

THE AUSTRALIAN
Christian
 NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST



A. Anderson, leader of the Mission Survey team.

MISSIONARY NEWS

(Notes supplied by A. J. Ingham, Asst. Sec. F.M. Board.)

MISSION SURVEY

The survey in New Guinea, with the purpose of discovering a new field of missionary witness, has commenced at last.

Much careful planning was done before any actual steps were taken. Then gradually the brotherhood began to realise that the time for the survey was approaching, and slowly interest in the project deepened, and as it deepened money for the survey came in steadily. Then prayer for the success of the venture began to mount up, and the details of procedure began to shape. A vast amount of correspondence had to be sent out in all directions to get contacts, and to secure essential information as to procedure and possible sources of information. Some letters received replies from various officials almost by return mail. Some written in March, seeking essential visas, did not get results until three days before the party were to leave — but by that time every detail had been arranged, and all was ready.

At 7 a.m. on Monday, June 3, A. Anderson and C. L. Fitzgerald left Adelaide by plane. They had lunch with the N.S.W. F.M. Committee at midday, and the same evening were joined by R. Hilford at Brisbane, and left at 10.30 p.m. for Port Moresby. On Tuesday morning they were there! And the survey had begun! They left behind a request for much prayer — and a promise to keep us informed of progress made.

Present address for contacting members of survey party is — c/o Missionary Aviation Fellowship, Wewack, Australian Territory, New Guinea.

SUNDRY SNIPPETS

From Baramati Boys' Home Report

This year there were 170 boys in the Home, an increase of 35 over last year.

Of 120 attending the Mission Primary School, only 12 have failed in their exams. Boys from the Home secured First Place in Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. They also secured Second Place in Grades 3, 5 and 6.

Thirty-three boys from the Home were attending High School. They secured First Place in Grades 8 and 9. Only two boys failed.

Good results were also secured by the boys in Bible School exams. Some of the senior boys have done good work, preaching in the bazaars, and others have helped with the singing of hymns and budgins in the bazaars.

Classes in harmonium and tubla playing continued, and a singing class was commenced under a Brahmin teacher. Nineteen boys passed the State music exam, and one boy from the Home gained a First Class distinction Certificate.

BUSY DAYS — AND NIGHTS

Miss Florrie Kennedy writes:— "We have been very busy at the hospital lately, both in general and midwifery. We had not had much fever, and then all of a sudden I was admitting one after another. There has

been a lot of out-patient work also, and I have been very glad to have the help of two girls as nurses. One is having a little break, and today the other has a day off, and I found out what it was like to have to deal with it all myself. At one stage I had to send over for Pauline to stand by the midwifery patient while I finished up the out-patients. I have been very thrilled with the way the women have been helping at the hospital. When there were three or four mothers and babes in, and several general patients as well, they were just about falling over one another in their eagerness to help."

STOP PRESS

Our survey party (A. Anderson, C. L. Fitzgerald, R. Hilford) are making progress in their task in New Guinea. At Port Moresby, and later at Lae, they were welcomed most cordially by the officials of various Government departments, and given every possible assistance and a wealth of information.

They have had a warm reception from some Missions already established — the L.M.S. at Port Moresby, and the Lutheran Mission at Lae, where they were accommodated at the Lutheran Hostel. When they go on to Wewack, they will be cared for by the Missionary Aviation Fellowship, who are all set in readiness to receive them, and have promised the fullest possible co-operation. Their feet are firmly on New Guinea ground, and reports of their findings will soon be available.



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GEORGE W. WOOD, GOD

"Lord, teach us to pray."

John Knox, hero of the Scottish Reformation, prayed thus: "Lord, give me Scotland, or I die." God's answer came as the Reformation swept through the country. Finney and Nash often prayed all through the night for sin-sick communities, and God sent mighty Revivals in answer to their prayers. "Lord, teach us the meaning of prevailing prayer."

Prevailing Prayer

Jesus called his disciples to him and told them that they ought always to pray, and not grow weary. He told a parable so that they would understand prevailing prayer. Jesus looked beyond his disciples and saw those who prayed often and long without any response from God. He told a parable to show that constant prayer alone was not enough. It is the "effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man" that "availeth much."

Our Lord had been talking to his disciples about his second coming, and pointed out that at this time the world at large would be indifferent to the claims of God, just as it was in the days of Noah. It is when the world is indifferent that the bearers of the gospel message are most likely to faint. They pray, they preach, they witness, but an apathetic world takes little or no notice. Response would be encouraging, opposition stimulating, but apathy deadens enthusiasm, and the witnesses grow weary and faint. Jesus said, "You ought always to pray and not to grow weary," and, to encourage his disciples of all generations, he told the stories recorded in this passage of Luke's Gospel.

The unjust judge was obviously not a Jewish judge. Such problems were brought to the elders, or to an independent tribunal of three judges. It would seem that this man was one of the judges appointed either by Herod or from Rome. These men were notorious for their dishonesty and corruption. This judge cared for neither God nor man; he lived for his own selfish material gain. So, because this woman was a widow with no means of offering him a bribe, he treated her case with complete indifference. But she was not to be denied, and waylaid him at every opportunity, pestering him to see justice done. So persistent was she, that the judge finally listened to her and vindicated her cause, because she had worn him out with her nagging.

Beulah Rd., S.A., reminds us that

ALWAYS ANSWERS PRAYER

Now if this man, who was dishonest and completely apathetic to the widow's needs, eventually granted her request because of her persistence, surely God, who is all love and understanding, would be quick to answer the supplications brought to him by his children.

When the Answer is "No"

Jesus assures us that God answers prayer with all speed. While this is true, we must always remember that it is no reason why we should expect to get whatever we pray for, or that we should get it immediately we pray. God answers prayer, but his answer is sometimes opposite to what we want. King David had sinned. He had taken for himself the wife of one of his loyal soldiers, and then engineered that poor unfortunate's early decease. In due time a child was born to Bathsheba and David, but it immediately fell ill. David was convinced that this was God's judgment upon his sinful act, but he was determined to do all he could to save the child. He fasted, and spent all his time in prayer. He refused to have anything to do with anyone but God. He prayed and prayed, but the child grew worse and worse, and eventually died. The servants were afraid to tell the king the sad news for fear of his reaction. They were amazed when, after being told the news, David got up, bathed and dressed himself, and went into God's house to worship him! They later asked him the reason for his strange behaviour. This was his answer: "While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, 'Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me that the child may live?' But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." David prayed fervently and constantly for the child's recovery. God answered his prayer by taking the child to himself. David's reaction could have been one of resentment, bitterness and mistrust, and he would have forthwith given up prayer. On the other hand, he could have persisted with his prayer, in spite of God's answer, and, because the child was not raised from the dead, eventually have become weary and stopped praying, not only this, but all prayers. But in actual fact, when the child died, he saw, in that experience, God's answer to his prayer — but he didn't stop praying! His prayer changed from petition to ador-

"A.C." Pulpit



Guest No. 3 —
George W. Wood.

Mr. Wood served the churches at Colac and Black Rock, Vic., during his student days in the Federal College of the Bible, from which he graduated in 1952.

He accepted an immediate call to the Eastern Districts Circuit in Adelaide, S.A. (Maylands - Beulah Rd. - Koongarra Park), continuing in that joint ministry until May, 1955. Since June, 1955, he has devoted full-time to the work at Beulah Rd., North Kensington Park, where his ministry is appreciated.

His prowess among the State's top footballers has also won considerable attention.

ation and worship. He "came into the house of the Lord and worshipped."

God answers prayer. Sometimes we don't see his answer because it's not the kind of answer we're looking for, and we become weary praying a prayer that has already been answered, believing it has been ignored by God. When God's answer is in the negative, let us bow in submission, as did Jesus, Paul and David, trusting God to know what is best for us, and rejoicing that he has answered our prayer by revealing his will.

Trying to Hurry God

God answers prayer, but sometimes his answer seems to us to be inexplicably delayed, and because of the delay we grow weary and give up in despair. Often we try to hurry God. We don't understand that what we call "delay" is actually not delay, because God has begun a process in answer to our prayers which will eventually mean a complete answer. In his *Confessions*, Augustine tells how, as a young man, he planned to leave Carthage and go to Rome, against the frantic prayers and entreaties of his godly mother. He told her that he was going aboard a ship only to visit a friend, but she suspected his deception and refused to leave the wharf without him. He eventually persuaded her to go to the Chapel of Cyprian, and wait for him there. She went and her time was spent in praying for her son. While she was praying, Augustine sailed out of Carthage to what his mother believed to be his complete ruin. She had been praying for Augustine's conversion, and it now appeared that God had not heard her prayer. She followed her wayward son and continued to pray for him. Time dragged and she chafed under the delay. But God was answering her prayer in a most unexpected way. The trip which Monica considered to be disastrous for Augustine, put him on the road that eventually led to his full surrender to the Saviour. In a later prayer to God, Augustine said, "She loved to keep me with her as most mothers are wont, yes, far more than most mothers, and she knew not what joy thou wast preparing for her out of my desertion." In spite of "delay" the disciple of Jesus "ought always to pray and not to lose heart," for our loving, understanding God always answers the prayers of his children.

Prayer Must Rise from Need

But Jesus knew that persistent prayer, in itself, was not "prevailing" prayer. There were those who were in close proximity to him at this very time who never grew weary in prayer, but their prayers were not effective. The Pharisees had carefully disciplined and regulated hours for prayer each day, but their prayers were not answered because they couldn't get to God through the barrier of self-righteousness put up by themselves. When prayer becomes a mere mechanism, detached from the

sense of our own need, it becomes a spent force. Prayer must be motivated by a sense of need to be effectual. A realisation of a need for forgiveness, a need for sustenance, a need for guidance, a need for fellowship with God, is the beginning of any prevailing prayer. Jesus told the story of the Pharisees and the publican to show his disciples of all generations that answers to prayer depend somewhat on the person uttering the prayer. The proud Pharisee had no sense of any need at all. He was complete in himself, for which he duly thanked God. He felt that God was highly honored to have such a person as himself teaching the people. The words of Jesus completely sum up this man's prayer life: "He prayed thus with himself." Although addressed to God, the prayer never reached him, because prayer to the Pharisee had become a well-

oiled mechanism that revolved within the circle of his own importance. The contrast of the publican is startling. This man, realising his shocking need, humbly called upon God to have mercy on him. The Pharisee strutted out of the Temple, pleased with himself, but his prayer, which never reached God, was of no help to the people who happened to hear his loud voice, and cast him further down into the mire of self-righteousness. The publican left with a quiet assurance in his heart, and a genuine desire to show his repentance was real. He was truly exalted.

Sin separates us from God. Any sin, all sin, is a blockage between ourselves and God. Persevering prayer can never become prevailing prayer if sin is between the person praying and God. The Psalmist says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Isaiah says, "Be-

hold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

If we are to fulfil our Lord's commission to an apathetic world, we ought always to pray, and not to grow weary. But it must be honest prayer, from a humble, contrite heart and a submissive spirit. Not submission to the apathy around us, but submission to God.

"Lord teach us to pray prevailing prayers without weariness. Not that by our prevailing we think we change thee, but that by our constant prayer and contact with thee, we ourselves are changed so that it becomes consistent for thee to grant an answer. Amen."

J. E. BROOKE, Balwyn, Vic., discusses the theme of Australian churches' 3-year plan

"OPERATION INCREASE"

Pentecost Sunday was an appropriate day to begin our nation-wide effort, for Pentecost itself was an Operation Increase. It was, indeed, the beginning of that continuous Operation Increase which the whole Christian Movement was meant to be.

Probably, as we think of this, our minds leap instantly to the words in Acts, chapter 2, verse 41: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptised, and the same day there were added unto them about 3,000 souls."

That was certainly

A Great Increase.

But, lest it appeal merely to our sense of the sensational, and we get it out of perspective, and lose its real lesson and encouragement for us, we need to look at it in the light of its whole setting in the story.

If we allow just the fact of "three thousand souls in one day" to excite us, and set us looking and longing for the same thing to happen any and every day among us, we shall only be preparing ourselves for a great disappointment.

The fact is that this great, immediate success was not repeated, even in apostolic days. Indeed, the statistics of the early Church are exceedingly scanty. They had not reached the stage of over-organisation and of time-wasting analysis which so frequently goes with it.

It was only in the initial momentum of its beginning that the Church

noted numbers. Thus, a little later, we are told that many believed, "and the number of the men was about five thousand." A little further on, it is recorded that "the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly, and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."

But, although Luke ends succeeding sections of his story with such enthusiastic comments as "The Word of God grew and multiplied," and "So mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed," there is no more counting of numbers, nothing to parallel Pentecost. On the other hand, there are a good many indications of slow and small response, of the apostles and evangelists experiencing "how hardly souls are wooed and won."

Another qualification of enthusiasm for swift numerical success is the fact that initial increase is not enough. Those won have to be retained and taught. There is evidence in the early chapters of the Book of Acts of how much shepherding was needed among that large company in the church at Jerusalem. Many who are easily caught up and swayed in a crowd are people of swift impulse, who quickly lose their enthusiasm again.

Sudden influx of large numbers also brings problems, in that people who are not really and deeply changed bring their own ideas with them, ideas which are alien to the Church's true faith, and which cause trouble and confusion.

Is it not likely that that "large company of priests obedient to the faith" reinforced the rigid Judaism of the Jerusalem church, which afterwards interfered so gravely with the great missionary work of Paul? And what a tremendous nuisance the great revival at Samaria introduced into the Church in the person of Simon Magus, the magician!

And then, we need to look behind the text, at the whole story, and see that these "three thousand souls the same day" did not represent as immediate an increase as it may seem. A long and patient process had led up to it.

Nor was it as easy as the swift recital of the result would seem to suggest. There were conditions that had had to be met, involving discipline. There was an experience undergone entailing an entire transformation of life. It is here, in tracing out the

Cause of the Increase,

that the real lessons for us lie.

The fundamental cause, of course, was the whole life, and death, and resurrection of Jesus. It was the harvest of his sowing. It was as he had told them, "Other men have labored, and ye have entered into their labors."

During his ministry, our Lord's characteristic method was dealing with persons. He was, it is true, often attended by crowds, and he did not shrink from ministering to the persons

of whom the crowd was composed; but the crowd, as a crowd, he distrusted. What was the most natural to him, and delighted him most, was to extend his friendship and help to persons, one by one.

Our propensity for "head-counting" is shown up in its poorest light when we try to imagine Jesus indulging in it. He kept no statistics. Persons were too sacred to him to be reduced to mere digits. This is one reason why there are no numerical reports of Christ's ministry.

Another reason is that he was in the course of accomplishing the redemptive work which was to provide the apostles with their glorious gospel. He had to journey to, and endure, the cross, that, being lifted up, he might draw all men unto him. He had to pass through that atoning death to his resurrection, that he might "open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers." It was just as he had said, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

At Pentecost, many who had been touched by Jesus' friendship and help "in the days of his flesh," understanding now something of the wonderful meaning of his death and resurrection, were glad to accept his grace and commit themselves to his cause. May we not think of the man born blind, to whom he had given sight, the cripple he had healed at the pool of Bethesda, the adulterous woman he had shielded and saved, and many another, as among that three thousand?

And as the apostles, out of their powerful experience of the crucifixion and resurrection, were able to bring home their meaning to many others, Isaiah's prophecy began to be fulfilled — the Saviour saw "of the travail of his soul, and was satisfied."

This increase was of Christ's own patient, painful sowing. Behind it was the expenditure of toilsome days and sleepless nights, of hours of utter exhaustion when he had felt the virtue drained out of him, and above all, of the complete self-giving on the cross.

Is not this our first great lesson — that if the Church today would win spiritual increase, we must enter into our Lord's own labors, and know more of "the fellowship of his sufferings" in our evangelism?

Another cause of the increase was

The Unity of the Disciples.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one, accord in one place." All the pride and self-assertion which they had shown during their Lord's earthly life, was broken by the cross, and they were taken completely out of them-

selves by a glad adoration of, and utter devotion to him.

Jesus had emphasised that such unity was essential to the effective proclamation of his gospel. He had prayed, "That they all may be one, that the world may believe."

Are we today one in Christ Jesus, one in complete loyalty to him, one in deep fellowship in him, one in passionate desire to serve his will and proclaim his saving purpose? The full blessing cannot come, unless the work is undertaken together, as the task of us all.

The unity of the disciples found expression in a particular activity which was a further preparation for power and progress. They "all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication."

Their earnest prayer showed the strong sense of their dependence on God in the mission to which they were called, and enabled God to equip them adequately for it.

Prayer itself is power, and is preparatory for further power. It is said of that mighty spirit of the Middle Ages, Bernard of Clairvaux, that he found "on the day when he spent most time in prayer and in study of the Bible, his letters were most rapidly written and persuasive, his active work the most quickly and successfully accomplished, and his own schemes were widened or lost in the greater purposes of God; anxiety was allayed, and the power of the Holy Spirit to whom he had opened his heart was felt in every word he spoke, and in his very presence and look."

That last effect of prayer — the power of the Holy Spirit — was the sequence at Pentecost. To those first followers of Christ, "all with one accord in one place," continuing "with one accord in prayer and supplication," God came in gracious blessing, and "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." So, to those who allow him, through fulfilling the same conditions, God is pleased to grant the same great grace.

Are we ready to cry together, in united faith and fervor,

"Spirit Divine, attend our prayers,
And make this house thy home;
Descend with all thy gracious powers;
O come, great Spirit, come."?

Then will souls be won, indeed, and the Lord will add to the Church daily those who are being saved; for it will be no longer we trying to win them in our own strength or skill, but Christ himself who wins them, through his Spirit in us.

In the power and grace of the Holy Spirit, we shall be able to give a convincing witness, as they did at the first Pentecost.

The circumstances that day, with the city crowded for the festival,

favoured a mass witness. That is not always possible. Today it seems to be less and less a possibility. Not only the Church, but all sorts of other organisations find it more and more difficult to gather a crowd together. People's homes are much more comfortable and interesting than they used to be. The modern media of mass communication, radio and television, are reaching people in their homes.

But we still can, and must, give our Christian witness. Despite the passing of particular methods, on which, perhaps, we have relied too much, and behind which we have often taken shelter from our personal responsibility, still, we all have many contacts with people, which are, as they have ever been, the primary evangelistic opportunity.

Do we desire "souls for our hire, and Pentecost today"? Here is the way, the only way. Through sharing our Lord's sacrificial passion for souls, through our unity in the Church which is his Body, through our persistent engagement in earnest prayer, let us prepare ourselves for God's gift of his Spirit.

Then, through no mere sense of duty, but in a spontaneously natural way we shall not be able to restrain, we shall each bear our glad and grateful witness, and play our full part in the Church's Operation Increase.



On May 26, in the newly acquired hall at Spring Gully, Vic. (a growing suburb of Bendigo), the first regular weekly evening service was held, when 30 were present. R. V. Holmes (Bendigo) conducted the service, using the theme, *Why Every Community Needs a Church*. First contact in this area was made in 1948 by C. J. Robinson, who commenced B.S. sessions there when minister of Bendigo church. This school has operated most successfully ever since. Last year the hall was purchased with the assistance of the Vic.-Tas. Properties Corporation. The first stage in painting and renovating was completed recently, mainly by parents and friends of B.S. scholars. Active youth groups of Good Companions and Explorers meet weekly, satisfying a need in the district.

Dr. Markus Barth, son of the famed Swiss theologian, Dr. Karl Barth, and associate professor at the University of Chicago's Federated Theological Faculty, has expressed alarm at the "increasing emphasis churches are placing on sacraments, liturgy and 'high' forms of worship." Speaking at the Chicago Theological Seminary's twenty-sixth annual ministers' week, he also criticised infant baptism, and said that putting an end to it would remove "magic elements"—E.P.S.



WHEN SOARS THE SOUL

A Week of Daily Devotions, Based on Readings Suggested by the
"Book of Family Worship"

Sunday, June 23

Hebrews 2.

Thought Text: "For in that he himself hath suffered, being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted" (v. 18).

In all his suffering, our Lord Jesus Christ withstood temptation, and is thus able to bring us victoriously through our hardships to our inheritance in God. When we look for the climax of his suffering we find it, not at the place called Golgotha, but in the garden called Gethsemane. For though our Saviour suffered on the cross, it wasn't the same sort of suffering which made him say in the garden, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful." Luke wrote of Jesus at that time: "And being in agony, he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood, falling on the ground."

It was different from the way he felt on the cross. We talk about the agony of the cross, but it was not the agony which Jesus felt when, in the garden, "he began to be sorrowful and very heavy." This latter had passed before he left Gethsemane, and on the cross Jesus experienced the triumph of having fought and won his last and greatest battle with Satan. True it is that he cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" but it was in the loud, strong tones of one who was sure of his victory. With the writer to the Hebrews, then, we see Jesus, "crowned with glory and honor" which he won on his knees in the garden, thereby not only reconciling us to God, but assuring us that he will bring us safely through our hardships in this "vale of suffering" to the inheritance appointed for us.

Dear God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we would ask thee for courage to face the hardships which must come to us in this present stage of our existence. As we emerge from them, may it be in the strength of him who, Son though he was, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered. Amen.

—E. F. G. McIlhagger, S.A.

Monday, June 24

Matthew 6: 24-34.

Thought Text: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (v. 33).

It is a most reasonable thing that God has put faith at the very foundation of the Christian life. It is the foundation of every phase of our lives. The farmer ploughs and sows in faith. We believe in the existence of places we have never seen. We are constantly placing our welfare, our health, our lives in the power of others whom we may not know. All this is an expression of faith in people. Because of this, we should quite easily exercise faith in God. We see his power and wisdom in Creation. In the Bible we have the fullest evidence of his love and care for humanity — such an exhibition of

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

love as to induce the fullest trust in God as a loving, Heavenly Father.

After many years of faithful service and experience, Sir Wilfred Grenfell said: "Faithful following of the Christ does not leave a man begging for his bread. Christ's men are master-men in the best possible meaning of the word. Twentieth century people will always acclaim the man who is faithful to Christ and his teachings. The most soul-satisfying pleasure is found in following Christ. As a doctor, I can say that Christ-following gives health."

Therefore, let us seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Man must be active in his own salvation, for he must accept and appropriate what is offered. Hearing the Word produces faith. Being convinced of sin and having a godly sorrow for sin, he is led to repentance. Believing in, and unshamed of the Saviour, he will confess him, and then meet him in the act of baptism, being clothed in his righteousness, and going forth to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, day by day.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, enable us, we beseech thee, to bow before thee in humble submission to thy holy will. Inspire us by thy Spirit, that out of weakness we may be made strong, and by thy power be conformed to the image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

—R. Will Marshall, W.A.

Tuesday, June 25

Luke 19: 1-10.

Thought Text: "Behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus, who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature" (vv. 2, 3).

Zacchaeus found himself irresistibly drawn to the roadway along which Jesus of Nazareth was about to pass. The little publican wanted to see Jesus. Don't ask me why this crafty tax collector had this overpowering desire within him to look upon the One who was his direct opposite. Perhaps the mere fact of Jesus' apparent satisfaction in living for others, and his teaching about seeking "first the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you," may have been factors that caused Zacchaeus to seek a vantage point along the procession's path. His life had always been a scramble from vantage point to vantage point in his search for wealth and position. Of course, Zacchaeus knew that the teaching of this man of Nazareth would never work out in his business dealings. "The poor were to be ignored," said the chief tax collector — he knew; he was rich. But wait, down below, on every side he could see the debris over which he had scrambled to worldly success — broken friendships, broken fellowship at the synagogue, bitter scorn of the friends of boyhood days — on every face hatred!

Every face? One face among the crowd beneath the sycomore tree is not hostile — it is the face of the One who "came to seek and to save that which was lost." Seeking? Yes, seeking little men with big desires to see Jesus, and "big" men with little desire to be "found" by Jesus. Christ is seeking the seeking. Dear one, are you too seeking "to see Jesus, who he is"? For you he has this word, "Today I must abide at your house."

Our loving seeking Saviour, we thank thee for stepping down from the Glory to tabernacle with sinful men. We thank thee for coming into our lives and changing the darkness into bright, eternal light. Amen.

—F. Leivesley, N.S.W.

Wednesday, June 26

1 Cor. 1: 17-31.

Thought Text: "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (v. 18).

How many of us realise that our faith is our fortune? If our faith is in ourselves, or in others like us, or in any temporal things whatever, then we are poor indeed.

How much of this world's "wisdom" brings sorrow and tragedy to men! It steals away that child-like trust in God as a loving Father. It bypasses the open gates of the kingdom of heaven — the kingdom of love and light, of joy and peace. It makes mock of the preaching of Christ crucified, and it often exalts sin in place of the Saviour from sin.

Jesus descended to the depth of humiliation on the cross, but in doing so was raised to the height of glory. The preaching of the crucifixion of Jesus is the wisdom and power of God to raise men today. Let us take the cross into our own lives and we, too, shall be exalted. We will want others to know of our Saviour; we will be lavish in our giving for God's work; we will count time only as it is invested for him and lament that which we have allowed to pass away to no good and holy purpose. Herein is the victory and the fortune that will not only stand the test of time, but remain throughout eternity.

Father, we seek to be guided by thy wisdom. Open our understanding that we may realise more fully the saving power of the preaching of Christ, and him crucified. May we experience the uplifting, exalting power of the cross in our own lives, knowing that the way of the cross leads Home. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—W. J. Thomson, Vic.

Thursday, June 27

1 Corinthians 13.

Thought Text: "And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (v. 13).

The thing that man desires most in life is a sense of security. In his folly he believes that material wealth will supply that need. Christians, too, so often lose sight of the real values in life, and join in this hopeless quest.

The treasures after which the majority of our world is seeking do not abide. Human experience has shown that even when attained they do not satisfy for long, and are always an uncertain possession. Even if they are held for this life, they must fall from our grasp at death.

Are there not any lasting treasures, then? Yes — but they are not material things. In 2 Cor. 4:18, Paul

says, "for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." In our text he emphasises that the abiding treasures are "faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Love is the greatest, because without it no other possession is of any value; not even a faith that will remove mountains.

The great, eternal purpose of God is to restore in us the lost image of himself. The more love we possess, the more like him we will be, for "God is love."

When earthly treasures have perished; when faith is lost in sight and all our hopes are realised, love, the greatest possession, will continue to abide.

O Lord, keep me from wasting my life, seeking only that which perisheth. Help me to possess thy greatest treasure — a heart filled with love for thee and for my fellow-man, for Christ's dear sake. Amen.

—K. R. Fennell, Qld.

Friday, June 28

Colossians 3: 1-14.

Thought Text: "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (v. 13).

J. B. Phillips translates, "Be most patient and tolerant with one another, always ready to forgive if you have a difference with anyone. Forgive as freely as Christ has forgiven you."

This passage selected for our reading reminds us that something transforming has happened to us. We are so far removed from the old life in which we walked that Paul says we are dead to it. This new life which we live is a life to which Christ raised us. Our minds were set on things of the earth; now they are set on things above. We have known the soul's despair, and now we know its breathless gratitude. Christ has forgiven us. As freely as he forgives, we must forgive those who hurt us.

Leonardo Da Vinci was painting the Last Supper when he had a quarrel with a friend. He painted the face of Judas, with an unmistakable likeness to his friend. He came to the face of Christ. He could not get the expression he wanted. After several attempts, one morning he picked up his brush and painted out the face of Judas, which was constantly before him, reminding him of his resentment and revenge. He went out and was reconciled to his friend, and came back to paint the face of Christ for which we have ever since been indebted. The lesson is obvious. We harm ourselves, damage our health, destroy our peace,

and mar our beauty of soul, by refusing to forgive.

"'Tis sweet to stammer one letter of the Eternal's language on earth; it's called forgiveness."

Our Father, we are at the cross again. Let the Spirit of Christ fill our spirit, driving out all thoughts of self-vindication. Send us forth as representatives of this new way of forgiveness. Teach us to love when hated, to return good for evil, to forgive when hurt is added to hurt, that Christ may be kept alive in our world. We ask it for his sake. Amen.

—I. J. Chivell, S.A.

Saturday, June 29

Hebrews 11: 1-10.

Thought Text: "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (v. 10).

"A city which hath foundations"! Celebrated in our most tender hymns, it is "Jerusalem the golden," "Jerusalem," "Jerusalem, my happy home," "the city four-square" and that "beautiful city, far away in the Kingdom of God."

Is it a surprise to learn that Old Testament saints knew of it? Yet this is plainly stated of Abraham. He "looked for" it; the word (it is "expecting" in Heb. 10: 13, where it speaks of our Saviour's anticipation of ultimate triumph) suggests a reaching out in readiness to receive, an eager expectation. With holy anticipation, the patriarchs looked beyond earth's temporalities to the abiding city.

This is "the" city (note the definite article) in contrast to the insecure, destructible cities of earth — in contrast to the first city, whose "builder and maker" was Cain! (Gen. 4: 17). Of the eternal city, God is "Designer" (or "Architect") and Maker. The tents of patriarchs were collapsible and without foundations; here is the city with (again the definite article) the foundations.

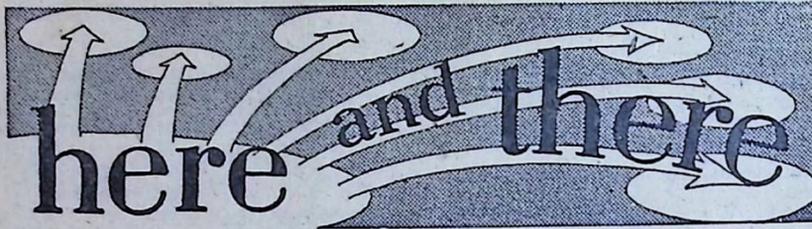
Father Abraham lived in earnest expectation of the abiding city with the indestructible foundations. Do I recognise the transitory nature of this world and its affairs? Am I seeking, by God's grace, to be a worthy citizen of the eternal city?

"Jesus, in mercy bring us
To that dear land of rest,
Who art, with God the Father,
And Spirit, ever blest!" Amen.

—K. A. Macnaughtan, Vic.



L. Piper has been appointed by the N.S.W. Conference Executive to serve as Publicity Officer, with special attention to news items in the daily press and over the radio.



The Australian brotherhood of Churches of Christ rejoices with Doug. Nicholls, minister to the Aborigines Mission church at Fitzroy, Vic., in the honor of the M.B.E., conferred on him in the Queen's Birthday Honors. This is the first time the Queen has honored an Australian Aborigine in this way, and it is fitting that the reason given should be his splendid work for his own people.

The rally held at the Ormond chapel on June 8, under the sponsorship of the Vic. Churches of Christ Evangelical Fellowship, was well attended, with parties coming from many of the surrounding churches. Compere was J. D. Watt, and Mrs. Dennett rendered a helpful testimony and solos. L. J. Barker (East Kew) presented a stirring address.

This issue was prepared for the press a day earlier than usual, owing to the Queen's Birthday holiday in Victoria on Monday, June 17. Copy received later than first mail, Thursday, June 13, will be included in next week's issue.

Reg. Clark, secretary of the church at Malvern — Caulfield, Vic., recently suffered a heart attack, but we are glad to learn that he is making a steady recovery, though confined to bed for some weeks.

W. Giezendanner, minister at Wynnum, Qld., is entering his eleventh year of service with the church there.

Following recent news that Keith Skillcorn, in India, had been acquitted of all charges brought against him, we learn now that Mr. and Mrs. Skillcorn will leave India for England on the Strathmore on June 29, and expect to be in Australia early in 1958.

The aim of £300 was set by the church at Forestville, S.A., for its Temple Day offering on June 1; the total reached £364. On June 2, two were received into fellowship and a young man made his decision for Christ. A block of land in close proximity to the chapel has been purchased for the building of a manse. Young people have enjoyed messages from Dr. Trevor Turner and Norman Crawford (Marriage Guidance). "Operation Increase" was launched to well attended congregations on June 9. W. A. Russell is the present minister at Forestville.

The 37th anniversary services of the church at Bambra-rd., Caulfield, Vic. were held on June 2. The chapel was packed at all services, with 340 present in the morning, 420 at the P.S.A., and 370 in the evening. Speakers included K. J. Clinton, B.A., B.D., A. B. Withers and E. J. Miles. The Welsh Cambrian Society Singers presented a delightful programme at the P.S.A., which was followed by a fellowship tea for over 200, served by the Ladies' Catering Committee. Visitors were present from interstate and country towns. Amongst those present at the morning service was Mrs. W. A. Brown, the wife of the church's esteemed life elder, who has been absent through illness over a period of several months. W. W. Saunders, a past preacher, was present with his wife to enjoy fellowship at the tea and the evening service.

Following a six weeks' evangelistic tent mission, led by D. W. Tonkin (evangelist) and C. Way (song-leader), which resulted in 20 decisions (full report elsewhere in this issue), the church at Epping, N.S.W., has planned a series of forward moves. These include the calling of a new preacher, the erection of a new manse, and the development of a new cause in the Housing Commission settlement at Tepepa, some three miles west of Epping.

D. Phillips, a young ex-student of the Melbourne Bible Institute, has agreed to give temporary help, at least for six months, to the church at Mitcham, Vic.

In summing up the help received from various States for the Flood Appeal sponsored some time ago by the S.A. Social Service Dept., Secretary A. R. Jones indicates that the total reached £1,725/8/9 (Vic., £38/9/-; Qld., £125/15/4; N.S.W., £500; S.A., £1061/4/5). Besides the money given, large quantities of hay and grain were sent from towns in the north and south-east of S.A., and also from Kaniva, Vic. Altogether 14 families were assisted, and the S.A. Social Service Dept. sincerely thanks all who contributed.

The church at South Melbourne, Vic., celebrated its 90th anniversary on June 2. Former preachers, J. E. Brooke and C. M. Dunse, gave inspiring addresses at morning and evening services, while in the afternoon F. T. Morgan gave a most interesting talk

on his work as Chaplain at the Footscray Technical School. The highlight of the day was the presence of the three Newman sisters (Mrs. Brook, Mrs. Archer and Mrs. Peters), Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Mill, and S. Northeast, Snr., all members at South Melbourne in the early days. Meetings were all very well attended.

D. W. Tonkin is planned to conclude his ministry at Mosman, N.S.W., on June 16, and he will leave for Merredin, W.A. on 17th.

Federal Home Missions

CANBERRA.

On May 18, K. A. Jones, Federal Secretary, visited the church, and discussed with the minister and the officers the future of the work.

Because many members are new to Churches of Christ, there is a constant programme of adult, as well as youth, education. All are encouraged to be active Christians, and many use their cars to pick up members from other areas.

The third anniversary of the opening of the present building was recently celebrated.

The church has been greatly heartened by the visit of members of the Victorian Youth Department. The team, under the leadership of Miss B. Bates, conducted a series of practical lectures, designed to help teachers and youth leaders. The importance of Christian education in the home and church was emphasised by audio-visuals arranged by R. Bean.

The church has again increased its subsidy to the Federal Home Missionary Department, as well as increasing its payments in reduction of its own debt responsibility. This means that Canberra church, itself, is accepting more financial responsibility.

MACKAY (QLD.).

D. H. Paddon sends greetings from our field, 598 miles north of Brisbane. Population of the city is 14,000, thus providing a wonderful opportunity for evangelism. There are 40 scholars on the B.S. roll, with an excellent average attendance.

On the front page of their monthly church paper, *Chapel Chimes*, are these words, "Church of Christ, Mackay. A Centre of Evangelism." Through youth to old age, D. H. Paddon and his workers are programming for a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

TOWNSVILLE-CHARTERS TOWERS (QLD.).

Townsville has grown by 6,000 residents in 7 years. Our two causes in this area have been greatly helped by the full-time ministry of K. R. Fennell. A more detailed report will be given next month.—B. F. Huntsman.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

- Raeline Phillips, Mr. Southgate, Dulwich, S.A.
 Ray, Douglas and Darrell Joyce, Northcote, Vic.
 Mrs. Ashton, Mrs. Pearce, Judith, Rhonda and Margaret Pearce, Albert Park, S.A.
 Mrs. Colmer, Mrs. Meares, Trevor and Annette Meares, Don Boettcher, Carol Colmer, Mackay, Qld.
 William Schleiger, Graham George, Gardenvale, Vic.
 Daphne Innes, Barry Waring, Burnie Osterman, Sunshine, Vic.
 Lawrence Bond, Wollongong, N.S.W.
 Ken Reed, Ivanhoe, Vic.
 Margaret Lawry, Joan Blount, Ina Flint, Barry Blount, John Luptroth, Mosman, N.S.W.
 Miss Susan Wescott, Charles Lincoln, Tootgarook, Vic.
 Shirley Mowbray, Glen Thomas, Gardiner, Vic.
 Norma Fletcher, Toowoomba, Qld.
 Wayne Jago, Shirley Woodhall, Devonport, Tas.
 Linda Lloyd, Valerie Edyveane, E. Lloyd, Forestville, S.A.
 Elizabeth Hengstmengel, Renie van Egmond, Moreen Taylor, Albury-Wodonga, N.S.W.
 Mario Shoemaker, Ian Rowse, Warragul, Vic.
 Mrs. M. Johnson, Nailsworth, S.A.
 Desley Rawson, Desley Duggan, Murarrie, Qld.
 Colin Dalzell, Cavell Watson, Wynnum, Qld.
 Marlene Morcom, Annabella Smith, Joy Penhearow, Glenda Lawrance, Lynnette Johns, Kilburn, S.A.
 Mr. and Mrs. A. Hammond, Mrs. Iredale, Ken Selwood, Ararat, Vic.

Membership

- Mrs. J. Sangster, from Annerley to Mackay, Qld.
 Mrs. Williams, from South Melbourne to Gardenvale, Vic.
 Miss D. Bonney, from Prospect; Mr. and Mrs. N. Coombe, from Hampstead Gardens to Nailsworth, S.A.

Dorothy Hammermaster, from Boonah to Toowoomba, Qld.

Graham Bryant, from North Williamstown to Tootgarook, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason, from Newmarket to Tootgarook, Vic.

Marriage

Mavis Phillips to Herbert Berthisel, Essendon, Vic.

Janice Watt to Bill Salter, Tootgarook, Vic.

Betty Crick to Ray Veal, Horsham, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

W. Abbott, Mrs. L. Peake, Horsham, Vic.

Miss Hilma Dickens, Lygon-st., Carlton, Vic.

Mrs. J. R. R. Smith, Doncaster, Vic.

Australian Capital Territory

Canberra (G. R. Stirling, B.A.). — C.W.F. attended hairdressing demonstration on May 25 as part of their monthly meeting. B.S. House Competition commenced on June 2, and one house started off with seven new scholars. Youth parade was held at evening service, total congregation numbering 192, of whom 101 were officers and children from youth auxiliaries.

Western Australia

South Perth (E. C. L. Ots). — Church is planning many advances for work in the district. A splendid spirit is manifest, especially at prayer meetings which, during ten days previous to Pentecost Sunday, were held every night at different homes; the Thursday night meeting at church hall had to be held in the larger hall to accommodate number present. Sunday morning service was the climax, when chapel was packed and, after the address, the whole congregation rose and dedicated themselves to the work of the church. On a recent Sunday, F. E. Buckingham (Vic.) conducted services and also spoke on Brotherhood Centre scheme. Men have been painting building and effecting general repairs. C.W.F. have, in recent weeks, been entertaining ladies from Guest Home at Joondanna Heights, held a meeting at Bethesda Hospital and, each month, make a regular visit to Mt. Henry Home for ladies.

Queensland

Mackay (D. H. Paddon). — At gospel service on May 26, two adults and four Y.P. were baptised as result of "special effort" in May. These were welcomed into fellowship of church on June 2. A woman was welcomed into fellowship on June 2 by transfer. Visitors for month included: Mrs. MacDonald (Rockdale, N.S.W.), Mrs. Jeffries (Annerley, Qld.), Trevor Taber (Lismore, N.S.W.).

Wynnum (W. Giezendanner). — Church has been encouraged by recent baptisms from Wynnum and Murarrie. A Marriage (Toowoomba) successfully underwent operation in General Hospital. Mr. Marriage, who will shortly celebrate his ninety-sixth birthday, is at present staying at Wynnum.

New South Wales

Dubbo (B. E. Cavill). — C.W.F. conducted Fancy Dress Frolic on 17th. Ladies went to Mudgee on 30th, to assist in formation of C.W.F. in that church. Mrs. Cavill conducted devotional session, Mrs. Jacobs read lesson, and Mrs. Ball spoke. On same day, Mrs. Cavill conducted Women's Forum Session over Station 2MG. Minister has conducted a morning service at Mudgee; took part in Annual Bankers' Service at Dubbo on 21st; produced the first issue of *The Rural Christian* for Western District Conference; conducted weekly Scripture classes at Lillimur Boys' Home; is continuing to conduct weekly radio session, *The Voice of Churches of Christ*, over Station 2DU; and is producing a Sunday bulletin for church.

Kurri Kurri (B. Nowitzke). — Special series of addresses has been enjoyed. Ladies' Guild is meeting monthly, and Bible Study class and prayer meeting, weekly. Visitors to services have been G. Taggart and C. McCosker (Mayfield), Mr. and Mrs. A. Camps (Hamilton). Minister has been on holidays. Speaker on May 26 was V. Hewson (South Auburn). G. Wotherspoon spoke on 19th. Two young men and a young woman confessed Christ and were baptised. Sis. Grace Hunter was soloiste.

Mosman (D. W. Tonkin). — Church welcomed back minister after conducting evangelistic mission at Epping. Three Mosman young ladies, who made their confession at the mission, were baptised on June 2. Mr. Shipway (City Mission) was morning speaker on May 26. C.E.

group led evening service and 3 B.S. girls made their decision. J.C.E. was formed on that date, 23 attending Leaders are Max Newton and Kevin Taylor. Minister addressed Woolwich Evangelistic Party Rally in City Temple on June 1. Two B.S. lads made their decision at gospel service on 2nd.

Rockdale (A. B. Clark). — May 12 was Christian Family day. There were very good meetings morning and evening. At evening service there was a parade of Women's Fellowship, who took special part in service. Kinder. dept. held special service for mothers in morning, and morning tea was served before church. Each mother and grandmother received a small gift. J. Shaw (Bexley North) was morning speaker on 19th. G. Seppel was soloist at evening service. On 26th, owing to illness of minister, Messrs. Creek and McMillan were speakers. At evening service, youth auxiliaries were on parade. Women's Fellowship had entertained Y.P. at tea and they took the C.E. service. Miss Barbara Fuller was soloist. After gospel service, supper was served and time of fellowship enjoyed. Women's Fellowship paid visit to Ashwood House on 31st, to entertain aged ladies. A short service was held and a gift of a pair of bed-sox was given to each patient; after which afternoon tea was served. Sympathy of church goes out to Mrs. A. Copley and family, Mrs. Conn, Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis, in the loss of loved ones. Mrs. Woodward is very ill in hospital following surgery. There was a largely attended morning service on June 2, and visitors from Qld. and Vic. were welcomed. At evening service film, *Tammy*, was screened. David Andrews, on holidays, has been a welcome visitor.

Wollongong (R. J. Anderson). — 16th anniversary services were well attended on Saturday evening and Sunday. H. C. Bischoff (Marrickville) was guest speaker for occasion, and his messages were appreciated. Celebrations commenced with sumptuous tea provided by ladies. School hall was packed to capacity. Mr. Dillon (architect) drew up amended plan for alterations in design and accommodation of church building, which was on display and was explained in detail by R. J. Anderson. Offering was taken as start for project, and £430 was realised. Reports from various departments were very encouraging, and spoke well for the devoted interest taken by those in charge. Solos were rendered by Miss Parcell and Mr. Samuels during evening. During gospel service, one young woman re-dedicated her life to Christ, and a young man obeyed his Lord in baptism. Men's Training Class and Fellowship are proving very

helpful. Midweek prayer meetings are on up-grade.

South Australia

Naillworth (N. Gavros). — Church contributed over £20 to annual appeal of Youth Dept. At conclusion of gospel service on June 2, there was one decision. Morning service on 9th included many visitors, and four were received into fellowship. Board of Officers recommends to church that plans in **Operation Increase** be supported.

Albert Park (R. G. Deane). — On May 24, I.C.E. was given talk by Mr. Maxted (Torrensville). J.C.E. District supt., Mr. Smallwood, addressed juniors on 17th. A youth tea was held on 26th. This was followed by films, and gospel service in which C.Y.F. took part. Speaker at morning service was B. Coventry (India).

Dulwich (G. A. Hearne). — Ladies visited Christian Rest Home. One B.S. scholar and an elderly man have been baptised. 4 babies were welcomed at Cradle Roll enrolment service. Good attendance at G.L.B. Flag Presentation service. 4 basketball teams have had good wins in opening matches. 80 parents and scholars attended social and picture evening arranged by B.S., when supt. screened films of recent holiday. Mr. and Mrs. D. Purdie (N.S.W.) have been welcome visitors. G. Cox has recovered sufficiently to attend services. Large delegation attended opening of new hall at Salisbury; ladies made and gave the curtains.

Long Plains - Owen - Avon (M. A. Coombs). — Interest continues at satisfactory level in all churches of circuit. Communicant av. in circuit approx. 80. Over 30 attend prayer and study groups in three centres of the circuit. Owen church recently celebrated B.S. anniversary with good attendances. J. B. Baker was speaker. Church was also pleased to have visit of State Conf. Pres. (A. A. Glastonbury) during month. At recent teachers' meeting, resignation of Mrs. H. Parker as supt. of Kinder. dept. was received with regret. New supt. is Miss E. Freebairn. Long Plains Board has decided to call tenders for painting of manse and chapel. On June 9, newly formed choir sang for first time in evening service. Choir has 16-20 members. On 9th, minister exchanged pulpits with Mr. Dalton (Mallala Methodist Circuit). All churches in circuit are co-operating in **Operation Increase**, and commitment cards have been distributed. Y.P. shared in Northern Districts C.Y.F., held in Owen Institute, where overall attendance was 180. Long Plains senior group presented tableau, **The Master's Lightbearers**. Circuit minister gave address.

Victoria

The Patch (D. H. Thoday). — On May 12, a lady was welcomed into fellowship by transfer. In absence of Mr. Thoday during college vacation, services were taken by J. Holloway, W. T. Atkin and Lindsay Smith. On 29th, members of Box Hill C.W.F. visited and conducted the meeting.

Kaniva (G. A. Grainger). — Mothers of Good Companions were entertained at club on May 13. On 14th, W.M.B. went to Warracknabeal and conducted meeting. A large number of ladies from surrounding districts were present. Eighty-one attended youth tea and also took part in gospel service on 26th. Y.P.S.C.E. plans to hold cottage meetings during winter months. Serviceton B.S. held 2nd anniversary on 26th. Miss Hazel Jewell gave interesting lecture at Yearinga and showed colored slides of her recent tour of N.Z. Evening was held at Lillimur to express good wishes to Mrs. A. Williams (senr.) who has taken up residence in Kaniva. Mr. and Mrs. D. Beiler (Adelaide) spoke on their recent trip to Java, at special meeting of Good Companions. Youth offering amounted to £135.

Middle Park (F. Sumpton). — Attendances are being maintained. Mr. Rhodes is now leader of midweek Bible study. Members were pleased to have fellowship with Conf. Pres., V. L. Gole and Mrs. Gole. Film, *Barabbas*, was screened at well attended gospel service on 2nd. Members are pleased with continued improvement in health of R. Rowan.

Moreland (C. M. Dunse). — On May 26, two young women made their decision. B.S. is doing well. School is paying £5 a year toward supporting an aborigine boy at Carnarvon. Alan Haiman raised £8/10/- by a special effort for Norseman Mission. £50 is already in hand for School Equipment drive. P.B.P. is growing and so far is undefeated at basketball. Mrs. Frost (Women's Prison Welfare Centre) gave girls an interesting talk. Church thanks Mr. Perkins (Ivanhoe) for conducting evening service on June 2, whilst minister was at Sth. Melbourne. W.M.B. conducted visitation work at Fawknor in preparation for Cradle Roll dedication service. Morning church attendances at Fawknor are improving.

Northcote (A. B. Withers). — Baptismal service was conducted on evening of May 26, when three young lads were baptised. At close of service, opportunity was taken to make a presentation to Miss B. Pilgrim and I. Hanger prior to their marriage. W. Gale was preacher at evening service of June 2, and a young man reconsecrated his life. On 3rd, monthly meeting of Vic.-Tas. ministers was

held in chapel. Lunch and afternoon tea were provided by ladies for approx. 60 ministers.

North Richmond (C. H. Dow). — B.S. anniversary was successful. Miss Esther Mitchell spoke at kinder. demonstration and kinder. prizes were distributed. R. Brooker gave illustrated talk at evening service. Under leadership of S. Chipperfield, singing of scholars was excellent. At conclusion of evening service, R. Bean (Ormond) presented an audio-visual on all aspects of youth work in Vic. B.S. has welcomed number of new scholars. Morning service on May 12 took form of a Parents' Dedication Service, and evening feature was Mothers' Night service, with several mothers taking part. Annual Mothers' Night social was given by Y.P. on 13th, when each mother present was given a gift.

North Williamstown (S. K. Bannon). — C.W.F. conducted cake stall in chapel grounds. Proceeds will assist in payment for typewriter recently purchased for church work. Mrs. Bannon was speaker at special Mother's Night service. I.C.E. led gospel meeting on June 2, during which a baptismal service was conducted. Largely attended meetings were enjoyed on June 9. **Contrary Winds** was screened at gospel service and a young lady made her decision for Christ. Clark Bryant has joined B.S. staff. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Dowling have been in indifferent health, and Mrs. H. Shaw is recovering from surgery. Girls' No. 1 basketball team maintains top position in local church competition.

Preston (J. E. Searle). — During recent weeks, Board of Officers has visited each member of church to explain Building Fund Thankoffering. Aim is to wipe out debt over 2 years. Some members have been ill, but have now improved. Fellowship with Mrs. Waldron (Stawell) has been enjoyed. Mrs. Rayner is home from a holiday spent in Qld. Ladies have had fellowship with ladies of Moreland Methodist Church. At gospel service on June 2, two young lads made the good confession. Mrs. Searle is slowly improving in health.

South Yarra (L. E. Snow, B.A., Dip. Ed.). — On Mother's Day, services were highlighted by presence of family groups honoring their mothers. Both services were well attended and fellowship hour at conclusion of evening service brought to a close a very happy day. Mr. and Mrs. Roffey and family visited recently, on holidays from Sydney. Mr. Roffey addressed morning service. H. Green (Mildura) also visited on May 26. Y.P.C.E. visited Elizabeth Fry Retreat for girls on May 28, when Mr. Brown showed colored slides of his trip to Toronto Convention. On June 3, Women's

Evening Fellowship met at home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Walters for very enjoyable social evening. Work on new Youth Hall is continuing steadily under guidance of J. Roper.

Coburg (J. A. Luff). — 37th church anniversary was celebrated on May 5, which was Homecoming Day. 159 were present at re-union communion, at which speaker was A. R. Lloyd. Greetings were received from a number of members and friends. Ladies served enjoyable meals. Christian sympathy is expressed to relatives of the late Messrs. T. Graf, R. S. Davls, J. Egan and A. Simmonds. Mr. and Mrs. Kettner and H. Smedley are recovering from road accidents. Mrs. Luff is also recovering from minor operation. Mr. Preston has been appointed K.S.P. chaplain.

Drumcondra (R. A. Banks). — Monthly feature in our Year of Evangelism was film, *I Beheld His Glory*. Chapel was filled and a fellowship hour was afterwards enjoyed. Mr. Best (Melb.) was soloist. Week of T.V. shows was held at home of Mrs. B. Pearce, proceeds going to Norlane project. Ladies' Aid held afternoon at manse to help pay for new fence. Mrs. Batty and Mr. Crossfield are improving after surgery.

Essendon (M. D. Roberts). — Attendances have been maintained following recent mission. Cricket Club held social and presentation evening on May 18. B.S. tendered "shower" evening to Miss Mavis Phillips on 25th, prior to her marriage on June 1. Youth Sunday was observed on 26th. Approx. 30 Y.P. met for tea and later assisted in gospel service. B. Hadow, missionary candidate for U.F.M., was speaker at both these meetings. Y.P.S.C.E. enjoyed visit from North Essendon Society on 24th. Evening group of C.W.F. held mothers' evening on 28th, and all guests were presented with a spray of violets. W. Pearce (Warnambool) presided at morning service of June 2. S. Hainsworth is seriously ill in Footscray Hospital, whilst Messrs. Murdoch and Lovell are still not in good health.

Frankston (E. S. Sanders). — During minister's illness, speakers have been: Principal E. L. Williams, F. Adams, J. McKenzie and R. Watt. Church is hoping rest will restore Mr. Sanders to good health. Church has been saddened by sudden passing of Miss E. Shirwill. Several ladies visited Dandenong C.W.F. for birthday.

Ivanhoe (S. F. Davey). — Church rejoices at confession and baptism of a lad. Special instruction in presidency and reading for worship service is being undertaken by elders. Youth tea on June 2 was followed by gospel service, speaker being L. Chapman; the service was arranged by C.M.S. Tennis teams and girls' basket-

ball team are active. Explorers won inter-church indoor sports competition. Earnest prayer continues for sick ones.

Gardenvale (H. A. Hunt). — Six Y.P., 3 from K.S.P. and 3 from P.B.P., have made their decision. Two were baptised on May 23 and received into fellowship on 30th. A lady was received into fellowship by transfer. Ladies' Fellowship held birthday on May 13, when a musical programme was provided. Ladies presented church with double doors at a cost of £30. Monthly fellowship tea was followed by helpful address by R. Morris. Mrs. Blamires and Mr. Andrews are ill.

Serviceton-Lillimur (G. A. Grainger). — B.S. anniversary at Serviceton was well attended, and children did exceptionally well on their first anniversary effort. Mrs. D. Wallis is supt., with Mrs. K. Jolly in charge of kinders. Mrs. A. Coad is improving after several weeks of illness. Mrs. A. Williams, snr. has moved into Kaniva after 37 years' active association with Lillimur. A social evening was held in her honor and a presentation from members of both churches made. Miss Hazel Jewell gave illustrated talk on her visit to N.Z. at A. Williams' home, 50 being present. D. Welsh is in his 22nd year as secretary.

Warragul (M. D. Keatch). — On June 2, Y.P.F. conducted youth tea. At evening service two young men were baptised. Members of church enjoyed fellowship at social evening conducted by Y.W.F. on 4th. Training classes have begun for those officiating at morning services. On 9th, minister introduced members to church programme for Operation Increase. Church is missing fellowship with Mrs. E. T. Waters, who is ill in Melb.

Sunshine (F. B. Alcorn). — During May, a film series was conducted in gospel services. After screening of last two films — *Decision* and *King of Kings*, three Y.P. made their decision. Annual Conference tea of Western District Suburban Churches was held in church hall on June 1. W. W. Saunders spoke at meeting which followed. Newly formed C.M.S. got away to good start on 2nd, when over fifty attended first meeting. Churches at Essendon, Footscray, North Williamstown and Maidstone were represented.

Belmont (M. D. Hamilton). — Attendances over past month have been more than pleasing. Messrs. Watt, Small, Ferguson, Banks and Tinker very willingly took services while Mr. Hamilton returned to his home in Adelaide to enjoy term vacation. Church congratulates him on passing first term exams. with honors. Ladies' Guild held its 4th birthday on May 15, with Mrs. Cleland as speaker. Geoff. Watt, Peter Whitehead and Lindsay Small have been welcomed as readers on new plan.

NOTES FROM THE READINGS

As Suggested for

Sunday, June 23

HABAKKUK 1: 1-12.

The book begins with a despairing cry from the prophet, who sees the wicked apparently triumphing and God deaf to the cry of his people. Then follows (vv. 5-11) God's answer, with a terrible picture of what the Chaldeans would do as his instruments of punishment for Judah's wrongdoing. Verse 12 returns to the questioning of vv. 2 and 3.

"burden" (v. 1). — "Oracle."

"Habakkuk" (v. 1).—Nothing is known of the prophet apart from this book, but his writing reveals him as a man bold in perplexity, winning through to real faith.

"wonder marvellously" (v. 5). — "Wonder and be astounded" (R.S.V.).

"that bitter and hasty nation" (v. 6). — "That implacable and impetuous people, who with fierce, swift horses scour the earth on conquest bent" (McFadyen).

"Then shall his mind change" (v. 11). — Better, "Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!" (R.S.V.).

LUKE 18: 1-14.

This section contains two parables on prayer — the first concerning the unjust judge; the second the Pharisee and publican.

"that men ought always to pray" (v. 2). — Only here and in v. 9 is the explanation or point of a parable given before the parable itself. Only Luke among the Gospel writers gives us these two parables.

"neither regarded man" (v. 2). — "No respect for his fellow men" (Phillips).

"Avenge me of mine adversary" (v. 3). — "Give me redress against one who wrongs me" (Knox).

"lest . . . she weary me" (v. 5). — "Else her continual visits will be the death of me" (Phillips).

"though he bear long with them" (v. 7). — "Is he slow to help them?" (Goodspeed).

"prayed thus with himself" (v. 11). — The meaning is that he stood by himself, away from the contaminating presence of the other worshippers.

"of all that I possess" (v. 12). — The Pharisee was doing and giving more than the Law required. Tithes were only sought from agricultural products, and private fasts were not demanded.

Epping Mission, N.S.W.

For a month prior to the tent mission conducted by Epping church, April 14 to May 26, cottage prayer meetings were held on Tuesday nights at seven different centres — some 5 miles apart — in addition to the regular Wednesday night prayer meetings. Up to 60 were present at these cottage meetings for prayer.

The church was organised with 20 men looking after various aspects of the mission. Seven thousand folders introducing the mission were distributed, and each week 5,000 blotters emphasising the theme, Christ is the Answer, and advertising the meetings, were distributed.

The mission team comprised D. W. Tonkin (evangelist), Clive Way (song-leader), Gordon Collins (organist) and A. Surtees, who answered questions. An added feature of the mission was the use of an electronic organ, which was loaned to the church.

The mission commenced immediately prior to Easter and when attendances dropped to 50 on Easter Thursday many were apprehensive. However, once Easter was over interest built up, till in the fourth week, a peak of 186 crowded the tent. An aggregate of 4,496 attended, with a nightly average of 122.

Although there were only 20 decisions (4 of which were reconsecrations), the church was very definitely quickened and richly blessed. Many who were lukewarm are now on fire, and attendances at both morning and night meetings have increased.

The church was handicapped in engaging in this mission without a full-time preacher, but still feels the effort was abundantly worthwhile. C. Bowser, a High School teacher and a Woolwich College lecturer, is conducting a very acceptable and consecrated part-time ministry, and is doing sterling service instructing the new converts and following up contacts made.

At a social evening on May 31, opportunity was taken to meet the new converts and to thank both verbally and practically all who had played so loyal and active a part in the mission.

No thankoffering was received, the church accepting the challenge to contribute two days' pay per member to defray the cost of the mission.—M. C. McArthur, Sec.

The way to do a great deal of work is to be continually doing a little.

—Swedenborg.

THE CHURCH AT DONCASTER, VIC.,

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V. L. GOLE (Vic.-Tas. Conf. Pres.), and other representative speakers, will take part.

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M.A.

7 p.m.—C. G. TAYLOR, B.A.

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50th Anniversary

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 1957.

11 a.m.—Worship Service. Speaker:
Dan Wakeley.

5 p.m.—Anniversary Tea.
All past and present members
are invited to tea.

6.45 p.m.—Song Service, led by Keith
Larcombe.

7.15 p.m.—Gospel Meeting. Speaker:
P. J. Kavanagh.

Hospitality will be arranged for
lunch.

Reply before June 9 to E. Smith,
8 Wise-st., Maroubra, N.S.W.

THE MINISTRIES OF OUR



WOMEN

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

The Work of the Federal Literature Committee

Mrs. H. F. Morris, Vic.

The Federal Literature Committee of Churches of Christ in Australia is entrusted with the publication and distribution of literature designed for:—

1. The spreading of the gospel.
2. The deepening of the spiritual life of the Church.
3. The promotion of the aims of the Restoration Movement.

It will be seen, therefore, that the literature is applicable to all aspects of our Christian life, including women's work.

A wide selection of printed matter is available, including not only the direct publications of the Committee, but also those of the Federal Board of Christian Education and the Austral Printing and Publishing Co. A list of these publications is being prepared and may be applied for at The Austral, where the two booklets referred to herein may also be obtained.

For the purpose of this column I would like to concentrate on literature of particular interest to women.

The publication of monthly Provocative Pamphlets was directly initiated by the Federal Literature Committee. The wide range of subjects covered to date has proved not only provocative, but informative and helpful as well. Perhaps the following list of titles, chosen at random, will serve to illustrate the interest and diversity of subjects presented:—*Your Life and Your Money, Developments in the Restoration Movement, Taking Christmas Seriously, The Church and Politics, Neither Male Nor Female, The Problem of Interpretation, Land of Beginning Again.*

Their first use, of course, is for personal reading. In a wider way, the possibilities for use, in women's groups is unlimited.

Believing, as we do, that it is as right for the women, as for the men, to bring informed judgment to bear upon all matters relating to our church life and witness, I would like to recommend the use of these Pamphlets for discussion and study programmes. Already, to my knowledge, this has been done in individual Evening Fellowships in Victoria. In a combined way, also, a

discussion on The Church and Politics was held at the annual weekend camp of the Victorian Women's Evening Fellowship last year. It was felt that, after all, if young parents with the future of their families at heart do not take a Christian interest in politics, who can be expected to take an interest?

Later, at a quarterly combined meeting of the Evening Fellowship a discussion was held on *Australia's Migrants and Ourselves*. This was inspired by the pamphlet *Land of Beginning Again*. It proved a topical and thought-provoking subject, in which all Christians should be interested, and which, for social and family reasons, is of particular interest to mothers.

Regular reading of *Provocative Pamphlets* will help all mothers to keep in step with Christian thought and progress. This is surely the due of the younger generation growing up around them.

The booklet, *All the Best*, is a Literature Committee publication, written by H. A. G. Clark, M.A., B.D., Dip.Ed., one of our own ministers who served as Chaplain for ten years with the Australian Military Forces in Australia and elsewhere. Out of the wealth of his experience with young men in Army Service, Mr. Clark has written this booklet of practical, helpful guidance for young men who are about to do their National Service Training. The advice offered is presented in a simple and factual manner, which parents will appreciate as virtually speaking for them. Every young trainee should have the opportunity of reading this booklet, and for Christian young men it is a "must."

All the Best could also be given to young men leaving home to work or study. Some ministers keep a supply on hand. Women's groups could also

have copies on hand for members to purchase as required.

The latest publication of the Committee is one which all Christians will wish to read. *The Vision of Stewardship*, by Principal E. L. Williams, is a comprehensive survey of the subject, which brings the inescapable facts of our trust right home to each heart. It is a booklet, rich in spiritual reward for serious private study, and could also be used in the devotional and inspirational meetings of groups.

★

Dr. Martin Niemoller, the former German U-boat commander, who attained fame through his heroic resistance to Adolf Hitler in the late thirties, followed by a long period in concentration camp, has been a prominent leader among the churches of his homeland since the war, as well as making many speaking trips abroad. He recently became converted to pacifism, and at a London rally late in March was reported as saying, "The cold war now being waged on both sides of the Iron Curtain by means of propaganda is doing violence to the mind of man and the soul of man."

IN MEMORIAM

HANCOCK. — In loving memory of my dear wife and our dear mother, Alice, who passed away June 19, 1953. "Forever with the Lord."

JURY. — In loving memory of Ern, called home suddenly June 23, 1956. "Always remembered."
—Inserted by S. Jenner, Carnegie, Vic.

MORGAN. — Treasured memories of David Francis, beloved husband of Beanie, and loved father of Deryn, Gwen and Kent. Called to Higher Service, June 19, 1952. "Forever in our hearts."

WATT (Mrs. N. Watt). — Sweet and cherished memories of our dear mother, called to be with Christ, June 14, 1951.
—Inserted by her devoted sons and daughters — David, Alice, Charles and Irma.

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(Albert Schweitzer).

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HE EXPECTS US TO MAKE
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On May 22 our loved sister in Christ
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 ward. Mrs. Prichard, together with
 her husband, C. Prichard (who
 predeceased her), was united with the
 church at Margate, Launceston,
 Tas., over 30 years ago, both were very
 from the Baptist Church. Christian En-
 vivality interested. Mrs. Prichard be-
 deavor Movement. In many years, be-
 ing J.C.E. supt. of important posi-
 sides holding sessions on the Tas. C.E. Executive.
 Our sister also was a keen and active
 worker in the work of President
 church, filling the Fellowship and the
 of the Women's Society for some years.
 Sisters' State Ex. Com. young people, and
 Mrs. Prichard loved humanity and loving
 through gracious and to rejoice in
 and wise counsel of girls and boys
 seeing many of our young workers in
 become active earlier married
 the church. During her open to visit-
 life, her home was a place of joy and to all
 ing preachers, and his church.
 who loved Christ was regular at
 Our late sister continued ill-health
 all services, until she had a keen in-
 prevented, but Mrs. Prichard
 terest. For some time, Mrs. Prichard
 had resided at "High Home," and
 there passed peacefully to be with
 her Lord, whose she so loved and
 faithfully served. Her private funeral
 service at Cambridge cemetery was
 conducted by Rev. J. Wright, who
 ministers at Margate-st, Launceston.
 To all sorrowing friends and sympathy.
 —J. P. Foot.

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"Thou art the Way"

(A Hymn for June—No. 131, June 30)

Born just before the death of "the father of his country," the son of Jonathan Doane was given the names George Washington. Early training set him on the way to ordination, a professor's chair by the age of 32, the bishopric in New Jersey. Commencing when he saw the possibility of "taking water-melons and sweet melons," he showed for 27 years the natural talents and force of character developing into one of the great Christian leaders of his day.

His editing of Keble's Christian hymns, incidentally, the saying that another man's meat is better demonstrated by various commentators. Welcome his notes on Keble either "entertaining" or, alternatively, "amusing."

His early hymn, with some work of real merit, was published when the vigorous hymn, "let it float," was destined to challenge to social effort.

His only hymn, "Thou art the Way," obviously based on the example, both of Scripture and thought. Its structure, both of No. 430 and No. 740, with the Life and the Truth in verse 2, and in the chorus and including verse. The first verse sets the pattern with Jesus' proclamation of the Way, the second similarly of the Life. The final verse, then gathered into one the thoughts of the to the Way, the Life that we may know and win eternally.

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