day, and this is the only time they have in which to learn.

"Toiling, rejoicing, sorrowing." Learning is really hard work for these our out-village women, and discouragement does come, but great will be the rejoicing when they can read. We pray that their real joy will come in reading God's Word, and that they may grow in grace, and knowledge and the love of him, our God.

Remember them in your prayers

—Jean Thomas (Shrigonda).

(Baptisms were reported from this village last month.—A.A.)

Island Items

The Santo churches are improving, which is a good sign. There are others who desire assistance and teachers to teach them, and things seem to move slowly. (H.J.F.)

Dry conditions have been experienced on Aoba. The single ladies' bungalow tanks are empty. It has been a long spell without rain, and most folk are without water. On an island where there are practically no springs nor streams, the situation becomes difficult.

Miss Kennedy writes: "It is lovely to have the garden netted in, but it is just heart-breaking when it is going well to have to see it die for the need of water. One of our tanks had to be shifted because it was leaking, and was also in the wrong location since the kitchen is now in a different place. We have been carting our garden water from the hospital for about two months, and I think the girls, as well as ourselves, are getting tired of it. We have our eyes on the hills again as it looks very much like rain to-day, in fact I think that it is raining up there even now. I think this is the driest spell I have experienced since I have been here. The roads are just inches thick with dust." (Material for a 2,000 gallon tank is being sent down to help solve the water problems.—

A.A.) "To-night they are having a preliminary meeting and a cup of tea prior to the opening of the kia house at Lavartarusa. I have not known of this fashion before, but it is just for the Lavartarusa people. At the general opening they will have a big service in the church, and of course a big kia afterwards."

Our Island Christians are certainly not parochial in their outlook. H. J. Finger advises that an appeal was launched by the British Government representatives in the Islands on behalf of the restoration of Westminster Abbey, and the Aoban Christians donated £111.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith, who are now in Australia on furlough, have some color movies of the work on Pente-cost. If the shots are successful, we are likely to see some interesting features of that work in the near future.

J. E. Allan

At the last meeting of the Federal Board, regret was expressed that J. E. Allan had found it necessary on health grounds to relinquish his seat on the Victorian F.M. Committee. Mr. Allan has served honorably and well on the Victorian Committee over a period of years, and for a period was also a member on the F.M. Board. Missionaries past and present remember with gratitude the helpfulness and sympathy of this brother over the years. The Board have sent a letter of appreciation for services rendered, wishing him well in the future.



Christians Look at the United Nations

"The United Nations has been created because of the longings of the peoples for a just and durable peace and their sense of need for collective security. It was born out of the sacrifice and tragic suffering of a global war. Its work is, in many respects, directed toward goals which Christians believe to be in accordance with God's will for justice among his children.

"An understanding of the substantial contributions which the United Nations has thus far made must reckon with the handicaps under which it is forced to operate. The United Nations reflects the disorder of this interdependent world. In its structure it is an association of sovereign states. Its members in many cases have been unable or unwilling to co-operate fully, and their representatives normally look at international questions not so

much on the basis of merit as on the grounds of national interests and ideological points of view. It operates on the frontier of international anarchy. It is threatened by a jungle of clashing nationalisms, social systems and power blocs. Indeed, its decisions are at times influenced, if not determined, by these same forces. The development of its limited powers has been hindered, especially in the realm of security, by the abuse of the veto.

"Nevertheless, the United Nations, as well as related agencies, including the International Court of Justice, provides the nations with an instrument for the development of international law and the just regulation of common interests of nations as well as for the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the discouragement of threats to peace. It also provides a world forum for the interchange of thought between diverse cultures and view points. Through such co-opera-

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tion these institutions offer now an effective means of developing conditions essential to the rule of law in the world.

"Moreover, the United Nations offers the best means for co-ordinating the activities of nations for human welfare. Through its related organisations it is rendering valuable service in combatting ignorance, want and disease, especially in under-developed territories. It is helping to create a common mind on the subject of Human Rights, and to provide those services essential for refugees and migrants.

"Therefore, the United Nations

needs and deserves the discerning and active support of Christians. The valid purposes of the Charter can be served neither by Utopian illusions nor by irresponsible defeatism, but only by the constructive support of all people of goodwill. The tremendous task of developing effective international machinery cannot be performed within a few years, but only by the patient and cumulative effort of generations. To aid in this task is a Christian duty.

"If it is to live, the United Nations must grow. There are grave obstacles to any fundamental revision of the Charter, so long as post-war fears and antagonisms corrode the confidence and obscure the moral basis pre-

quisite for this. But the present structure is flexible enough to permit more adequate procedures if public opinion can be sufficiently informed and aroused. The growth of the United Nations requires fuller co-operation on the part of member States in honoring their common commitment. We therefore call on Christians everywhere to study, pray and work for a better fulfilment of the purposes of the United Nations Charter." — From a statement adopted last August by the Executive Committee of the W.C.C. Commission on International Affairs.

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

Your Christmas and Theirs

The most pressing human problem of our time is that of refugees. Because the years lengthen since World War II, there is seen a mental impatience in Australia. The refugee situation has surely righted itself. Why keep harping about it?

Because war, earthquake, flood, politics and famine have caused since the war some 70 to 80 millions to be homeless, displaced persons:

In Europe—Germany, nearly 10 million; France, nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ million; Austria, nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ million; Greece, nearly 1 million.

In Asia—Turkey, over 3 million; Palestine, nearly 1 million; India, about 8 million; Pakistan, about 5 million; Burma, hundreds of thousands; China, 35 million in 1946; Korea, 11 million in 1953; Indonesia, tens of thousands.

DESPERATE HUMAN SITUATION.

Some are called refugees, others expellees, others displaced persons, but when human misery and fearful futurelessness confront the work in such magnitude, categories matter very little. From the view point of Christian compassion, the human situation is what matters most. They are homeless, destitute, futureless.

Statisticians, sociologists and politicians may say, "It can be argued . . .", but that provides no basis of hope to the expellee who has waited 8 long years in Germany.

The 1945 Potsdam Agreement was responsible for the post war expellee situation in Europe; ideologies and politics for the refugee. Bulgaria expelled ethnic Turkish citizens to Turkey. The United Nations' action in creating a home for the homeless Jews from the ghettos of Europe in 1947 created the displaced Arab tragedy. Self-rule for India resulted in the creation of Pakistan and India and their tidal waves of refugees. Japan-

Frank Byatt, Australian Secretary for Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees.

ese occupation displaced China's millions, and the war in Korea deluged South Korea with homeless peoples.

Assimilation will have to be the solution for the Ethnic German expellee in Germany and the displaced Greek in Greece, the Moslem in Pakistan and the Korean in Korea. But the process will take a generation or more, and the financial burden is beyond the resources of the governments of countries devastated by war. Politics and governments can create a refugee problem. Governments, because of politics and ideologies, cannot solve it; for example, the heavy Arab necklace round the borders of Israel. In the meantime, the human situation in a weather beaten tent deteriorates.

SOME PROGRESS.

Some progress is being made: the German Government last year gave nearly £2½ million for refugee relief in Germany, and built nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ million dwellings, but even at that rate, there will still be homeless families in Germany in 10 years' time. At the end of 1952, one in three was dependent on state welfare relief. Since then 280,000 more refugees have passed through Berlin. The Indian and Pakistan and Greek Governments have a magnificent record, but a new and total environment has to be built up in which the destitute may again become self supporting, and social services are provided before a new set of circumstances can constitute a satisfactory normal existence.

The United Nations' programmes have been sadly hampered because member nations have so limited their contributions for relief, apart from

what the U.N. has no funds. In Palestine the target set was \$50 per person a year; it resulted in \$1.35 per person per month which has to provide shelter, food, clothing, education, medical and social services. In Korea, the U.N. poured in 26,000 tons of grain a month to provide 1,500 calories a day for 2 million refugees. It was eventually discovered that the grain was shared by 4 million.

The United Nations accepts no responsibility for refugees in areas other than Palestine and Korea, and has made no provision for their resettlement from Europe, Iran or China since I.R.O. folded up in 1951, due to withdrawal of American financial support.

The UN. High Commissioner for Refugees has no funds or staff—he depends on the Voluntary Societies to render actual service to refugees "in situ" or in transit to a new life in a new country.

It is because of their knowledge of a situation, a situation of which Australia is so little aware, that the World Council of Churches, with headquarters in Geneva, and represented by the Australian Council, maintains as one of its largest and most important functions — the Department of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees, which is operating through the local churches in every theatre of homelessness in the world.

It is for this reason that for the 5th year Australians should have a Bowl of Remembrance on their Christmas dinner table, where, by every diner placing cash to the value of their dinner, Australian caring can become Australian sharing for the sake of that first refugee family in Egypt—the Holy Family.

Such gifts should be sent through any church, or direct to the Commission Office—Room 23, 5th Floor, 37 Swanston-st., Melbourne.

here and there

Our special Christmas issue will be published next week. Final issue for the year will be on Dec. 22.

The Brighton church, Vic., celebrated its ninety-fourth anniversary with very successful gatherings on Nov. 22. Dr. G. H. Oldfield, Conf. Pres., drew from his missionary experience some interesting comparisons on "worship" at the morning meeting, when 238 were present. At the P.S.A., an enjoyable musical programme was presented to an audience of 155 by Dorothy Langford (contralto), David Lewis (flautist), and the C.E. Quartet, while H. A. G. Clark held the interest of all with his story of "Japan as I saw it." 200 were present at the fellowship tea, and 210 at the gospel service, when C. G. Taylor spoke, and Mrs. J. G. Hall and Mrs. C. G. Taylor were soloists. The choir, under Mrs. Taylor, sang morning and night. Souvenir programmes had been prepared, and were used at all the meetings. Rhododendrons, secured by Mr. and Mrs. Sercombe, of Emerald, added to the beauty of the chapel. Among those who returned for the day was Mrs. W. R. L. Rodgers-Wilson (Bairnsdale) and her help as accompanist throughout the day was appreciated, as was the service of many others.

L. G. Crisp will conclude his ministry with the church at Carnegie, Vic., on Dec. 13. H. A. G. Clark, M.A., B.D., and H. Steele will undertake interim ministries until the coming of A. Ross Lloyd (Coburg), who has accepted an invitation to become minister at Carnegie.

A team of experts representing many British and American missionary societies is at present on an eleven weeks' visit to twelve territories in Africa, to find out if missionaries are using visual aids effectively. Films and filmstrips have been used in Africa by individual missionaries in certain areas for many years, but no general policy has yet been worked out. Such a policy is the aim of this first-hand survey.

J. A. Wilkie has sent us a clipping from the "Ballarat Courier" (23/11/53) headlining the "wonderful effort" in the erection of a new church of Christ building at the corner of Brougham and Clyde-sts., Ballarat. This was virtually completed by vol-

untary labor on the two Saturdays, Nov. 14 and 21, with men from the churches at Dawson-st., Doveton-st., Peel-st. and York-st. co-operating in the effort under the supervision of H. G. Feary. The "Courier" adds: "The ladies of the churches provided all refreshments and meals during the day, and then stood by and barracked their men-folk on to greater things." The venture had its beginning years ago when the small Doveton-st. congregation decided on a "copper" offering each Sunday towards the purchase of the block of land.

The Queensland Temperance League announces that the Arthur Toombes Memorial Temperance Essay Competition is open to all theological students of Theological Colleges throughout Australia. Essays must be on the subject, "Social Drinking—Its Moral and Physical Aspects"; should not exceed 2,000 words, and must reach the office of the Queensland Temperance League, 318 Edward-st., Brisbane, by March 1, 1954. Prizes offered are: first £25, second £10, third £5. Full particulars may be had at Theological Colleges, the various State Temperance Alliances, or direct from the Queensland Temperance League, Brisbane.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, the first fruits of the new work at Seaforth, N.S.W., were gathered. Gordon Brown (North Sydney) conducted the evening service, at the close of which Mrs. V. Muir, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hall, made

the good confession. The work in the B.S. is progressing encouragingly under the leadership of Jack Hughes. A few Sundays previously one of the senior girls made the good confession in the evening meeting in Manly church, and was baptised in the Mosman Tabernacle on Nov. 11, G. Burns officiating. A goodly company of visitors from Manly and Seaforth joined in the fellowship of the meeting.—G.B.

The annual meeting of the Burma Christian Council held in Rangoon in September brought together, in a spirit of evangelistic planning, more national Christians than at any earlier Council meeting. In a country which, through the Buddhist revival, is now being stirred to think seriously about religion, Christians are finding people more ready to discuss than to resist the gospel message. More Bibles and Scripture portions have been sold since 1948 than for any other similar period.

The church at Earlwood, N.S.W., is very appreciative of the generous and sacrificial work of the builder, W. J. Mansell, in the recent erection of their new school hall. Mr. Mansell (whose son David is preacher at East Kew, Vic.) delights to help in building and repairing buildings for our Sydney churches.

An unsuccessful attempt was made in October during the Anglican Convocation of Canterbury to have plays and films totally banned from church presentation. Instead, it was decided that they be allowed if they are "such as to befit the house of God, are consonant with sound doctrine, and tend to the edifying of the people."

More churches are realising the value of making panel sites available on church property for the featuring of religious posters. The present fine poster is sponsored by the British and Foreign Bible Society.



Seaforth B.S. Hall, N.S.W., recently erected by men of Mosman church.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

Christina Lynch, Carnegie, Vic.
 Rosalie Browning, Faye Adams,
 South Perth, W.A.
 Ian Edwards, Yarrowonga, Vic.
 Robert Paget, Wembley, W.A.
 Mrs. D. Trestraile and Jim Marshall,
 Williamstown, S.A.
 Valnae Williamson, Whyalla, S.A.
 Lorraine, John and Brian West,
 Wangaratta, Vic.
 Adrian Donoghue, Maureen Fletcher,
 Glenda Cross and Beverley Wool-
 mer, Reservoir, Vic.

Membership

Mr. and Mrs. F. Butcher, from
 Bassendean, W.A., to South
 Perth, W.A.
 Mr. Miles and Mrs. Pearce, from
 Hamilton, Vic., to Drumcondra,
 Vic.

Marriage

Patricia Allen to Graham Hilbig,
 Hampton, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

Mrs. J. Geuer, Victoria Park, W.A.
 Mrs. E. R. Berry, Lake-st., Perth,
 W.A.
 Sis. Cole, Dunolly, Vic.

Queensland

Kingaroy (P. French).—Church re-
 grets removal of Dr. Green and family
 to Dalby. Cottage meeting was held
 in home of Mr. McNicol (Mererambi)
 to wish God's blessing for Mr. and
 Mrs. V. Parker prior to mission at
 Chinchilla. Morning service was broad-
 cast on Oct. 11. B.S. anniversary was
 on 25th. Service was climaxed with
 play *What Is Your Claim?* Several
 Brisbane members have been visitors.

Western Australia

Cottesloe (E. J. Sewell).—£78 has
 been received this year for Ladies'
 Talent Fund. Manse is almost com-
 pleted, and will be open for inspection
 on Dec. 5 and 6. Midweek prayer
 meetings are encouraging. Hardey
 Memorial Y.P. conducted meeting on
 Nov. 17. Church attendances are
 good. Mrs. Sewell has returned home
 after few days in hospital.

Wembley (J. K. Bond).—Baptismal
 service preceded gospel message on
 Nov. 15. Two Y.M. made decision
 after address. I.C.E. members have
 contributed £63 toward radio set for
 John Bairagi Friendship Centre, Bara-
 mati. Recent attendance at I.C.E.
 has been near 20. Y.P.F. had fine
 meeting on Nov. 7. Women's Guild
 concluded activities on 18th after suc-
 cessful year under leadership of Mrs.
 Park (pres.) and Mrs. Paget (sec.).
 Attendances at gospel meetings have
 been near to 100 for several weeks.



Mr. and Mrs. B. Buffinton, Canberra.

New South Wales

Kingsford (A. G. Elliott, M.A.,
 B.Sc., Dip.Ed.).—B.S. recently
 broke attendance records. J.C.E. has
 conducted scrap book competition as
 missionary project. Scrap books will
 go to aborigine mission stations.
 Speaker at youth tea on Nov. 1 was
 Mr. Wladysluk (Woolwich). Studies
 from John have been feature of
 weekly adult B.C. Soloists at gospel
 services have included Mrs. McWill-
 liams and Mrs. Bagley.

Hornsby (K. R. Fennell).—B.
 Roberts was speaker at monthly fel-
 lowship tea on Nov. 22. At tea table
 Hornsby-Asquith circuit presented him
 with small token of appreciation as
 college student assisting in preaching
 gospel during year. Mrs. Bartholomew,
 snr., is able to attend after opera-
 tion. Recent speakers have been
 J. Boswell, K. Fennell, J. Powell and
 B. Roberts. Messages in song by
 members have been appreciated.

Mosman (G. E. Burns).—J. Hunter
 spoke on morning of Oct. 25. On

29th church met Seaforth members to
 discuss future work. Chaplain Cavill
 spoke to fellowship tea, and at gospel
 service on Nov. 1. B.S. anniversary
 was held on 15th and 22nd, when
 G. E. Burns, G. Sloman (Belmore)
 and G. Brown (Nth. Sydney) were
 speakers. Mr. Gibson (Woolwich)
 spoke on morning of 22nd. Miss E.
 McKnight and J. Hudson each pre-
 sented bracket of songs at afternoon
 service on 22nd. G. E. Burns has
 been confined to bed since 18th.

Earlwood (G. H. Benjamin).—R.
 Greenhalgh was special speaker at
 youth service on Nov. 15. N. H.
 Matthews spoke at gospel service on
 8th. N. Hodgekiss and L. Yelds have
 exhorted on recent Sundays. On 21st
 garden party at home of Mr. and
 Mrs. Caspersenn was happy social
 function, and sale of work at same
 gathering realised £50 for Building
 Fund. Stalls were arranged and con-
 ducted by Mesdames Edwards, Gabb,
 Selby, Walker, T. Smith, W. Smith,
 Berry, Renison and Caspersenn. On
 same evening many friends gathered
 in new school hall to wish Marjorie
 Tabrett happy 21st birthday.

South Australia

Prospect (K. J. Patterson, B.A.,
 B.Com.).—Interest is being maintained
 in services. Kilburn combined with
 Prospect on evening of Nov. 8, when
 two from Kilburn were baptised. Colin
 Molsher spoke of experiences at re-
 cent C.E. convention. Margaret
 Brazel is newly appointed junior supt.
 of B.S. J. Moar and Marlene Spring-
 gay have joined staff. Ladies' Guild
 visited Christian Rest Home, provid-
 ing entertainment and gifts of flowers
 and sweets. Marlene Springgay and
 Janet Fischer took part in recent
 basket-ball carnival in Melbourne.

Fullarton (A. H. Lennox).—A. C.
 Mau led song service which preceded
 evening meeting on Nov. 22. Mr. and
 Mrs. D. Thorpe celebrated golden wed-
 ding anniversary. Mr. Jones is in
 hospital.

Cowandilla (T. T. Robinson).—B.S.
 held picnic on Nov. 14 at Long Gully.
 C. Bowers is general supt. Minister
 has been released for three weeks to
 conduct mission at Boronia, Vic. On
 15th R. McLean spoke in morning. K.
 Dixon was evening speaker, and Misses
 J. and L. Mitchell assisted with duet.
 Mrs. Taverner is progressing after ill-
 ness. On 21st E. Holland conducted
 services. Dorcas has packed several
 parcels for missions overseas.

Moonta-Wallaroo (B. W. Manning).
 —Nearly half of Wallaroo members
 have been away through sickness. Dur-

ing year Ladies' Guild has taken keen interest in missions. Moonta Guild had successful year presided over by Mrs. W. Verran. Mrs. Manning has commenced B.S. and monthly missionary prayer meeting. Much visitation by pastor is creating interest. Month of prayer is now being followed and enjoyed by month of praise.

Unley (I. J. Chivell). — Minister conducted visitation and evangelistic mission at Brooklyn Park. Members of M.B. concluded year's activity with picnic at Botanic Gardens. They also held gift evening when good assortment of articles suitable for hospital visitation was brought. Dr. Linn showed colored moving pictures and musical programme was appreciated. J.C.E. enjoyed social evening, and had visits from Mr. Hollard and L. Williams (who is going to Egypt as an educational missionary). Well attended business meeting decided to erect youth hall immediately. It was decided to continue choir at morning service. Preacher has been appointed chaplain to Christian Rest Home. Y.P. are preparing for Christmas camp at Strathalbyn.

Whyalla (K. N. Roberts). — All auxiliaries are busy preparing for end of year parties. B.S. attendance is improving. Mrs. Roberts organised dinner on Nov. 20 for about 20 Y.P. P. R. Baker (Edwardstown) addressed church on 15th. At baptismal service on 22nd P. R. Baker also gave message when six made decision.

Williamstown (L. G. Armstrong). — There were good attendances at B.S. anniversary held on Nov. 6 and 7, when D. Cecil was guest speaker. School choir led by R. Smith, and kinders under Mrs. L. Armstrong, rendered delightful items. Anniversary tea prepared by ladies was well attended. At mid-week prayer meeting preacher has commenced study of First Principles. On 20th Good Companions celebrated first birthday, and invited Explorers to party. Miss L. Marr has improved in health, and returned to kinder staff. Strawberry fete was held on 27th. Tennis club has entered team in Gawler "B" association.

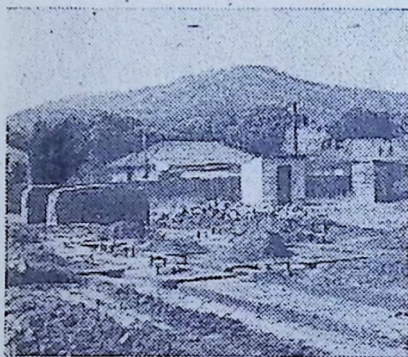
Kilburn (H. G. Norris). — C.Y.F. held well attended meeting on Nov. 20, when preacher conducted devotional session, and F. Lawrance social programme. On 22nd G. Whiting (Dulwich) was night speaker, and Mrs. Kelly soloist. Saturday working bees are doing fine job of rebuilding old masonite hut.

Victoria

Yarrawonga (R. V. Holmes). — B.S. held successful picnic in Oct. Minister is giving helpful studies on Galatians at morning meetings.

Red Hill (N. Gilmore). — Film was screened on evening of Nov. 8. Bayside District Conference was held in church on 14th. N. Gilmore was pres., and H. Gross (Ascot Vale) spoke. Mrs. B. Prosser was soloist. Mrs. Bolduan spoke at ladies' session. In evening V. Stafford presided, and A. Pigdon and R. Morris spoke on Christian unity. Group discussion followed. T. Cuddy conducted song service. On 15th H. Steele was speaker for day.

Drumcondra (R. Wilson). — B.S. anniversary was held on Nov. 1. Dedication of teachers was conducted in morning service, at which R. Clark spoke. Prominence was given in afternoon to kinder and primary groups under Miss K. Watson. Mr. Clark spoke. Minister conducted singing. Presentation was made to R. Tattersall, who resigned as supt. Theme, A New Man of Christ, was presented by



Early stages, Canberra manse.

pupils at night with aid of song, scripture and spoken messages. J. Smart spoke at night. This service was recorded for benefit of shut in members. Concert was held by Y.W.F. Miss Y. Noye and A. Hore were honored by kitchen tea. Visitors have included Mrs. Dickson (Lygon-st.) and G. Hore (N.S.W.).

Carnegie (L. G. Crisp, L.Th.). — E. L. Williams and R. Wilson conducted services on Nov. 22 in absence of minister, who is leading mission at Hobart. Baptismal service was held on 15th.

Maidstone (E. H. Randall). — B.S. anniversary services continued on Nov. 22 with 160 scholars. Speaker was K. McKenzie (Methodist). Occasion was taken to make presentation on behalf of B.S. scholars and teachers to H. Pletzsch, who has been supt. for 25 years. In evening E. Randall spoke to scholars and good congregation, after which presentations were made to V. Waters (conductor) and Mrs. O. Hampton (pianiste). A few outstand-

ing jobs on manse have been completed.

Warragul (V. Quayle). — Very wet weather marred attendances for first week of two week mission led by Lloyd Jones. Final week with King's Messengers assisting saw chapel crowded. There were three decisions. M.B. held special afternoon on 11th, with Lloyd Jones as speaker. Successful street stall was conducted by ladies on 19th. Kinder offering for Building Fund (25 children) amounted to £3/10/-.

South Yarra (V. Longthorp). — Annual business meeting showed work to be progressing. Mesdames Davis, Bath and Barbour were elected deaconesses. Y.W.F. met on Nov. 2, when Mrs. Dorning led devotions. £26 was raised for Christmas Cheer by film tour of Australia, which Mr. Lewis presented on behalf of W.F. Remembrance Day service was held on evening of 8th, when servicemen were present, and flags donated by them were dedicated. After service pre-war films by Mr. Searle were screened. On 15th Y.P. took part in evening service, and C. Kimber sang.

South Richmond (C. Cole). — Ladies' meeting reports good attendance and plans. Mesdames Stock, Ashcroft and Clarke have assisted in programme. Family social is planned by ladies for Dec. R. Clarke and C. Cole were speakers at outstanding B.S. anniversary. 110 attended in morning, and 75 at night. Visiting speakers have included Mr. Buckmaster and G. Clarke. Progress in all departments of church is attributed to support of Saturday prayer meetings.

Reservoir (R. E. Burns). — Annual sale of work, conducted by C.W.F. and opened by Cr. W. Nimmo, was well attended. £110 was raised. Members of Fellowship enjoyed visit from Mrs. Ploog, and have visited Hope Hall (Salvation Army). Evening meeting on Nov. 2 was baptismal service, conducted by preacher, and assisted by C. Fletcher (St. Kilda), when 4 senior scholars were baptised. Great interest is being shown in gospel meetings, which have averaged 65-70 over last few weeks. Temple Day was observed on 22nd with good services. Preacher gave morning thanksgiving sermon, and in evening Mrs. English (Regent Baptist) gave spiritual message, and Mrs. Gullidge (Northcote) rendered two solos. Offering for day was £150. Building committee has been appointed to consider alterations and additions to church property.

Lygon-st., Carlton. — Church life continues enthusiastically. Coming of new preacher, L. G. Burgin, early in Feb., 1954, gives encouragement. Prayer fellowship is bright spot in church

life; 34 present at last meeting. Church has enjoyed most successful Home Coming Day for years. Annual meeting was well attended, and reports were encouraging. Pulpit has been splendidly served by Messrs. Jones, Gole, Geyer and Westwood. Interstate and overseas visitors have enriched fellowship.

Dunolly (A. Stevens).—C.E. social raised £4. C.E. also paid visits to home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Gordon (Dunluce) and Kyneton. B.S. joined with Bet Bet for anniversary on Nov. 5. Local anniversary was on 22nd, when R. Muller spoke. Bible Class under Mr. Stevens is progressing. There were several with maximum marks in school for year.

Hampton (Stanton H. Wilson).—Temple day offering was over £90. Girls' gym display proved successful. C.M.S. visited Black Rock for last meeting. B.S. anniversary was happy occasion, with large attendances. Fancy dress party for scholars was held in place of usual concert. Good Companions and Explorers continue to be active.

Swan Hill (R. A. Banks).—During preacher's holidays pulpit has been filled by E. Mott, G. A. Mott, J. Bird and J. Crowe. Woorinen B.S. held anniversary services on Nov. 22, when F. Elliott (East Kew) was speaker. Recent attendances at services have been good.

Dandenong (A. R. Pigdon). — Dr. Killmier, R. Muller, J. Wiltshire and A. Pigdon were speakers at B.S. anniversary on Nov. 8 and 15. On 14th kitchen tea was held for Stella Darch. On 19th evening was given to B.S. scholars. On 18th C.W.F. held final meeting for year when Mrs. V. Thurle gave talk on travels. Social evening was given by Y.P.F. on 21st. Proceeds went to C.O.B. Refurnishing Fund.

Red Cliffs (C. L. Lang).—B.S. picnic was held at Hattah Lakes. Mr. and Mrs. Lang have returned from holidays. On Nov. 8 speakers were C. M. Leng and W. Neville, and on 15th A. McWilliams and Neville Bradley (Mildura). Meetings have been well attended. At Nov. meeting of Women's Fellowship, ladies were delighted to have unexpected visit from Mrs. Hodges, Pres. Women's Conference.

Wangaratta (R. J. Anderson).—On Nov. 15 baptismal service was held, when father, two sons and daughter were baptised. On 22nd 83 broke bread for day. Among visitors were Mr and Mrs. R. A. Banks, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Jeffery (Swan Hill). Attendance at B.S., which is now held Sunday mornings, has increased to century mark.

Western Sub. District Conference, Vic.

The Western Suburban District Conference was held on Nov. 20 at Maidstone, Vic., with over 100 present. The president E. Westaway occupied the chair.

The conference opened with a prayer session conducted by E. H. Randall, followed by a song service led by G. Ogden (Williamstown).

After the opening hymn the chairman led in prayer, and Mr. Wright, of Sunshine, read the scripture.

Items were rendered by Beverley Spowart and Fay Mitchell (Sunshine), the newly formed Footscray choir under the leadership of Mr. Smith, and Geoff Ogden (Williamstown).



Early stages, Canberra chapel.

Reports from the district churches showed an upward movement, with the work in all churches in a healthy condition.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:—pres., F. B. Alcorn (Sunshine), vice-pres., K. Lacy (Footscray), sec. and treas., A. H. C. Pfeifer (Maidstone). They were duly installed by the chairman.

The following recommendation from the combined officers was placed before the conference, "That on a set day in each quarter all district churches exchange presidents and readers on a roster system to promote greater fellowship among the churches."

On being put to conference the recommendation was adopted.

Lloyd E. Jones then spoke very inspiringly on "Effective Evangelism."

At the conclusion of his address H. Easton expressed a word of appreciation for the services rendered by E. Westaway, first as sec. and then as pres. of the Combined Officers' Association.

After the meeting had ended, the Maidstone ladies supplied all present with supper, and were accorded a vote of thanks by the president.—A. Pfeifer.

"For Such a Time as This"

THIS IS THE ANSWER.

A Testimony from Various People.

Throughout the whole tour of Victorian provincial centres, great interest has been aroused both amongst secular and religious educationalists, in the presentation of the story of the past by the Australian Institute of Archaeology. Headmasters of schools have been outspoken and enthusiastic in their appraisal of the worth of the Exhibitions. One after another have said, concerning the visual aids and informative commentary to those teaching history and social studies—"This the way to do it—this is the answer!" One said, speaking for a large technical school, "I think we shall install you, exhibition and all, into our history and social studies section." Others associated with another secondary school said, "The students would learn more by means of this visual display in an hour, than they would from months of teaching."

Secular and Spiritual Value.

The whole story of the exhibition is educational, cultural and spiritual. The display is firmly based in the Word of God. It would seem that Almighty God has raised up this scientific approach with its factual findings to meet the need of a materialistic, scientific, questioning age. As one Chaplain of a very large boys' school put it—"You do not set out to prove the Bible true, you demonstrate its trustworthiness by factual evidence, which is more effective." Numerous young people have thanked us, not only for the help received in school studies, but for the confidence they have received as a result of this witness to the veracity of the Scriptures which has provided a new foundation to faith.

Magnificent and Convincing.

Recently a secondary school master claiming to be agnostic, attended one of our exhibitions. His comment to other members of the school staff was, "This is magnificent; it is convincing and unanswerable." To many young people, in particular those who have been disturbed and whose minds are confused, and who are groping and hoping for something which they can firmly grasp—an anchorage—something tangible that gives confidence—this is the answer! The over-all interest is general archaeology, the specialised interest is biblical archaeology. The firm historical foundation of the Hebrew-Christian faith is thus established. Those thus becoming acquainted with the material and story of the findings

of the modern science of archaeology are enabled to realise that in the Bible is found good history upon which is firmly based the message of Good News.

Recent Provincial Exhibitions.

Another zone of exhibitions has been completed. The Australian Secretary of the Institute reports much interest and encouragement at Kerang, Echuca, Coluna, Rochester and Bendigo. In the various centres daytime school sessions were arranged by headmasters of schools. In all, nearly 4000, mostly from technical, high and other secondary and church schools attended. At Kerang, in spite of winter roads that were unpassable, the hall was crowded for the closing sessions. In each centre interest grew as the week proceeded, and there was much favorable comment on the part of schools and church groups. In each centre the civic representation, or in the case of Bendigo, the local Member of Parliament, Mr. Clarey, M.H.R., opened the exhibition officially.

Future Plans and Programme.

The new centre, "Ancient Times House," a three storey building, is now approaching completion of decoration. The first floor will be set up as a permanent exhibition auditorium, the second for a specialised presentation, and the top floor will be used for storage, receiving and repair work-room.

The metropolitan work and the itinerary for State centres next year are now being planned, which includes intensive work in Melbourne, a number of exhibitions in Victorian provincial centres, and the introduction of the work and witness inter-state.

The headquarters, office and library will still be the Australian Institute of Archaeology, 174 Collins-st., Melbourne, and all communications should be addressed there.



New Building, Loftus Park, N.S.W.

On Saturday afternoon, Oct. 17, at 3 p.m., the new building at Loftus Park was officially opened and dedicated in glorious sunshine, with 478 present. Hopes born 24 years ago were at last fulfilled.

The church is grateful to many, especially to Mr. Swan for the unselfish labor he put into the building, week-ends and nights, month in and month out. Sister Torode, who worked at Loftus Park for many years, was given the honor of opening the new

building to the glory of God and her prayer, that "all who enter its portals will find rest inside" is our prayer, too.

The afternoon service was presided over by Arthur Baker (Lidcombe), and the Conference President, G. J. Andrews, gave an inspiring address. A good afternoon programme was followed by buffet tea.

After a bright song service, led by Scotty Gibb, D. Wakeley, minister-elect, presided at the evening meeting, when R. Greenhalgh spoke.

The Loftus Park church thanks God for the day of blessing he gave, and all who came to help, some from far and near, and we pray that God will abundantly bless us all in our endeavors to bring people to him.

Telegrams were received from D. Craig and Mr. and Mrs. R. Jones (Bundaberg), Sister Adams (Toowoomba), a greeting and gift from Mr. and Mrs. Collingwood (Townsville), and a greeting from Dave and Doris Hammer (Balaklava, S.A.).

Many thanks to all for a great effort on a great day.—L. Warren, sec.

"A Noble Army"

(A Hymn for December—No. 590, Dec. 13.)

A check on the classifications into which a hymn is put by hymnal editors gives some interesting indications, and may even reveal complete unconcern as to the author's original intentions!

Bishop Heber's "The Son of God goes forth to war" (our No. 590) frequently appears in the section "The Christian Life"—with such sub-headings as "Warfare and Victory," "Progress and Perseverance," "Consecration and Holiness," "Courage and Service." It enters the groups on "Christian Warfare: Persecution, Work, Strife," "The Church Militant and Triumphant," "The Children of the Kingdom: Hope." Relating the message to the Son of God himself, other books use "Jesus, the old, old story: Who loved me and gave himself for me," or "Saints suffering with Christ." Many Anglican books place the hymn in a section for Saints' Days, while in a single collection it appears as a processional.

Accompanying texts are equally enlightening and of varying degrees of

aptness. The passages used are: "I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest," "The armies which were in heaven followed him," "He went forth conquering and to conquer," "Fight the good fight of faith," "If so be that we suffer with him, we may be also glorified together," "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him," "These are they—which came out of great tribulation," and "Of whom the world was not worthy."

The "sting in the tail" of the opening paragraph is that the hymn was written "For St. Stephen's Day"—a title which the second verse fully justifies. Yet not one of the Scripture passages relates to Stephen, while the hymn is never nearer its original classification than when two hymnals (out of about 30) in use fully annotating "The following are also suitable" refer to it under others specifically labelled "for St. Stephen's Day."

The noblest note must not go unrecorded! Heber's hymn was still unpublished when his early death—following unremitting service as one of four bishops of Calcutta to die at their post within nine years—proclaimed him fit company for "the glorious band, the chosen few," "the noble army" of whom he sings—the true line of apostolic succession!—F.J.F.

BIRTHS.

CUDDY (Willis).—On Sept. 10, at Chelsea Bush Nursing Hospital, to Colin and Norma, a son (Neil Thomas).

WILLIAMS (Richards).—To Hazel and Murray, on Nov. 8, at Mallala, S.A., a son (Neil Murray).

IN MEMORIAM.

THOMAS.—James E. passed away Nov. 27, 1944. Fond and cherished memories of a beloved father and friend.

—Inserted by his daughter, Ruth and family.

RUBY WEDDING.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Page, of 87 Hotham-st., Preston, proudly announce the 40th anniversary of their wedding day, which was celebrated at the Gore-st. Tabernacle by Will Beiler, Dec. 3, 1913. Deeply we remember our friends and loved ones, Mrs. Page (nee Rosa Swain)—Charles H. Page.

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Tennis Awards, Vic.

1953 premierships of the Victorian Baptist and churches of Christ Tennis Association were concluded recently, and at a theatre night at National Theatre pennants for the Victorian premiership were presented as follows:

A Grade: Burnley church of Christ.

B Grade: Coburg church of Christ.

C Grade: Blackburn church of Christ.

District A Grade pennants were presented to Fairfield church of Christ (North), Gardiner church of Christ (South), Burnley church of Christ (east), and North Essendon church of Christ (west). Eleven other grade pennants were competed for in the four districts, three won by Baptist clubs and the others by churches of Christ. 104 teams from 53 clubs, with 1027 registered players took part. A men's singles championship was contested during the season. Ray Fitzgerald (Fairfield C. of C.) won A Grade from Ken Woff (East Camberwell Bapt.). Ray Town (Blackburn C. of C.) won the B Grade. Second of the year's general tournaments was held at Mentone on Nov. 2, when 184 players had a day of fellowship. In recognition of many years of organising of this function, a presentation was made to Albert Turnham at lun-

cheon break. Teams from S.A. and N.S.W. are to visit Victoria, Jan. 4-10, 1954. A large programme is being prepared, and accommodation is being sought for about 24 to 30 visitors. Any help in this direction would be welcome.

New Work, Tamworth,

N.S.W.

On Sunday, Nov. 22, a most impressive and inspiring meeting of brethren from Inverell and Tamworth, N.S.W., proceeded to the establishment of the church in this centre.

Services began with a worship service at 11 a.m. in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Love, and presided over by R. Acland (Uralla). At night a series of gospel services in the small Town Hall began with a message by E. McIlhagger, preacher of Inverell church, on "Our Plea as a Church," to be followed by "The Church which is Catholic" by L. Burgin (Georgetown) on Sunday evening, Nov. 29.

With faith in the Lord and confidence in our great brotherhood, arrangements were put in hand to purchase two suitable blocks of land for a chapel and manse, with a view to building a school hall in 1954, when it is planned to put the work on a firm basis with a mission.

Two foundation members of other

churches were once again participants in the establishment of the new church. Mrs. Davidson was a foundation member of the church at Paddington, Sydney, and Mr. Harding, now of West Tamworth, enrolled as one of the pioneers of Inverell church.

Plans for Bible school work were discussed, and it was decided to make a start immediately with this work on the 29th, with Ray Wadsworth as supt.

Brethren from Inverell church who are sponsoring the move have assisted magnificently by their presence here (travelling 136 miles in force), by making Mr. McIlhagger available so frequently, and by generous financial help in the form of gifts and loans. The Lord bless them for it. The days of the pioneers are not yet over when a distance of 136 miles fails to deter these energetic and enthusiastic brethren and sisters.

Most encouraging messages and goodwill tokens of assistance have been forthcoming from all over the brotherhood from churches and individual brethren alike, which augur well for the successful establishment of the work in Tamworth.

Officers appointed at a special meeting are R. Acland of Uralla, N. Harding of West Tamworth, R. Wadsworth late of South Auburn (treas.), and C. Love (sec.), of 1 Willis-st., Tamworth South.

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Anniversaries and Homecomings

BLACK ROCK HOME COMING.—

Dec. 6, 11 a.m., Dr. G. H. Oldfield.
2.45 p.m., P.S.A., R. H. Fyfe,
Commonwealth Director Social Services. 5.30 p.m., Fellowship Tea.
7 p.m., Dr. G. H. Oldfield. All past members welcome.

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Speaker: Lloyd E. Jones.
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Re-opening of Renovated Chapel

Saturday, December 5

6 p.m., Opening Ceremony
6.30 p.m., Re-union Tea.

83rd Church Anniversary

Sunday, December 6

11 and 7, Howard Earle,

Past minister, guest speaker.
All past members invited home.

GRADUATION SERVICE.

Melbourne Bible Institute, Collins-st. Baptist Church, Monday, Dec. 7, at 7.45 p.m. Speaker, G. H. Morling, M.A., Principal Baptist Theological College, N.S.W. Presentation of Diplomas. Testimonies by graduating students. Singing by Student Choir, under leadership of Claude Gadge. Offering for M.B.I. funds.

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COMING EVENTS.

The opening of the Wattle Park church of Christ will be celebrated on Sat., Feb. 6, at 2.45 p.m.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

T. Wagner (secretary, Merewether church), 12 Alexander-st., Hamilton, N.S.W.

W. J. Whitehead (secretary, Belmont church), 10 Frank-st., Belmont, Geelong, Vic.

R. Wilson (acting secretary, Drumcondra church), 7 Wattle-tree-rd., Drumcondra, Geelong, Vic.

W. F. Nankivell (preacher, Ringwood church), Old Warrandyte-rd., North Ringwood, Vic. Phone WU 6391.

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OBITUARY

Elizabeth May Crawford.

The church at Coburg, Vic., was shocked to learn that on the holiday of November 3, one of its members, Mrs. T. H. Crawford, was killed in a level crossing accident at Cranbourne. Her son, Frank, was seriously injured, but is now improving in the Alfred Hospital. She was a comparatively new arrival in this district, having been welcomed into the Coburg church in July, 1952, but was a keen Christian, helping both here and at Pascoe Vale. As Elizabeth May Stevenson, she had been associated in her girlhood with the Berwick church. After marriage, she and her husband were with the church at Colac. She was a foundation member at Wangaratta, where her husband served for seven years as church secretary. Later she was associated with the churches at Warragul, Frankston (while the church building was being erected), East Preston and Preston. She is being deeply missed both in church and family circles. Our sincere sympathy goes to T. H. Crawford and the grown up family. Our prayers go up for Frank's complete recovery, and we express our admiration for the gracious faith and love with which the husband and family met their sudden bereavement.—A.R.L.

Richard N. Tippet.

The sudden home-call of R. N. Tippet was a tremendous shock to the church at Forestville, S.A. He had been a faithful member for over thirty years, and recently removed from the district, and was obliged to relinquish all duties with the church. Mr. Tippet was baptised by H. R. Taylor in the Exhibition building in Adelaide during the Scoville Mission, and from that time, became an active worker for Christ and his church. He held the positions of church sec., deacon, and also was an active worker in the Band of Hope. For twenty-six years he labored faithfully in the Bible school—seven years of which he was sec. He was untiring in all his duties, always trying to lead young lives to Jesus Christ. Though he has gone, he is not forgotten, for the church and B.S. treasure the memories of the past. He leaves a widow, one son, Randolph (Vic.), and two daughters, Mavis (Mrs. Reynolds) and Thelma (Mrs. Bell). We commend these loved ones to him, who is "too wise to err, and too good to be unkind," until the day dawns and the shadows flee away.—W.A.R.

Harold McGregor.

After seven months of suffering, Harold McGregor, beloved deacon of the Latrobe-ter. church, Geelong, Vic., passed away on Saturday, Nov. 7, 1953, at his home, 88 Skene-st., Newtown. A member of this church for 33 years,

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Mr. McGregor served in many capa-
cities, being B.S. teacher, church sec-
retary, and a faithful visitor of the
sick and aged. In this latter service
he endeared himself to many who
were laid aside through ill health, or
prevented by distance from attending
the services. Genial in character and
of friendly disposition he leaves behind
a fragrant memory. The 250 who at-
tended the funeral services at the
church and the grave testified to his
worth and popularity. The many
floral tributes spoke eloquently of the
esteem in which our brother was held,
by the members of the church, the
teaching profession, the Masons, and
his many friends. Two former preach-
ers, K. A. Macnaughtan and D. R.
Stirling, assisted the present minister,
T. A. Fergusson, in the conduct of the
funeral arrangements. The church
expresses her sincere Christian sym-
pathy to Mrs. McGregor, Douglas, a
son by Mr. McGregor's first marriage,
his brothers and sister, Mrs. C. Bird,
commending them to God's care and
the eternal hope in Jesus Christ.—
T.A.F.

Mrs. E. R. Berry.

Rose Jane Masters was born in
Collingwood, Vic., 73 years ago, and
joined the church there, in her early
years, under A. B. Maston. Arriving
in W.A. in 1897, she united with Lake-
st. church, remaining there except for
a few years at Kalgoorlie and May-
lands. In 1905 she married Edward
R. Berry. Two children, Alma and
Len, enriched the home, and four
grand-children brought joy in later
years. Though not seeking public life,
her home was always open for local
and interstate visitors, and she minis-
tered in Christ as a church and B.S.
organist, also singing in the choir,
and for a short time being H.M. Supt.
of the W.A. Sisters' Conference. She
was a most enthusiastic member of
the Dorcas Society, taking part less
than a fortnight ago in the sale of
work and in the closing Dorcas meet-
ing for 1953. Her activity and judg-
ment were always valuable. After a
short illness she fell asleep in Christ
on Nov. 16, beloved and highly es-
teemed. A large gathering assembled
in the chapel for a service prior to
the funeral, after which the final
tribute was paid at the Crematorium,
the writer conducting the service.
Loving sympathy is extended to the
family, all of whom are sustained by
the Christian hope.—A. J. Fisher.

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