



WHY HAVE A CHURCH MEN'S SOCIETY?

- ★ Because a great deal of the church life is built on features which, by their nature, make a greater appeal to women. Sentiment and emotion are basic to both sexes, but men are more embarrassed by their public expression — as in many hymns. Robust features which appeal to men need to be built into the organised life of the church.
- ★ Because for most men there is no substitute for association with other men. The drink at the pub, the Dagwood poker party, the bowling club, or the football team, are all expressions of this fundamental feature of a man's make-up. Should the church ignore this need and leave men to find its fulfilment somewhere else?
- ★ Because this is one of the aspects of church life most neglected. Clubs for boys, for girls, for teenagers, for young married couples, societies for women — men as a class are neglected. This is not a complaint, just a reminder that men have interests to be catered for and talents to be marshalled.

AND WHY HAVE A STATE ORGANISATION OF MEN'S SOCIETIES?

- ★ Because any organisation needs really good plans and programmes — a State organisation gives an opportunity to exchange good ideas and provide a reservoir of plans and programmes.
- ★ Because strong societies have an opportunity to help weaker ones or to sponsor new ones.
- ★ Because it provides an opportunity for a demonstration of solidity and strength in united fellowship and service.

—W. S. Lowe, Chairman of Fed. Dept. of Men's Work.

MARK RUTHERFORD, a leader in men's work, U.S.A., describes

The Ministry of Men in the Church

One of the basic principles of the Protestant Church is the priesthood of the believers. To say it in another way, every believer in Christ is a priest unto God, needing no mediator except Jesus Christ.

Going farther than other Protestants, the men in the early days of our Movement were taught that they should in fact be ministers. That is, each believer should minister to the needs of the people.

It was never intended that every church member should be ordained to the full-time ministry (to occupy pulpits), but that he would dedicate himself to the ministry within his qualifications.

In the church, men have special opportunities to strengthen their own ministry, as well as the ministry of the pastor of the church.

The Ministry of Evangelism

Every man who believes with all his heart that Jesus is the Christ, can and should be active in this ministry in his church. He can perform this ministry in several ways:

1. Visit unchurched people, presenting the saving power of God through Christ.
2. So conduct himself in his daily work that his life becomes a living testimony.
3. Bring visitors to evangelistic services every Sunday night.

The Ministry of Stewardship

Every man who tries to understand stewardship finds that his time, talent and possessions are not his own, but that he is responsible to God for wise and dedicated stewardship over all three, so long as he lives. Therefore, he uses all of his money for the glory of God:

1. To give at least a tenth to Christian causes.
2. Use the rest to sustain his family and himself so that all may walk in the paths of Jesus every day.

In this effort men find they have talents for the growth, spiritually and numerically, of the church.

- Some are natural leaders.
- Some are natural teachers.
- Some are singers.
- Some are natural "greeters."
- Some are programme planners.
- Some are administrators.
- Some are good pastors.
- Some are great preachers.
- All can be peace-makers.
- All can perform some function of the ministry.

The Ministry of Service

Few men realise the extent of service the Church should render to its community — the commonwealth and the world. No church is really a Christ-like institution as long as it measures its obligation of service to its members only. The truth is that every church of Christ that measures up, actually belongs to the world. It is dedicated to all the world, and its primary concern is to save the people of all the world.

Now the services required to maintain a strong church of local resident members, a strong programme for Federal causes, and overseas missions, demands that every man dedicate himself to the ministry of the church of Christ. Here are some areas of service most men can devote themselves to:

1. Find your strong talent for the church, and use some initiative to take hold of your job.
2. Respond to the call for help from your pastor and other leaders.
3. Study all brotherhood literature and become better informed to better serve.
4. Study your Bible to learn God's message for you.
5. Give thought and study to the present programme of your church.

Determine if your church is reaching out into the community of its shut-ins. Do the people in your neighborhood know what your church teaches? Do the girls and boys know of your girls' and boys' clubs? Is your church taking the gospel into homes by wireless? Is your church concerned with the outcast of your community? Do the men ever visit jails and prisons? Do your men print your minister's sermon subjects and distribute them to the homes around the neighborhood? How far are you preaching (through missions) away from home? Are your missionaries properly supplied? What about the rest homes or benevolent homes? Does your church properly appear neglected? Are you helping young people prepare for the ministry?

If every man will humble himself, go to his church and hear his preacher inspire him to be the servant of the church, to share his time, talents and treasure — he will find himself so active in the ministry of his church that he can say with assurance, "I know in whom I believe. He is the lily of the valley, the bright and shining star — my hope — my redeemer and my Lord."

Enthusiastic Beginning, N.S.W.

On Thursday, July 18, history was made in New South Wales when a very enthusiastic meeting of men voted unanimously to commence men's work on a State level.

The meeting, held at Enmore, commenced with a fellowship tea. Some 140 men sat down to the tea, which was very ably catered for by the Women's Conference.

The guests of honor, who came from Victoria for the occasion, were executive members of the Federal Department of Men's Work. W. S. Lowe (Chairman), R. P. Morris (Vice-Chairman) and N. R. Arnott (Secretary) delighted with witty, after-dinner speeches, and immediately won their way into the men's hearts.

The meeting proper, chaired by the N.S.W. Conference President, J. G. Shaw, was attended by almost 200 men. The spirit of enthusiasm engendered at the tea carried over to this meeting, and as well, a deep, inspirational atmosphere pervaded the whole of the proceedings.

Three very excellent addresses were given by Messrs. Lowe, Morris and

Arnott concerning our responsibility to serve, each with our particular talents; telling of the joy in fellowship to be found in the meeting together of men with a common purpose and with common interests; stressing the opportunity united manpower has of extending the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The visitors very ably answered a number of questions that the men had in their minds concerning men's work generally and Church Men's Societies.

Interspersed were very enjoyable items from George Marley (baritone) and Barry Bates (violinist). It would be difficult to describe the glorious hymn-singing by this large body of men.

A strong committee of nine men was elected at the meeting to promote men's work throughout the State, with the ultimate object of forming a Department of Men's Work as a committee of Conference. Already this committee has met on two occasions, and all is in readiness to launch the men of the Churches of Christ in New South Wales into co-operative service for the Master they love.—E. Morris.

ENGINEERING MEN'S WORK IN W.A.

J. K. Robinson.

The establishment of a Department of Men's Work is well under way in the Western State. A start was made over two years ago, and a few Societies were formed. While these local societies continued to function, no progress was made with the establishment of a Department of Men's Work on a State level.

On the return of delegates from Federal Conference, 1956, a large and representative gathering of men was held, and a report of meetings, proceedings and discussions at Federal Conference was made. The meeting carried a resolution that the formation of a State Department of Men's Work was highly desirable, and it was decided to form a State Council consisting of two representatives from each existing society as a first step towards that end. R. Raymond and J. K. Robinson were asked to convene the first meeting.

At this first meeting of the State Council, J. K. Robinson was appointed Chairman, and R. Raymond, Secretary, pro tem. It was evident that the Men's Societies already in exist-

ence were earnestly looking for a lead to help them become more effective.

A State Executive has now been formed, consisting of seven men who are willing to do the ground work necessary for the great work in mind. The Executive will be enlarged as necessity demands. A Constitution for a local Men's Society has been drawn up, and is being adopted by existing societies, and new societies as they form. This will ensure a measure of uniformity and cohesion to the State Department of Men's Work. Much work is being done in supplying guidance to societies as to their mode of operation, and the possibilities of the work before them. Programme planning and projects for men in their local churches and on the State level are ready to place in the hands of local societies.

Under this pattern, existing societies are consolidating, and becoming really enthused with the new life opening before them. New societies are forming, and Messrs. Robinson

and Raymond are being kept busy visiting groups of men and explaining to them how to make a start in forming a society. Country churches, as well as metropolitan, are interested, and taking steps to form Men's Societies. With those already in existence, and those in process of formation, there are now fifteen Men's Societies in our W.A. churches.

Unfortunately, we are still without a permanent State Secretary, but it is hoped that ere long, a capable and efficient man will be found ready, and willing to undertake the position. Men's Sunday on Sept. 1 will be observed in all our churches. Suggested programme material for the day has been forwarded to all churches. Our State Conference Executive has made a grant of money to cover initial operating expenses, and those men who have accepted the responsibility of building up our Men's Work have every hope that before next Conference, everything will be in order and enthusiasm will be high for the final step of constituting our Men's work as a Conference Department.

Church Men's Society in Victoria

Most men today have got themselves into comfortable ruts, and it takes a big effort to get out of them.

Organised men can do great things for each other, for the Church, and they can control the destiny of our country.

We in Victoria have 51 churches that have some kind of Men's Groups, but these vary greatly in methods of operation:

Knife and Fork Societies. — These have a tea, and generally a visiting speaker. Not much work involved, not much brain thought required, their way of life is little disturbed. This is better than having no meetings, but they accomplish very little.

Spasmodic Societies. — After a long spell, the leaders decide that they had better have another meeting. They generally put on a very good programme, and usually have a good attendance owing to personal requests to attend. This is like climbing up a hill, then resting with the brakes off and rolling back to where they started from.

Good Societies. — We do have some very good societies, that give good programmes and encourage men to bring their friends. These grow stronger, whilst the weak societies grow weaker.

Our Aims. — We aim to inspire men for Christian service, to broaden their knowledge by information, to meet other men in fellowship, and at all times to give service.

Meetings. — These are only a part of Men's Work, but every meeting should be properly organised, well planned, and carried out efficiently, with as many men as possible taking part. By meeting together thoughts are developed and enlarged.

Training. — Our meetings are training meetings, where men learn to speak in public, how to chair a meeting, how to read, how to make a speech, how to discuss various matters, how to state thoughts in a few words, and how to arrive at conclusions after discussion.

State Council. — We have four meetings a year, held whilst at dinner, when we decide general policy and discuss various subjects. The next subject is Divine Healing, and at the last Council we discussed Chaplains in Industry, when many good ideas came from employers, employees and Union officials.

Board. — We have a Board where detail planning takes place, and where work is allotted to various committees. All committees are represented on this Board.

Central Executive. — This looks after urgent matters, or other business between main meetings.

Rallies. — We are organising rallies at all main centres in the city and country. The aim of these rallies is

to contact as many men as possible and for church men to invite friends.

Building Construction. — We have helped many churches to erect church buildings and halls, or to make improvements, and most of this work has been done by voluntary labor. We are asking all men to give one day a year to this work.

Advisory Panel. — Many churches need advice on what they can do, with the money available, or the best way to plan for future needs. This committee has had many calls in the city and country. Much effort and money have been wasted in previous years, by each church learning by experience. By discussion and plans, this panel lets those who are thinking of expanding, know what other churches have done in similar circumstances.

Library. — We are just starting to form a first-grade library, so that men may borrow good books.

Social Committee. — We are holding a Men's Dinner at the Melbourne Town Hall on Sept. 16, when we hope men from all our churches will attend. Men have worked together for years in the same building, and have not known that fellow-workers were Churches of Christ men.

Research. — This committee is finding out facts and figures, then making recommendations for improvements.

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THE C.M.S. IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

C. L. Fitzgerald.

Because the work of South Australian Churches of Christ is in a healthy condition, so the men's activities are also healthy. Just how far this increase in men's activities is a cause or an effect of the general forward movement, experienced here, is a matter of conjecture. It is partly due to the efforts of the committee of the State C.M.S. which has been enthusiastic in its task of challenging the men of the church to band themselves into societies, pledged to assist in the total programme of the Church.

The committee is a special sub-committee of the State Executive called into being to undertake a special task on behalf of Conference. The original members were appointed by the Executive and confirmed in their appointment by a large and representative meeting of men, who nominated two others to the team. Since then one has dropped out and two more have been added.

Most of the city and suburban churches have been visited by committee teams. Most have started, revived or re-orientated the men's groups. Not always has the title of C.M.S. been used; where an established fellowship widened, or intends to widen its activities to embrace in whole, or in part, the Four Point Programme, the name is of minor importance for the time being. Eventually it must happen that the C.M.S. will become a uniform term as our men feel themselves part of a very important and Christian movement.

Like others, we didn't hasten slowly enough in the early stages; men were frightened of the Four Point Programme in full and doubted their ability to work it. Now we feel that we have an important part to play in the gradual development of our Church programme as set out in

Operation Increase. Our future plans and suggestions will not outstrip that blue-print for progress.

It would be unrealistic to see C.M.S. activities through rose-tinted spectacles of optimistic enthusiasts. We recognise that difficulties and disappointments are the lot of all who are on fire for the Kingdom; we recognise, too, that a C.M.S. Committee must comprise men who are on fire; we therefore recognise that in our efforts, in our successes, in our failures, we share disappointments and satisfactions with many ministers and many other leaders in our churches. We also recognise that this work, which must come as a challenge to the individual church member, is always a challenge to our committee. The committee shows no signs of laying down the challenge and would say to all other State Committees and to all men's groups, "Press on towards the goal of the high calling of Christ Jesus."

C.M.S. IN VICTORIA — continued.

Speakers. — All men-available for speaking appointments are listed, and many requests are made for speakers throughout the year, for morning and evening services and other special occasions.

Aids Committee. — Organise help for those in need, or through sickness.

Classes. — We have had quite a number of classes in various districts, and subjects have been Reading, Presiding and Sermon Training.

Society Development. — Theory is useless without practical usage. We want to encourage all churches to have Men's Societies, so that more men are brought into the church.

This committee helps churches to form societies, and to give good programmes.

Special Efforts. — Many other men are working on special jobs of an individual nature.

The C.M.S. work in Victoria is expanding, with good interest and support from city and country churches, while Tasmania has two societies.

We have erected many new church buildings over the last 30 years, but our total membership is just about the same. We need active men in an active organisation, so if your church does not have a Men's Society, start one now. If it is in poor condition, revitalise it. If you have only a small group of men, combine with another church, and meet at alternate churches.

ACTIVE MEN'S SOCIETIES MEAN ACTIVE CHURCHES.

—Norman F. White, General Secretary, C.M.S. in Victoria and Tasmania.

R. C. McKENZIE, Toowoomba, Qld., had this to say at a men's rally . . .

"Danger! Men at Work!"

Let this be the motto of every men's group. The men of the Church must be militant. The Church must rise up — be on the offensive and not the defensive. Jesus meant this in Matt. 16.

Talking in Conferences and in men's meetings about what we can do is very good, but we must do something. We must be men of action.

1. Let us attack the citadels of evils in the community. Let the world know where you stand. There are many social evils, gambling, drink, etc.

But we also have evils such as Communism. And so often the indifference of men allows Communism to thrive; e.g., at the Federated Clerk's Union recent election, only 34 per cent. voted. I guess all Communists and members of Catholic Action voted. Protestants are too apathetic in these matters.

We must speak out. Don't be timid; don't sit on the fence.

Let us be men at work. Women put us to shame so often.

2. It is better to burn out than rust out. Fred. Lee burnt himself out in service, but his vision must not be allowed to perish. It was a vision of men becoming united for active workmen who were evangelists in every sphere of life.

3. A Positive Programme.

Let me present five things.

(1) Accept responsibility of leader-

ship in the Church, as deacons, teachers, club leaders, etc. A man in his late forties or early fifties is an ideal teacher for that problem class of intermediate boys. Back up the preacher in his work.

If you are a deacon, a club leader, teacher, then be a good one; if you are a good one, then be a better one. Come up with original ideas, make helpful suggestions, support the preacher in every way.

(2) Accept leadership in organisations outside the Church, if it will help extend the Kingdom of God, and lead others to the Master. Be an evangelist in the factory, office, school, workshop, etc.

(3) Offer to visit at night. The preacher can do very little night visitation because of the other commitments; and most men can only be contacted at night. Let the Men's Society contact other men through evening visits. Here is real ministry.

(4) Set up a team of men to look after church property — also to help widows, sick and aged, i.e., do odd jobs, painting, lawns, etc. This is practical Christianity.

(5) Join the Auxiliary Preachers' Association. Equip yourself for presiding, reading and even preaching. It will mean giving of your time, but we must be prepared to sacrifice. The Master calls us, and when he holds out his hand he does not hide the nailprints.

A. R. PIGDON, Gawler, S.A., bases this message on the N.T. reading for Sunday
August 25

God's Great Secret, Christ Himself

"May your spiritual experience become richer as you see more and more fully God's great secret, Christ himself! For it is in him, and in him alone, that men will find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2: 2-3).

J. B. Phillips has rendered the Christians of our day a great service in clothing in modern phraseology the ideas presented in the New Testament. His translation is used as the basis of the thoughts presented in this article.

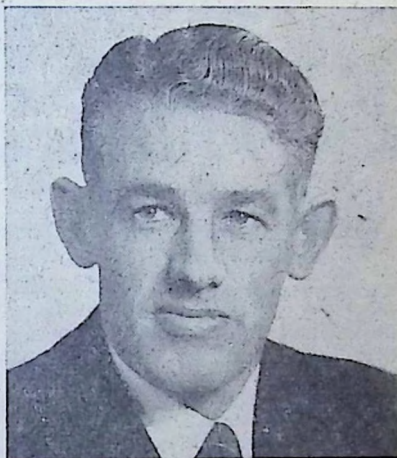
Life must be in focus to see God's purposes clearly. It is only focussed correctly when it is focussed on Christ himself. All other foci leave life but a dimmed and blurred image of what God meant it to be.

In the church at Colossae certain preachers had been turning the thoughts and loyalties of the disciples into side issues and mere human opinions. Although Paul had never visited this church he shows a vital interest in their affairs, and he writes to correct these incipient tendencies to depart from the essentials of the Christian Faith. He reminds them that their spiritual growth depends on their seeing "more and more fully God's great secret, Christ himself." Today, the issues which absorb the disciple's attention to the exclusion of Christ himself are different, but they are present nonetheless.

Christ Himself, the Secret of Discipleship

"Your own completeness is only realised in him" (v. 10). The very essence of Christianity is personal devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ. Without this transforming love-motive, Christianity is reduced to the level of a code of ethics to be observed, and a duty to be discharged. Such motives are not adequate. A code of ethics is a poor fence to restrain the selfish desires of our personality, and a sense of duty is not enough to sustain us in a cause that has not captured our heart's affection. "Your completeness is only realised in him." Discipleship without Christ at the centre of our affections must always be an unsatisfying experience. Confession and baptism may be gone through with nothing more than a selfish motive to be saved. This motive is not unworthy, but it is selfish, and of itself, will not sustain our discipleship. Church attendance and Christian fellowship are of great value, but they are only a means to an end; the bringing of the soul to the feet of God as seen in

"A.C." Pulpit



Guest No. 13 —
A. R. PIGDON

Graduated from the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, in 1942. Has served with the churches at Port Pirie, S.A.; Drumcondra, Geelong; Dandenong, and in the fourth year of his ministry with the church at Gawler, S.A.

Christ. There the voices of self are stilled, and the things that have held sway over us are surrendered to him, and Christ himself becomes the object of living. All who have achieved greatness in Christ's service have been men and women who have discovered God's great secret, Christ himself, the object of their affection.

Christ Himself, the Secret of Unity

There was danger of division within the church at Colossae because of the teaching of human interpretations as doctrine. Paul felt it necessary to remind them that Christ was the only authority in the Church; "the authority over all authorities" (v. 10), "It is in him that God gives a full and complete expression of himself" (v. 9). "It is in him, and him alone, that men will find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (v. 3).

The church will never be united while doctrinal beliefs remain the measure of discipleship. The church must accept differing interpretations of the will of God as normal, and no barrier to complete unity in worship and witness. We must learn to convert men and women to Christ himself, and not to the church tradition in which they take membership. When a denomination seeks to revive the apathy of its members by an undue emphasis on its own particular historical tradition and tenets, it can render a positive disservice to the cause of unity, even though it may loudly advocate it. Things acquire importance in proportion to the emphasis given to them. Let Christians lay aside pride in their historic tradition, and uplift the person of Christ, acknowledging that "in him God gives a full and complete expression of himself," and the cause of Christian unity will be better served. We are not trying to over simplify the very great problems involved in this question but simply to indicate an emphasis which is not always made.

Christ Himself, the Secret of Christian Growth

"Grow out of him as a plant grows out of the soil it is planted in" (v. 7). Plants do not grow by conscious effort. Given proper soil and suitable conditions growth takes place naturally and inevitably. Neither do Christians grow by striving. There can be no growth in Christian character at all until Christ dwells in the heart by faith, for he is the Life which grows within us. Our carnal nature can never produce anything else but sin and disobedience. Paul says, "It does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot." The graces of Christian character are called "the fruit of the Spirit." They are not the product of effort, they are fruit; the natural result of Christ's nature reigning in the believer's heart. The Christian is another Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. He is born with a carnal nature; he is born again when Christ comes to implant his Divine nature in him. The kind of person we become is dependent on which nature we feed and which nature we yield to. The whole secret of growth is surrender to Christ himself. While the life is fully surrendered to Christ and we are led of the Spirit, Christian growth takes place naturally and inevitably and the fruits of the Spirit are evident to all.

Christ Himself, the Secret of Happiness

"Your lives will overflow with joy and thankfulness." Like all else in this world our Christian faith must stand up to the empirical test. Does it work? Is it practical? Is it satisfying? No one put it to a severer test than Paul, and here he states that when we discover that God's treasures are found in Christ himself we will not only be filled with joy, our joy will overflow. There is a vast difference between pleasure and happiness. The world today spends millions of pounds seeking pleasure and entertainment. Pleasure through the senses

depletes and brings only satiety and ennui. The happiness that comes into the life from Christ dwelling and reigning within is the most satisfying experience we can know on earth. In that last intimate talk Jesus had with his disciples before Gethsemane he told them they must expect trouble as part of their discipleship, but he promised them his peace ("My peace I give unto you"), and his joy ("that my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full"). Knowing Christ himself means entering into the uniquely Christian experience of inner peace and joy.

"And thankfulness." Grumbling is a sign of immaturity in Christians. It

is a sign that the thoughts are still fixed on self and not trusting in Christ's promised provision. Christians, like the Israelites, often fall into this sin and when they do their lives cease to overflow with joy. Turning our thoughts back to Christ himself, we are reminded of the deliverance he wrought for us, our thankfulness is stirred again and our joy returns.

"Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,
Thou Fount of life, thou Light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts,
We turn unfilled to thee again."

Aborigines Missions News

OPENING DAY AT NORSEMAN

Saturday, Aug. 10 was set as the official opening of the new dining-room/kitchen building at Norseman. The Federal Secretary was present to represent the brotherhood.

The erection of this large building in such a short space of time — it was only last December that we were able to make a start — is a matter of praise to God. It would be impossible to mention personally all those who helped, but we would most gratefully thank those who made special cash donations to the cost of labor, those who gave their labor to help in the erection, and especially Mr. Griffiths and the Mission staff. The Board Chairman, A. M. Bell, had charge of the preparation of plans and specifications, and the forwarding of materials. A very great word of appreciation is due to the Western Australian Government for its provision of the cost of materials, to the extent of £4,670. The finished building has been inspected by many people in official positions, and all have described it as the best building on any Mission in Western Australia. In humble gratitude to God, we give him the glory for this achievement.

NATIONAL ABORIGINES DAY

Under the sponsorship of the National Missionary Council, the second Friday in July and the Sunday following have been set aside on a national level for special emphasis on the needs of our aborigines and ways of meeting them. Among Churches of Christ, this is a somewhat awkward arrangement, by reason of the fact that promotional work for our Overseas Missions takes place at the same time as publicity regarding the National Aborigines Day. However, it is hoped to find some way whereby there will be no clash of interests.

Notes by the Federal Secretary,
J. K. ROBINSON

KEEP OUR PERSPECTIVE

With the mounting tide of interest in the welfare of our aboriginal people, it is inevitable that many sectional needs will be emphasised, highlighting a particular group here or there, and we already find many small organisations springing into being, with the object of alleviating, in some way, the plight of our aborigines. The Federal Board receives many suggestions that it should ally itself to one or other of these organisations, and that it should attempt work in other places.

We would ask our Australian brotherhood to recognise that we cannot do everything with limited resources, and that it is better to do a few things well than attempt many and accomplish little with any of them. Our six centres of work at Carnarvon, Norseman, Mooroopna, Fitzroy, Balladuran and Lismore are a major contribution on the part of Churches of Christ for the salvation and uplift of our native people. Carnarvon and Norseman, particularly, are important pieces of work that are expanding all the time. We urge our brotherhood to join with the Federal Board in concentrating on the development of the work already in hand, and to resist the temptation to dissipate energy and resources so widely that no abiding result will be attained.

IT IS WORTH IT

Sometimes, supporters of the Missions feel that the costs are excessive, both in money and manpower. When we are tempted to think that way, we must remember that God in Christ has placed life on a basis of redemption, not reason. The redemption

offered to us all in Christ is beyond logic, and so is our service to him. Any cost is worth it to produce results such as Sonny Graham. We have also as an example, the case of a family now in Carnarvon Mission — three boys, aged 15, 11 and 10, and their step-sister, aged 7. The three boys were deserted by their father, and their mother married again. However, the step-father was a very bad drunkard, and the boys and the little girl, because they were so neglected, were placed in the Mission. All the children have tragic recollections of terrible scenes during the drunken orgies of those they were associated with. They have come into the Mission under the bondage of their father's sins, and it is going to be hard for them to assimilate the Christian way of life. However, the older boy has accepted Christ, and has expressed a desire to take the Christian message to his own people. Just how deep this desire is has yet to be discovered, and in any case, there are many years of preparation and character-development before he would be able to do very much.

But the great fact is that he and his brothers and step-sister are in the Mission, where alone they can receive that revelation of life which will transform them from what they would otherwise have been.

FITZROY, VICTORIA

Repairs and maintenance to the roof of the property in Gore-st. have now been completed, and this has enhanced the value of the property. The balance due on the purchase price is just over £100, and we thank all who have contributed to this, particularly the Victorian Church Men's Societies. Doug. Nicholls continues his active work both here and at Mooroopna.

HERE AND THERE

This issue, featuring the work of the C.M.S. (Church Men's Society) has been prepared in collaboration with N. R. Arnott, Federal Secretary, Dept. of Men's Work.

W. B. Burn, minister at Ponsonby-rd., Auckland church, N.Z., will, at the conclusion of that church's Diamond Jubilee celebrations this month, conclude his ministry there and commence service in the new position of Director of Home Missions for our N.Z. churches. Members of our Australian brotherhood congratulate Mr. Burn on his appointment.

August 4 was a great day for Drumcondra church, Vic., when the new B.S. hall in the adjacent suburb of Norlane was opened. All brotherhood depts. were represented and thanks were extended to the many brethren who assisted in the project. The hall was transported from Bendigo, and took three months to erect by voluntary labor. B.S. day was held on the 11th, and 25 scholars were enrolled, although no canvassing of the district has yet been undertaken. Mrs. Carr and son, Cliff. (Latrobe-terr., Geelong), are assisting in the work for a few weeks.

The B. and F. B. S., through its General Secretary (S. R. Baker) requests the co-operation of ministers and churches for the observance of Bible Sunday on September 1.

I. W. Nixon, minister at Port Lincoln, S.A., has agreed to extend his ministry with that church to January, 1959.

For the third time the Billy Graham New York Crusade has had to be extended. It began on May 15 and was to have concluded on June 30. However, it was extended because of popular demand to July 20, and then again to Aug. 10. Now for the third time the closing date has been put forward, this time to Aug. 31. This must be, and will be, the closing date, since Madison Square Garden cannot be had for the Crusade meetings after that date. The Garden has been promised to other interests beginning on Sept. 1. This evangelistic Crusade, held in New York by Billy Graham, is the longest Crusade he has ever held. It has been characterized by the largest attendance — over 1,500,000 — and also by the largest number of decisions for Christ. Over 50,000 persons have come forward on the hymn of invitation to either rededicate themselves to Christ or to accept Christ as Saviour.

The attention of readers is directed to the notice on another page concerning the one day Convention planned by the Conference Executive for Hortham on Saturday, September 7. The North-West District Conference extended the invitation to meet in their area almost as soon as the resolution was passed at our 1957 Conference. The local brethren have undertaken responsibility for meals and accommodation, but early word is desired to enable them to make necessary arrangements. Please register early and send details to the Churches of Christ Office, Room 412, T. and G. Building, Melbourne, C.I.

Churches of Christ Choral Society (Vic.) recently received, with regret, the resignation of A. R. Haskell, who served as sec. since its inception in 1952. During rehearsal on Aug. 8, appreciation was expressed to Mr. Haskell by the pres. (V. C. Stafford), conductor (V. Woff), Mrs. W. Thomson and A. L. Finger. Presentations of a leather satchel to Mr. Haskell, and a wall vase to Mrs. Haskell, for which members had personally contributed, were made as tokens of thanks for the service and sacrifices given. Mr. Haskell suitably responded, expressing deep regret that pressure of work had forced his decision to relinquish a task in which he had found great satisfaction. Mr. Noel Cartmel agreed to fill the vacancy for the remainder of this year. All correspondence should be addressed to Mr. Cartmel, 1697 Malvern-rd., Glen Iris, S.E.6. Phone BL 6356.

R. H. Sercombe has accepted the invitation of an additional two years' ministry with the church at Semaphore, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Mitchell have been actively associated with the church at Malvern-Caulfield, Vic., since 1922. Mr. Mitchell is now a deacon emeritus and elder of the church. On Aug. 11, an inscribed mantel clock was presented to him by J. Holloway on behalf of the church, and a bouquet to Mrs. Mitchell.

Balaklava church, S.A., announces that their minister, L. G. Armstrong, has been re-engaged for a further 12 months with them on completion of his present term.

When a preacher was about to leave for his vacation one of the deacons objected, claiming that the devil doesn't take a vacation. We wonder how he knows so much about the devil. Anyway, who wants to set him up as an example?

NOTES FROM THE READINGS

As Suggested for

Sunday, August 25

ISAIAH 65: 1-16.

Here is the beginning of God's answer to the prayer of the preceding two chapters. He emphasises how near he is to the penitent, but how far from him the people were in their heart, doing much evil in the name of religion. Judgment must come upon them, but a remnant will be saved.

"I am sought" (v. 1).—R.S.V. underlines God's accessibility, with the translation, "I was ready to be sought."

"that sacrificeth in gardens" (v. 3).—This refers to worship under trees, a survival of Canaanite practices; and Moffatt carries on the thought in his translation by substituting "and burning incense under the white poplars" for "burneth incense upon altars of brick" — a phrase which has puzzled many commentators.

"remain among the graves" (v. 4).—This was for consulting the dead. "Eating swine's flesh means at heathen practices; and broth of abominable things was perhaps used in libations" (Rogers).

"that troop . . . that number" (v. 11).—In the R.S.V. and other recent translations, these are translated by proper names of the gods of fate — Fortune and Destiny (R.S.V.); Good Luck and Fate (Moffatt).

COLOSSIANS 2: 1-12.

After expressing his deep concern for his unknown readers, Paul proceeds to show how a real and growing experience of Christ is proof against the false speculations which are a threat to faith.

"in whom are hid all the treasures" (v. 3). — "The thought is certainly not that these treasures remain hidden in Christ, hidden even for those whom he enlightens. The words suggest rather that in Christ we have access to unlimited stores of truth, which are by their nature 'secret,' not the public property of the human race, but belonging to 'the deep things of God'" (Beare).

"lest any man spoil you" (v. 8). — "Makes a prey of you" (R.S.V.); "getting hold of you" (Moffatt); "exploits you" (Goodspeed).

"philosophy and vain deceit" (v. 8). — Paul was not hostile to philosophy as such; he often uses its terms himself. Here he opposes unbalanced "thinking," falsely called philosophy.

"a circumcision made without hands" (v. 11). — "That is, an effectual dedication of his whole being to God, carried out in the realm of the spiritual, the ultimately real" (Beare).



Monday, August 26

Exodus 20: 1-7.

Thought Text: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (v. 8).

There are two kinds of remembrance. One is "to recognise." This concerns persons known casually, or things learned imperfectly — your acquaintances. The other is "to recall." This concerns the things or persons you know well — your friends.

There are many passages of Scripture which we recognise when we meet them. There are some, like the 23rd Psalm or the Ten Commandments, which we can easily recall.

When the children of Israel were told to remember the sabbath day, it was not the day that was important. It was rather what they did on that day. They were to recall that God had been with his people in the past, and would walk with them in the present. They were to recall his friendship, so that they call him Friend.

As a Christian, you, too, have a special day. You will, of course, remember Christ every day, but on the Lord's Day you will recall the great events in the history of man's developing relationship with God. Especially, you will recall the events through which God came in Christ to share our life and give himself in love.

Store in the treasure house of your mind the rich memories of his coming, so that in the spiritual crises of life you may call Christ as a Friend.

Father of all, help us to know thee, thy Word and thy will, so that in every time of testing we may recall with certainty the victories of the past, and commit with confidence, the present and the future to thy hand. Amen.

—A. E. White, Vic.

Tuesday, August 27

Psalms 112.

Thought Text: "The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance" (v. 8).

Our Thought Text stands in the centre of three great Hallelujah Psalms. In poetic form they reach

WHEN SOARS the SOUL

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

the epic. Imagine Shakespeare patterning them according to his conception of poetic art; as the "imagination" of the inspired Hebrew poet bodies forth the things unknown, the poet's pen doth turn them into shape and gives to them a name and habitation."

In Ps. 111, he "bodies forth" man's God in glorious person, and specifies his power and names his attributes. In Ps. 112, he "bodies forth" God's man, and extols his righteousness and virtues. Then in Ps. 113 he brings them together in those Hallelujahs which climax in epic grandeur. To us, as to the poet, they become psalms of our spiritual experience: we have

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

found God and God has found us. Hallelujah!

This, however, is not all: our Thought Text and its companion verse (111:3) — constitute a pact of remembrance — God remembering us and we remembering God. May he find in our hearts the joy he found in the heart of the great Psalmist, when it overflows with those joyous Hallelujahs.

We thank thee, Lord, for the ministry of memory, made sacred by this pact of remembrance. Help us by thy promptings to honor the pact. We thank thee for all the aids to remembrance — thy love, our redemption, the fellowship of saints, the Table of the Lord, its loaf and cup. Yea, Lord, and the Cross. Amen.

—Ross Graham, S.A.

Wednesday, August 28

Mark 11: 15-26.

Thought Text: "And Jesus, answering, said unto them, have faith in God" (v. 22).

Mark says that when they were passing by in the morning they saw the fig tree withered away from the roots, and Peter, remembering that our Lord had cursed it some days earlier, exclaimed, "Look, Master! the fig tree that you cursed is all shrivelled up."

Peter's exclamation was probably of wonderment, pleasure and delight. Here was indisputable evidence,

which could be seen and even touched and handled. Here was fact.

It is in such a setting that Jesus says, "Have faith in God." "Faith can remove mountains."

"All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen," said Emerson. "Faith is the continuation of reason," adds William Adams, and Paul writes, "We walk by faith not by sight" (2 Cor. 5: 7). "Have faith in God," says Jesus. "I will," said the little orphan boy, begging to be allowed to clear away the snow. "Do you get much to do, my little boy?" asked the lady. "Sometimes I do, but often very little." "Then you do, but often very little." "Then are you not afraid you will not get enough to live on?" The child looked perplexed a moment, and then replied, "Don't you think God will take care of a boy if he puts his trust in him, and does the best he can?" "Have faith in God."

Gracious Father, direct our thoughts to the faith which sees what things in life are useless, and puts them out of the way — the faith which confronts obstacles as big as mountains, and yet is sure that it can remove or surmount them. Lord, increase our faith. Amen.

—E. J. Sewell, W.A.

Thursday, August 29

Luke 16: 19-31.

Thought Text: "The rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment" (vv. 22-23).

T. E. Brown, the Manx poet, wrote, at the time when experience had brought his Christian faith to its full strength: "One thing emerges — my absolute belief in immortality. I am not naturally a materialist, that is a plant not native to my mind; but scales of materialism have sometimes grown upon my eyes. They vanish now utterly, and I am dazzled and confounded by the inevitable Presence."

If such a seraphic soul found materialism is shown up for the false will I need to be on my guard against it.

It is in the light of immortality that materialism is shown up for the false and hollow thing it is. Some have to learn the lesson the hard way, like the rich man in our Lord's parable.

Happy will I be if I do not wait to see it with remorseful vision after death. Let me pray, like the poet, to have my eyes opened to the true values now, to claim God's gift of

eternal life, and to live each moment in its clear perspective. Then earthly things will not hold me in slavery, but be used as a glad stewardship for God and man.

"O God,

I would live my immortality
With kindness in my eyes and in
my word and in my deed;

I would live my immortality
With love to brother-man — my
vibrant, living creed.

I would live my immortality
With courage born of testing and of
trial and of trust;

I would live my immortality
With service to great causes which
are righteous and are just."

Amen.

—J. E. Brooke, Vic.

Friday, August 30

1 Cor. 11: 20-34.

Thought Text: "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink that cup."

What constitutes fitness for communion? How shall one prepare for the Lord's Table? Our text says: "Let a man examine himself." That in itself is a task which demands humility and honesty of purpose. We can cry unto God to search us and see if there be any wicked way in us.

"Search me, O God, my actions try,
And let my life appear

As seen by thine all-searching eye:
To mine my ways make clear."

"Search all my sense, and know my
heart,

Who only canst make known;
And let the deep, the hidden part
To me be fully shown."

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The act of partaking of the communion is a confession of our faith in the atoning work of Christ. He who partakes, confesses he is unable of himself to attain salvation.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, for all his benefits, especially for the weekly service of remembrance. Help us always to glorify thee, each time we meet with him at his Table. Amen.

—B. G. Corlett, N.S.W.

Saturday, August 31

Philippians 1: 1-21.

Thought Text: "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" (v. 3).

What a wealth of love we have felt as we have spoken these words to a friend, or even as we have thought of a friend in grateful remembrance. A very old friend wrote to me on the eve of her departure from the State, "We have blessed memories. That is

one precious gift God has given us that no one can take away." So we thank God upon every remembrance of one another. It behoves all of us to live lives of unselfish helpfulness, so that others will have cause to remember us as having lived close to Christ.

Paul wrote this letter to the church at Philippi. His letters are all simple in form, helpful, encouraging, but, where necessary, admonishing. If we are not able to speak words of encouragement or comfort we can write them. Letters have often helped us in time of trouble, and we have thanked God upon every remembrance of the one who has written to us.

But what greater love we should feel as we think in grateful remembrance of our Saviour. Tomorrow we celebrate a feast of remembrance, when we remember our Lord with thankful hearts for what he has done for us. Let no trifling excuse keep us away from the Lord's Table.

O thou Who didst move among men as their Friend and Companion, we pray that we may do our share in spreading the spirit of brotherhood, that will bring the world to thee. Help us to be friendly and helpful to those in need. Make our ideals of friendship like thine, reaching out to all men. Help us to remember thee. Amen.

—Dorothy Potter, Qld.

Vic. Social Service NOTES AND NEWS

EMMAUS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

A very pleasant afternoon was spent at the Emmaus Rest Home, Vic., on July 27, where the matron, staff and guests invited the Social Service Committee, with their husbands and wives and members of the Auxillary, matrons of the other Home and Hospital, and friends to celebrate their fifth anniversary. Guests expressed their appreciation of the loving care of the staff and their thanks to God for providing the Home. The history of the Home was traversed by several speakers who congratulated the matron and staff upon the service they rendered, and expressed good wishes for the future. Several guests, including Mrs. Johnson, who was approaching her 107th birthday, unfortunately were unable to join the party. "Happy birthday to you" brought a happy occasion to a close.

CHANGEVER AT OAKLEIGH

The transfer of guests and staff from the main building to the new wings and staff cottage has been effected with a minimum of inconvenience, but has demanded a major effort on the part of matron and staff which is worthy of the highest commendation. Members of the Women's Auxillary made an excellent contribution by the

expert services rendered in providing the furnishings. Nearly all the guests are now accommodated in single rooms, A heating system provides warmth throughout the whole building, which greatly adds to the comfort of the guests. The television set meets a long-felt need to break the monotony of the usual round and is much appreciated. The original building is under reconstruction, involving a complete change of structure. It is not expected that it will be ready for reoccupation till well on in 1958.—W. H. Clay.

Foreign Mission News

MISSIONARIES IN HOSPITAL

Dr. Crowley reports on two missionaries in hospital at Poona:

Mrs. E. Heard has been under Dr. Bailey, of St. Margaret's Hospital in Poona, and will enter that hospital for surgical treatment on July 25. We at home can help by our prayers.

Mrs. Bruce Munro has also been in St. Margaret's Hospital, where a baby girl was born, weighing 7½ lb. The report states that both Mrs. Munro and the baby are well. We rejoice with them.

FRANK SPOONER, AT SUVA MEDICAL SCHOOL

Writing to Ira Paternoster, Frank (who is training as a medical assistant) writes: "I must apologise for not having written to you last year, because things were not as good as I expected, and having a very busy time I have forgotten people, whom I should have written to. I hope you will forgive me for this.

"I have received a letter from my old teacher, Mrs. Waterman, some time ago, when she visited Aoba once again. I have learnt from her letter that she was pleased with what she had seen concerning the works of our Master. Sister Kennedy has written to Willie and myself recently, and told us all about the medical works there, as well as the movements of the missionaries over there. I gathered from her letter that she had been working very hard indeed, and this made me wish the years could pass as quickly as the months, so that I could go home and help in the medical works."

A MISSION HELPS MISSIONS

The little new church at the Carnarvon Aborigines Mission decided to share in the Annual Offering for Overseas Missions. Most of the members of this church are young aboriginal folk, who saved their pocket money for the offering. When it was received, the total was over £69! (When one S.A. church group heard this report, one said, "That puts us to shame — we had better take another offering"). We sincerely congratulate this new church on their splendid effort.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

Ron Reed, Kalgoorlie, W.A.
E. McCormack, Diane Feeney, East Ipswich, Qld.
L. Wilson, Beulah Road, S.A.
Nikki Green, Tamworth, N.S.W.
David Jones, Graham Smith, Norwood, S.A.
Kevin Rogers, Kilburn, S.A.
Stephen McIntosh, Tootgarook, Vic.
F. Snashall, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly, Miss M. Hunt, Ormond, Vic.
Margot Tully, Doncaster, Vic.

Membership

Mr. and Mrs. C. Gadge, from Blackburn to Ormond, Vic.
Mrs. Smith, from Fullarton to Norwood, S.A.
A. Stewart, from Newmarket; Mrs. Pratt, from Sandy Bay, Tas., to Carnegie, Vic.

Marriage

Lois Richards to Geoffrey Helyar, Subiaco, W.A.

Fallen Asleep

Alexander (John) Kingston, Nambour, Qld.
Mrs. T. Hutchison, Subiaco, W.A.

Australian Capital Territory

Canberra (G. R. Stirling, B.A.). — C.W.F. celebrated 3rd birthday with an International Night, when items were given by women of several nationalities. A number of other groups were represented in the attendance of 70. Youth Parade, on Aug. 4, was well attended. Boys' Brigade week commenced on 11th, with parade of Brigade and Life Boys. Sketches of proposed new building have been made available for general exhibition.

Queensland

Boonah (R. Combridge). — F.M. offering was £81. Minister has addressed church on Operation Increase. During past week churches in district united for meetings led by two of

Edwin Orr's party. Inspiring messages were given. Several members are ill. R. Norwood has been in hospital for about 10 months. C. Stubbin is home again.

East Ipswich (C. Young - interim). — Shirley Martin and Keith Philp, recently married, were farewelled at social evening, when they received presentations from C.Y.F., B.S. and church. Both had been active in B.S. work, Miss Martin being kinder. supt. for 2 years. Leichhardt Women's Fellowship celebrated second birthday luncheon on 10th, when guest speaker was president of Women's Conference (Mrs. G. J. Andrews). 63 people attended, and Mrs. Andrews stayed on to address East Ipswich Fellowship the following day. On 13th, C.M.S. held working bee, demolished front fence of chapel and did many other necessary jobs on property. C. Young was farewelled at Fellowship tea on 28th, and the same evening, at the closing gospel service of his interim ministry, 2 made their decision and 3 reconsecrated their lives. Mr. and Mrs. A. Boettcher celebrated their silver wedding in church hall on Aug. 3. Brethren assisting in preaching at East Ipswich, Leichhardt and Bundamba include C. Coward, A. Pieper and J. Wiltshire.

Nambour. — On Aug. 4, special services were held to mark first anniversary of opening on July 21, 1956. S. McKelvie (Conf. Pres.) was speaker for day. Thanksgiving offering was received at morning service. B.S., with 40 scholars, held anniversary at 3 p.m. on same day. Prizes were presented to each scholar. Fellowship tea and gospel service were well attended. Mr. McKelvie explained workings of Operation Increase. Some members suffered bereavements recently. Mrs. Shulz received news of passing of her brother, and C. Snook of passing of his father. Church suffered big loss at Home call of John Kingston.

Wambo - Sixteen Mile (H. C. Wheat). — Annual C.E. anniversary has been held. S. Vanham (H.M. sec.) and G. Gibson (Dalby) were visiting speakers. H. C. Wheat conducted gospel meeting at Chinchilla. Church extends thanks to Mr. and Mrs. T. Davis for gift of hymn board. Piano has been purchased for church hall and will greatly aid functions held there. Ladies Fellowship enjoyed demonstration of cake icing given by Mrs. T. Davis. Glad Tidings is name chosen for monthly paper edited by minister. Visitors recently were A. and D. Lowe (Toowoomba), Miss Clark and Mr. Whatman (Bowral), Mrs. Flood and family (Ann-st., Brisbane).

Western Australia

Kalgoorlie (F. Griffiths). — First step in Operation Increase has been forming of a "fellowship of concern," for which a Temple Day was held, when members came and promised to pray for certain other members, the ideal being that all members should be praying for at least one other member. Monthly day of prayer is also to be held. The two already held have proved a blessing to those participating. C.E. shared in District Union rally at Norseman. Opportunity was also taken to visit Norseman Mission. J.C.E. have all taken Diploma examinations and have enjoyed successful social. Local campaign of B.S. has excited much interest and brought in many new scholars. Film evening for scholars and parents has been held. New feature of gospel service is the telling of illustrated children's stories by Mrs. Craig. These have proved to be full of teaching and interest.

Subiaco (A. W. C. Candy). — Church continues to be in splendid heart. Attendances have been good, and all auxiliaries are working well. Members are standing with minister in prayer, and souls are being won. Over past 6 weeks, 8 Y.P. have confessed faith in Jesus Christ, and a married woman made her re-consecration. Average number of communicants is 135. B.S. is conducting a competition, and attendances are growing. C.E. is thriving and more enthusiastic than it has been for years. Both J.C.E. and I.C.E. are very well attended, and contacting other Y.P. Minister has been requested to act as C.E. Development Officer throughout the churches in the State. Passing away of Mrs. T. Hutchison has brought sadness to church. J. W. Gordon (Conf. Pres.) has been visiting churches in State. A. C. Olds and F. J. Stephenson give valued assistance to some of the smaller churches, also H. L. Vawser. Miss Lois Riches will go to live in Darwin. She will be missed so much in many departments of the work. Girls' Club continues to attract and instruct nearly 25 girls each week. Basketball teams are doing fairly well. Boys' A and girls' A teams remain unbeaten. Five teams are playing. After-church fellowship meetings are very well attended, and many contacts made.

New South Wales

Earlwood (F. Roberts). — New minister has been welcomed to church. D. Beavis preached gospel address and one young girl confessed her faith in Christ. An enjoyable evening was

spent early in July, when B. Coventry showed slides of the work in India. On 31st, chapel was packed for St. George District Prayer Rally, presided over by J. G. Shaw (Conf. Pres.). H. C. Bischoff (Marrickville) gave address. Sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. W. Thomson on loss of their son.

Epping (C. Bowser). — Following valuable and appreciated interim ministry by C. Bowser, church has been fortunate in securing services of J. Smith (W.A.) to conduct a full-time ministry. Coincidental with appointment of Mr. Smith, a new manse has been acquired, with the financial help of a number of members, and a new era of expansion and development is confidently anticipated as a result of the venture. Church anniversary services in July were well attended, a particularly happy function being annual church dinner, which has proved its value in cementing friendships within the church. The dinner was followed by series of three devotional films and address by L. Hall. Detachment of Life Boys has been commenced, and hopes are held that it will prove a worthwhile adjunct to church work.

Tamworth (H. I. Walmsley). — Youth clubs held church parade on July 21. A teenage girl made her confession of faith. 13 B.S. scholars sat for annual Scripture Examination, some being prevented by illness. B. Coventry visited on 31st, and brought interesting talk and pictures of work in India. Aug. 4 was Education Sunday and Senior Citizens' Day. Ministers' Fraternal arranged pulpit exchange; Senior Captain Summers (S.A.) addressed morning service, and H. I. Walmsley spoke at Salvation Army Citadel. Church members entertained 20 senior citizens at tea, and also at supper, following gospel service, at which film, *Dust or Destiny* was screened; 72 were present. C.W.F. held monthly devotional meeting on Aug. 5. A. Hannah was guest speaker and soloist.

Hornsby (V. S. Dallinger). — Mr. Scott (B. & F. B. S.) addressed church at morning service on Aug. 11. At gospel service 3 recent converts were baptised by minister. Mr. Ellerby conducted the service and Mr. Glazier was soloist.

South Australia

Albert Park (R. G. Deane). — On Aug. 9, film, *Come to the Stable*, was screened to a packed audience; funds are for new duplicator. On 11th, Training Class and Men's Fellowship was held. This was followed by baptismal service, in which 5 were baptised. Afterwards, members from Beverley joined in after-church fellowship. Church is studying series on *What We Believe*, at midweek prayer meeting.

Beulah Road (G. Wood). — **Operation Increase** was launched on July 21 and commitment cards distributed. Plans are being prepared for much needed Youth Hall. Screening of *Martin Luther*, arranged by I.C.E., resulted in £25 being netted for New Hall. After Men's Fellowship tea on 26th, religious film, *Tammy*, was screened, supper served by Ladies' Fellowship, and £8 collected for Hall Fund. Staff and children from United Mission Home for Aborigines (Colebrook) were entertained at tea by Ladies' Fellowship, senior scholars and teachers of B.S. on Aug. 4. Children took part in the service, Mr. Finke (supt.) told of his work at the Home, and G. Wood delivered gospel message to large congregation. Choir have had their second anniversary supper. Choir items, under leadership of Mr. Anderson, continue to be spiritual help in gospel services. Apart from their devotional services, Y.P.C.E. have recently visited Solver Paint Factory, Magill Baptist Church and Youth for Christ meeting.

Kilburn (E. F. G. McIlhagger, B.A.). Mrs. Outlaw (Pres. Sisters' Conf.), visited C.W.F. on Aug. 6 and addressed ladies. A time of inspiration was experienced, and fellowship at afternoon tea enjoyed. Much sickness prevails and attendances have suffered as a consequence. B.S. appreciated teaching assistance of Mrs. B. Barrett, when Mr. Barrett was sick. At close of gospel message on 11th, a B.S. scholar confessed Christ. Mrs. W. Royals is home from hospital and convalescent.

Koongarra Park (R. B. Ewers). — Two young ladies have confessed Christ since last report. Large and appreciative audience saw film, *Martin Luther*, screened by A. R. Jones at a function in aid of basketball club funds. Koongarra retained Crowhurst Shield by defeating Beulah Road in annual basketball tournament. A. Glastonbury (Conf. Pres.) gave inspiring address at church anniversary service on Aug. 4. L. Fitzgerald returned with Mission Survey party from New Guinea with stories of great experiences and much co-operation shown them from all quarters. For first time church has elected 2 elders in addition to deacons, C. L. Fitzgerald and G. Collett were elected.

Norwood (A. E. Cremin). — Final services in Tabernacle built in 1902 were held on Aug. 11. A baptism preceded 11 a.m. service, when a B.S. scholar was immersed and later received in with his mother, by transfer. About 120 were present to hear appreciated address by minister, *The Conflict Between the Old and the New*. Grote-st. choir and former Norwood choir members brought a musical programme at P.S.A., and greetings were acknowledged from past preachers

and A. Anderson (Fed. Conf. Pres.). Attendance was 200. **Operation Increase** was presented to members at Fellowship tea. In evening film, *King of Kings*, was screened to over 200. Keynote throughout the day was the fact that whilst church is vacating Tabernacle, it is only transferring to B.S. Hall for services. Reason for sale of Tabernacle was caused by industrialisation of district, and transfer of members to churches in their own districts, whereas at the turn of the century, many members walked from places up to 6 miles away to worship.

Port Lincoln (I. W. Nixon). — Since business meeting, when need for more support was stressed, morning attendances have increased 60 per cent., and evening attendances have doubled. I.C.E. has been formed and has an average meeting of 10. Y.P. has average attendance of 20. There have been 3 additions to church recently. Y.W.L. is being formed. J. McKelvie has made a new pulpit for platform. B.S. is preparing for anniversary. Members attended District C.E. Rally, held at Tumby Bay on Aug. 10.

Semaphore (R. H. Sercombe). — Annual meeting of C.W.F. was held in July, and there was a large representation from other churches of district. Afternoon tea followed an enjoyable programme. Well attended church business meeting listened to encouraging reports and discussed business in a fine Christian spirit. J. P. Brooker was re-elected elder, and N. Bray, R. Stacy and V. W. Taylor, deacons; J. P. Brooker, sec; G. Young, treas.; J. Thoday, B.S. supt. B.S. is preparing for anniversary. Boys' Brigade led gospel service on Aug. 4, after which a combined sing-song was held in school hall, when large number of Y.P. took part. Supper was supplied by girls of G.L.B. Mrs. S. E. Matthews and Miss W. Bishop have been added to kinder. staff. Mrs. Work and Mrs. Blight have returned home and are slowly recovering. Average communicants for July were 94.

Victoria

Balwyn (J. E. Brooke). Well attended annual church meeting was enjoyed on July 31. Reports showed all church groups to be in active condition. B.S. has enrolment of 153; new equipment has been purchased for kinder. and primary depts., and £500 given to church toward cost of new School Hall. Other groups have also made contributions to the Hall Fund. All phases of women's work continued to be enthusiastically supported. Church membership stands at 136. Minister urged church to actively support **Operation Increase**. Those elected to office were, elders: L. Hare, W. Smith, H. Turnham, L. Warmbrunn; deacons, E. Berg, E. Bristow, J. Cuthbert, J. Drummy, S. Hogan,

K. Sturgess, W. Sturgess; sec., H. Turnham; treas., K. Sharp and L. Warmbrunn; asst.-sec., D. Russell; deaconesses, Mesdames Cuthbert (snr.), Drummy, R. Evans, S. Evans, Hoffman, Seely, K. Sharp.

Box Hill (W. A. Wigney). — Last weekend in July, Y.P. camped at Mt. Evelyn. Some church officers joined them for early morning communion service on the Sunday. W. Atkin gave informative talk on Social Service work at morning service on 28th. Thanksgiving services were held on Aug. 4, on occasion of City's Centenary. Cr. Sparks spoke at worship service and Cr. Padgham addressed 40 Y.P. at a youth tea. P.B.P. took charge of evening meeting; speaker was Mrs. L. McCredden. A young lady recently made her decision for Christ.

Carnegie (A. R. Lloyd). — At gospel service of July 28, Guest Night was special feature when others were invited to the service. Hymn singing and fellowship was later held at manse, conducted by Youth Fellowship. C.M.S. met for monthly tea and meeting on Aug. 4, when speaker was J. Preston (Coburg). Monthly parade of auxiliaries was held at gospel service. Women's Missionary Group held birthday meeting on 8th; other groups were represented, and Mrs. Sexton (U.F.M.) was speaker, Mrs. R. Brooker (Ringwood) soloiste. New piano has been purchased for use in chapel. At gospel service film, *The Unfinished Task*, was screened, at the close of which a young lad responded to the invitation.

Collingwood (H. J. Cook). — At Women's Fellowship meeting on Aug. 5, Mr. Goldsworthy (Mother and Daughter section of Father and Son Welfare Movement) gave educational film-lecture on *The Story of Reproduction*. Many visitors attended. Women have held series of successful working bees in preparation for sale of work. Recent attendances have been depleted because of sicknesses. Officers held July meeting in home of Mr. Cook. B.S. has commenced practising for anniversary.

Gardenvale (H. A. Hunt). — P.B.P. and K.S.P. held monthly church parade after fellowship tea on Aug. 11. The two clubs took part in the service, theme being *Favorite Hymns*. Mrs. Tippet was thanked for making regalia for K.S.P., and Mrs. Boulter for P.B.P.'s regalia. Miss Valda Andrews and Mr. Tippet have been ill but are now able to again attend services.

Malvern-Caulfield (W. J. Thomson). — M. Moody, H. Pfeifer, E. Smith and J. Welsh have been added to diaconate, S. Flatman and A. Griffith retiring after long and honored service. C.W.F. served dinner in church hall on Aug. 7, which was followed by screening of *Where Headhunters*

Reigned, by W. Deutscher. This effort was for Ludbrook House. A. Thomas and R. Geyer gave appreciated messages on July 28, preacher being sick. Miss Coutts is home following operation, and Mrs. Cleary is making good progress. Mrs. Eames is still in rest home. Mrs. Mackay is still confined to bed.

Noble Park. — Annual business meeting was held recently. Reports from all auxiliaries showed healthy activity. Church membership has more than doubled. B.S. is still growing. Officers elected were: elders, R. Sheehan, E. Hales; deacons, J. Smith (sec.), L. Bell (treas.), F. Barrot, R. Pearce, C. Thomas, W. Mills; deaconesses, Sis. Armstrong, Hales, Pettifer, Scott, Hayes, Nankivell. At Fellowship rally held on Aug. 3, items were rendered by Mrs. R. Dennett (soloiste), Shirley Bean and Claude Gadge (Marimba Duettists), with Judy Barnett at piano. Guest speaker was P. Perry (Parkdale). At close of gospel service on 4th, a woman made the good confession.

North Williamstown (S. K. Bannon). — Attendances at services and auxiliary meetings are still affected by current wave of sickness. K.S.P. enjoyed visit to Olympic Tyre Co. Young Explorers attended combined spiritual rally at Maidstone on Aug. 2. Minister exchanged with R. Ryall (Maidstone) for morning service of 11th. K.S.P. and P.B.P. attended a social evening with South Melbourne clubs. C.W.F. held anniversary meeting on 14th, when members enjoyed address given by Mrs. R. Ryall (Maidstone), and play presented by ladies.

Ormond (D. W. Mansell). — Since last report 4 have been added by faith and baptism. Aver. breaking bread for July 160, 7 p.m., 143. New piano has been purchased for use in school hall. Prayer meetings held in members' homes are successful. Sis. Mansell and Bean have returned after illness. Minister has also been on sick list. Speaker at morning service on Aug. 11 was S. R. Baker. P.B.P. has won Arts and Crafts Competition. Work is in good heart and unity continues.

Red Cliffs (C. L. Lang). — During minister's absence in Melb., L. Chiswell, A. McWilliams and I. Soulsby took services. At annual meeting of C.W.F., Mrs. R. Gray was re-elected pres., with Mesdames Taylor and M. Milne, vice-pres.; Mrs. Cook, asst.-sec.; Mrs. Bennett, treas.; Mrs. Cook, pianiste. All reports at church annual meeting on Aug. 8 showed work is in very good heart, and average attendances steadily increasing. All officers were re-elected. Aver. attendances are: morning, 75; evening, 47. Mrs. Lang and Mrs. Perry are out of hospital, but still undergoing treatment. On Aug. 11, church held 34th anniversary, with Mr. Sandow (Mildura) guest speaker at P.S.A. Items were given by Mrs. J. C. Cunningham (Mildura) and Male Quintette (Mildura). After Fellowship tea in kinder hall, H. J. Cook screened color pictures. Chapel was well filled at gospel service, when J. C. Cunningham (Mildura) was speaker. Item was given by 4 Chislett sisters, and orchestra greatly helped the singing at afternoon and evening services.

Opening and Dedication of New Youth Hall, BALWYN, VIC.

On Sunday, August 11, 1957, at 3.15 p.m., 250 people assembled for the opening ceremony of the new Youth Hall, representatives from neighboring churches being present.

In a brief ceremony outside the hall, the church sec., H. B. Turnham, extended a welcome and invited F. R. Haycroft to present the key of the hall to the Vic.-Tas. Conference President, V. L. Gole, who opened the doors. Led by these folk, those assembled then proceeded into the hall for the opening and dedication service.

The service was led by the minister, J. E. Brooke. The secretary read greetings received from various members. After the opening hymn, the Act of Dedication was read by Mr. Brooke.

Solos were rendered by Mrs. G. M. Cuthbert and Mrs. D. Warmbrunn. Appreciations were extended by the convener of the Building Committee, Don Russell, to all who had assisted toward the completion of the building. Special thanks was expressed to F. Haycroft, whose drive and unflin-

ing loyalty to the task made the building possible.

Cr. W. A. Fordham (Mayor of Camberwell) extended civic greetings and congratulated the church on the foresight in building a hall for the use of the Y.P. of the church. Cr. Fordham was thanked for his assistance in painting the interior of the hall.

After the president of the Youth Council (N. Soulsby) outlined the uses that would be made of the hall by the various youth groups, V. L. Gole (Conf. Pres.) gave the address.

At the conclusion of the service, afternoon tea was provided by the ladies and opportunity given to inspect the hall, kitchen, projection room and other facilities.

This hall, which cost £6,500, has now a debt of £2,500 owing. Voluntary labor is estimated to have saved about £4,000, and all who helped felt a joy at seeing the completed effort and praise God for his love and care during the whole operation.

—K. Sturgess.

C.M.S. IN QUEENSLAND

Queensland reports that 65 men of the metropolitan and near-country area attended a rally at Rosewood, 40 miles from Brisbane. Noel Neumann (Ipswich) presided, Keith Burkhead (Wynnum) led the song service and sang a splendid solo. Eric Potter (Ann-st.) was organist.

John McCormick (minister, Sunnybank) gave the address on **The Mutual Ministry**. Discussion followed the address. The standard of the rally was excellent.

The next rally is planned for Annerley on Saturday, August 31, with a basket tea at 5.30 p.m., discussion at 6.30 p.m., and the rally at 7.30 p.m., with the subject, **Harnessing Men for Evangelism**. Sunday, Sept. 1, is men's Sunday, with services emphasising men's work.

IN MEMORIAM

AUSTIN. — In loving memory of our dear father, who passed away August 7, 1948, also dear mother, who passed away, August 21, 1954. "Sadly missed, but a loving memory."

—Inserted by their daughter Mavis, and son, Cliff.

POWELL. — Cherished memories of our beloved mother, passed away August 17, 1956; also our dear father, passed away September 5, 1950.

—Sadly missed by their loving family.

GILLANDERS. — In loving memory of sister and Aunt Mary, who passed away, August 24, 1956.

"Safe in her great Redeemer's care,
Safe on his gentle breast."

—Inserted by Jessie, George, Christy and Sadie.

The Conference Executive announces a

One Day Convention

for

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7,

at

HORSHAM CHURCH

(cnr. Balllie and Urquhart-sts.)

commencing 10.30 a.m., concluding 8 p.m.

Three Interesting Sessions

under leadership of Conference President, V. L. GOLE.

Other Speakers: R. V. AMOS and D. W. MANSELL.

STRONG DELEGATIONS INVITED FROM METROPOLITAN AND COUNTRY CHURCHES.

Plan to go to Horsham for the day or weekend and share in these inspirational sessions. Let us know so that necessary accommodation and meal arrangements can be made.

Churches of Christ Office, T. and G. Bldg., 147 Collins-st., Melbourne, C.I.

An Urgent Appeal

Have you ever had an invalid in your home?

Even the least demanding requires considerable care, and if that one is helpless and has to be fed and dressed, maybe changed frequently, it adds up to quite a lot of effort needed.

Multiply that by twenty-five and you will have an idea of the work that goes on at the Will H. Clay Nursing Home, Murrumbidgee, Vic.

I want to enlist your aid because our work is your work. Yes, yours! For do we not operate in the name of the brotherhood?

Do you pray for us? We need your prayer help, for each day is likely to pose new problems and unexpected situations that must be dealt with at short notice. Each day has its share of the hum-drum for which we need grace and patience — often we need to claim the promise of 2 Cor. 12: 9, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

Perhaps you have not realised that our Church Homes need staff — that here, maybe, that worthwhile service which you can render in his Name and for his sake. It may not be as spectacular as some work, but we

believe that God called it into being and our prayer is that he will send to us the staff we need.

We cannot afford to offer to our Lord less than our very best, and this we have always tried to do. As a result, our work has been appreciated by our patients and the loved ones of those for whom we have cared. So then will you pray for us day by day, and will you also pray that those of his choice may come to share his work in our Homes? — **Joyce W. Button, Matron, Will H. Clay Nursing Home.**

BIRTHS

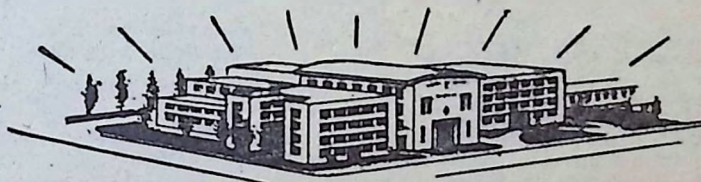
WALKER (Langford). — On July 24, 1957, at Daylesford, to Gwenda and Irvine, a daughter — **Lee Isabel**. Sister for Ian.

WHITE. — On August 11, 1957, to Beverley and Alfred, The Manse, North Essendon, Vic. — a son.

SILVER WEDDING

COLLINGS-DENNIS. — The family of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Collings announce, with pleasure, the 25th anniversary of their parents' marriage, which was celebrated by A. J. Ingham at East Kew Church of Christ, on August 20, 1932. At home August 24, 1957.

—9 Myrtle-ave., Ringwood East, Vic.



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Back to Merbein

46th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY,

SEPTEMBER 8, 1957

also commencement of Two Weeks' Special Meetings.

Speaker: P. R. Baker.

11 a.m., WORSHIP SERVICE - "BACK TO MERBEIN" — Speaker: E. G. CHISLETT.

3 p.m., P.S.A. Speaker:

Cr. A. R. MANSELL, M.L.C.

5.30 p.m., TEA.

7.30 p.m., GREAT GOSPEL RALLY.

Speaker: P. R. BAKER.

Would all past members please take this as a personal invitation? If coming, please notify by Aug. 31, or send a greeting.

L. C. Keatch, Preacher.

H. J. Passmore, sec., Box 119, Merbein, Vic.

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COMING EVENTS

DANDENONG CHURCH — Opening of New Chapel, School, Primary and Kindergarten Section on Saturday, September 21, at 3 p.m., followed by Buffet Tea and Thanksgiving Service at 7.30 p.m. All welcome. Those desiring hospitality, please contact sec., C. J. Brough, Worsley-rd., Bangholme, Vic. Phone: Carrum Downs 255.

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Organist: Mr. HERBERT DAVIS.

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