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RALPH V. AMOS (Blackburn, Vic.), for our Social Questions series, discusses

Christian Marriage

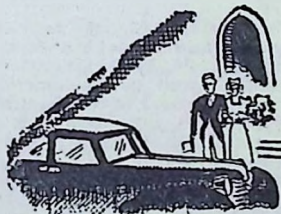
It is so very easy to talk glibly about Christian marriage, as though it is something light and airy. Such is not the case. Christian marriage, when rightly understood, adds depth and significance to life. A recent radio serial told of a little child who was present, with her mother, at a wedding service. "What are they doing?" she asked. After a moment's pause the mother gave what she thought was a profound and satisfying reply, "They are promising to love one another for ever." Now, whilst that does, in a sense, sum up Christian marriage, it must be remembered that Christian marriage is a great deal more than two people "promising to love each other for ever."

As Alan Walker has said, "Marriage is an art. It is a formidable undertaking for the same two people to meet each other at the breakfast table three hundred and sixty-five times a year, over a period of forty or fifty years. Marriages may be made in Heaven, but they have to live on earth and breathe the atmosphere of this fallen world where we earn bread by the sweat of our brow."

As Christian marriage is, therefore, such an urgent matter let us take some time to reflect on some relevant questions.

Why Do Marriages Break Down?

Marriages do break down! When Dr. David Mace was in Australia a year or two ago he said to us "that one of every seven marriages here



ends in divorce." He then lamented the fact that so little had been done to counteract the condition, and went on to add, "If one of every seven ships which sailed from Australian ports sank, immediate action would be taken to see what was wrong." Well, in order that we might do something about the matter, we need to know "why marriages do break down." From many reasons here are three which are familiar to us all.

Marriages based on deception break down. Christian marriage requires honesty on the part of the participants. Anything less than that is not good enough. As D. T. Niles has reminded us, "When two people get married, except where there has been deliberate deception, both get what they ask for." Happiness and peace depend upon an honest sharing. Deception destroys the very basis of a completely happy marriage. It may seem happy on the surface, but underneath all is not well.

Marriages based on selfishness break down. Paul was very conscious of the need of a selfless love as a foundation for an integrated life. In his

"Hymn of Love" he says, "Love is very patient, very kind. Love knows no jealousy; love makes no parade, gives itself no airs, is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful; love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient." (1 Cor. 13:4-8, Moffatt). In this way Paul warns against the idea of selfishness as a basis for life (and that includes marriage).

Marriages based on misunderstanding break down. There are many adjustments to be made in the new life, and failure to face up to them can be fatal. Things like sex, finance and personal relationships have to be considered frankly, and together. It is easier, sometimes, to push these things into the background, but if we do that we are only laying up a rod for our own backs. At this point we can see how a vital Christian faith can be a tremendous asset, making two people, because they are near to God, nearer to one another. That is companionship at its best!

These are only three of many reasons why marriages break down, but they are most significant in that they remind us that marriage, and especially Christian marriage, is something to be treasured and prized. This leads us naturally to our next question.

What Do We Mean by Christian Marriage?

Dr. William Robinson, in a very fine little book called *Christian Marriage*, says to us that "Christian marriage is based on Christian love, the only love which never fails, and which is able to endure all things, things easy to bear and things tragic . . . Where Christian love is the basis of marriage there is no wearing off. Rather there is a deepening of love and the mystery of it as the days lengthen."

In another place, however, Dr. Robinson reminds us that in spite of this basic Christian concept, "much confusion of thought exists about Christian marriage, even amongst Christian people." One thing that must be emphasised is that Christian marriage is something more than what we might call "ordinary marriage." It goes on a lot further. Christian marriage is not just the marriage of two Christian people, even if there has been a religious service in a church building. It is a quality of life. It takes two people to make a marriage, but it takes three people to make a Christian marriage — a man, a woman, and God. Christian marriage is the wedding together of two people who put Christ at the centre of every relationship, and who

(continued overleaf)

intend to live their married life in complete submission to the Divine will. If that is done honestly it will bring about a revolution in our concept of what marriage is intended to be.

Christian marriage requires the right approach. Before two Christian people are joined together in this way they ought to consider realistically what it will mean to them to share in a Christian marriage. Just here let me have a word to young people. This matter concerns you vitally. One of the great problems confronting young Christians is the matter of the mixed marriage. Emotions are strong, and we are often told that we cannot choose with whom we will fall in love. That may be true enough, as far as it goes. But a great deal of unhappiness can be avoided by prayerful and careful planning at this point.

It would be foolish to say that only Christian marriages are happy. There are many very happy people, whose wedded life has been one of great joy, who are not Christian. But a mixed marriage cannot produce a completely Christian marriage (even though one party may be striving hard to make it so). By a "mixed marriage" I do not mean only the so-called "Catholic-Protestant" marriage; I also include the "believer-unbeliever" marriage. To guide young people facing this problem I suggest we would be wise to read and study carefully 2 Cor. 6: 14-18 and Deut. 7: 3-4. Christian marriage can only, in the best and completest sense, be the joining together of the lives of two dedicated Christian people. This results in a life of companionship of the highest kind.

Christian marriage requires the right appreciation. As I have said, marriages of others than Christians can be, and often are, very happy. But really the only sure basis for a happy and enduring marriage is that based on the Christian ethic. The Christian faith binds together, with stronger ties than anything else on earth, the lives of two people, and has been, at times, the means of saving marriages which are threatening to break up. As D. T. Niles has told us, "The marriage relation is a relation within a love-relation of which God is source and substance." If we understand that, it will help us to overcome many of the problems which come even to the Christian marriage. In helping men and women to get a better appreciation of Christian marriage we come to our third question.

What Is the Church Doing About the Matter?

We are living in an interesting time, when honest attempts are being made by Christian people to deepen the concern of men and women for the ties of marriage.

The Christian Church today is placing a good deal of emphasis upon pre-marital counselling and marriage guidance. A great deal of literature has been published concerning the matter. For example, our own Federal Social Service Department has published a most helpful booklet on *Discovering a Christian Marriage*, by Bruce Larson. This is available free (from 217 Lonsdale-st., Melbourne) for ministers and interested friends, to use amongst those intending to be married. In some areas classes are conducted for those about to be married, and the instruction given is very valuable. Dr. David Mace has reminded us that "98 per cent of parents are incapable of giving their children comprehensive sex education. I advocate, therefore, a more thorough training for couples before they are married, especially during the engagement period." The Church, in some places, has responded to that challenge. As yet Churches of Christ have not ventured into this field in any organised way, although almost all ministers do something along this line with the young couples they marry.

The Christian Church seeks to set Christ at the centre of marriage, thus setting the standard high. It would do us all good as we contemplate Christian marriage to read again what the Scriptures say about this vital matter (cf. Eph. 5: 25-33). If we let Christ stand at the centre of all life's relationships, including marriage, and if we try to follow his will for us, we will find deep and abiding joy and satisfaction. Let me mention, in closing, the "rules for successful marriage," as suggested by Judge Joseph Sabath, an outstanding figure in the Court of Domestic Relations (in the United States). Here are his guiding principles:

1. Bear and forbear.
2. Work together, play together, and grow up together.
3. Avoid the little quarrels, and the big ones will take care of themselves.
4. Give and take — this is the anti-toxin of divorce.
5. Practise sympathy, good humor, and mutual understanding.
6. Don't grouch before breakfast — or after.
7. Respect your "in-laws," but don't criticise or take criticism from them.
8. Establish your own home, even in a one-room flat.
9. Fight for each other, but not with each other.
10. Build on religious faith, with love and forgiveness as watch-words.

Christian marriage is Christ's intention for Christian people!

NOTES FROM THE READINGS

as Suggested for

Sunday, May 22

EXODUS 16: 11-26; 17: 1-6.

The provision of manna, the observance of the sabbath, and water from the rock at Rephidim are the highlights of these selected verses.

"quails" (v. 13). — These migratory birds were blown in from the sea (Num. 11: 31). "After a sea flight they are easily captured, as they fly low, their bodies being heavy and their wings wet" (Dummelow).

"It is manna" (v. 15). — More correctly, "What is it?" (R.S.V.).

"an omer" (v. 16). — A little over three quarts.

"mete it with an omer" (v. 18). — Measured it. "Despite the greed and fear of some, all had the same amount, just enough" (Rylaarsdam).

"seethe" (v. 23). — "Boil."

"after their journeys" (v. 1). — "By stages" (R.S.V.).

"tempt the Lord" (v. 2). — Put him to the test. "Their unbelief was the less warranted as they had lately experienced God's providence in supplying their wants" (Dummelow).

I CORINTHIANS 1: 1-17.

After his initial greeting and thanksgiving, Paul urges the Corinthians to do something about their unhappy divisions.

"came behind in no gift" (v. 7). — "In natural endowments this church was rich; but observe Paul's silence here upon those less showy gifts which endeared the Philippian church to him" (Howard).

"of the house of Chloe" (v. 11). — "Chloe, probably a convert of Paul, and the first woman to be mentioned in his correspondence, had business connections with the great seaport. Some of her agents had brought sad news of the serious divisions that were disrupting the Christian fellowship in Corinth" (Short).

"Is Christ divided?" (v. 13). — "Paul protests that sectarianism is a mutilation of Christ" (Howard).

"Christ sent me not to baptise" (v. 17). — "No disparagement of baptism is intended . . . Paul's custom of leaving the baptism of most of his converts to his colleagues has secured him from the reproach of aiming at the personal attachment of devotees" (Howard).



ERIC F. MORRIS (Conf. Sec.) tells of . . .

Successful N.S.W. Conference

The 75th Annual Conference of Churches of Christ in New South Wales was in every way a most successful one — from the opening Business Session on Monday, April 4, to the great Service of Witness in the Sydney Town Hall on Sunday, April 10. A spirit of harmony and fellowship prevailed throughout; this was in a large measure due to the very able way in which the business of Conference was handled by the President, D. J. A. Vereco.

Visitors to Conference included the Federal President, A. D. Pyne, who, with the aid of slides, took the opportunity of urging members to attend Federal Conference in Perth later in the year.

Conference Reports

The Conference Executive reported that the number received into membership through faith and baptism during the year was 530. There had been a net overall gain of 333, and the total membership at 31/3/60 was 6,446. It was decided to make a determined effort to establish a Brotherhood Centre to satisfy the urgent needs of the brotherhood.

The Conference Officers for the new Conference year are: President, Dr. A. G. Elliott; President-Elect, W. H. B. Palmer; Vice-President, L. E. Wylie; Secretary, E. F. Morris; Associate Sec., Miss H. V. Rofe; Asst. Sec., D. Deall; Treas., L. K. Wilson.

The Boys' Home Committee is already planning as a future project the establishment of a Girls' Home.

The Social Service Committee has made further progress with its housing plans for aged folks. A Community Centre has been erected at a total cost of £22,808. This Centre has been appropriately named "The Will Roffey Community Centre." It is hoped a five-bed Hospital will be added to the Centre. Ten acres of land at Austral have been given by Harry Spencer, and it is planned to launch the first stage of a £150,000 project, to cost initially £50,000 during the new Conference Year. It was reported that Charles Cole will shortly be joining the staff of the Committee to assist Mr. Roffey on a full-time basis.

The Aborigines Missions Committee told of the damage sustained at Carnarvon during the recent cyclone. Don Dewing, Supt. at Norseman, with the aid of excellent color slides, told of the work being done for the aboriginal people at Norseman Mission.

The Overseas Mission Committee has benefited by two magnificent gifts —

a legacy of £9,000 from the Allen Estate, which is to be used to set up a trust fund to enable students to be brought to Australia to study; and a gift of £5,000 from Samuel Taylor Pty. Limited, to establish a Hospital and to be used for school buildings in New Guinea. It was reported that expansion was taking place into a new area in New Guinea. Farewell greetings were extended to Mr. and Mrs. D. Eagling, outgoing missionaries to New Hebrides.

The Bible College Board reported a record number of 42 students. Steps being taken to improve College training include: (1) The establishment of an entrance examination. (2) The placing of first-year students with larger churches, to gain experience by working with ministers.

The Men's Work Committee told of the formation of a State Council. The result of the appeal for funds to build a chapel at Carnarvon was most successful; almost twice the amount of the State's quota was contributed.

The Christian Union Committee actively associated itself with the National Conference of Churches held in Melbourne in February. A successful Christian Unity Camp had been held during the year. An informal meeting had been held with the Archbishop of Sydney, Dr. Hugh Gough, to exchange views on Christian unity.

The chairman of the Preachers' Provident Fund urged churches to give wholehearted support to the new Superannuation Scheme. Death benefit and Long Service Benefits only accrued where churches contributed their subsidy. It was reported that throughout Australia 190 preachers were registered and 155 churches were subsidising.

The Chapel Extension Committee told of assistance totalling £5,240, given to churches during the year, practically free of interest. Two current projects that showed exceptional promise were Birmingham Gardens and Narraweena. Approximately £500 was being received annually through commissions from Queensland Insurance Company.

The Nominations Committee urged churches to take greater interest in nominations for Conference officers and committees.

The Department of Christian Education told of progress made in Adult Christian Education. An Olympic Scholar Drive in Bible school work was proving to be most successful. Training facilities were available for

club work. The total effectiveness of the Department was being hampered by lack of finance.

The Advisory Board asked for fullest co-operation, both from preachers and churches. Conference resolved to recommend to all churches, Conference committees and ministers, that they work through the Advisory Board in matters dealing with changes or appointments in full-time or part-time ministries.

The Building Advisory Board asked churches to plan overall church programmes before attempting to plan buildings.

The Property Trust reported that the Trust acts as trustee for a total of 60 churches and 8 Conference committees.

The Home Missionary Committee had assisted twelve churches by way of subsidies and in other ways during the year. The Committee is planning, under the final phase of Operation Increase, "a mission in every church." Approximately 30 missions have been arranged, with eight interstate missionaries, as well as local missionaries. A radio session, Quest and Conquest, over Station 2CH, is being conducted by Dr. A. G. Elliott, and is proving to be most effective.

Conference Messages

The devotional side of Conference was well cared for by four Worship Sessions, conducted by F. D. Craig (Belmore), R. D. Main (Warrawong), W. H. B. Palmer (Burwood), A. McK. Surtees (Tamworth), built around the theme of Conference, He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit.

The speaker at the Social Service Rally was L. K. Green (Chatswood). He spoke on The Gospel in Action. He concluded that instead of two gospels — a "Social Gospel" and a "Real Gospel" — there was only one gospel — and because of that good news we are changed individuals who respond when we see the need of the aged who are increasing in number each year; we seek to lift the fallen and minister to the needy. "But if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth."

At the Home Mission and Bible College Rally, R. W. Beadle told us that "Evangelism is the love of people." This is plainly taught in the Scriptures by the Great Commission.

Jesus showed it by helping the fishermen to catch fish, then asked them to help him catch men; by offering friendship to Zacchaeus; by feeding and healing the multitudes; by treating the disciples in the Upper Room as his guests and by even washing their feet. Paul taught it by taking an interest in Jews as Jews, in Gentiles as Gentiles. A love of people is needed today in our efforts to evangelise our nation. We must be willing to get interested in people — to have a genuine concern for them. Love of people makes a Christ-like challenge — to sacrifice time and interests, to re-orientate family life, so that our lives and homes can become places of hospitality and friendship — a challenge to live close to Christ — otherwise we will have nothing to offer.

At a Men's Work Fellowship Tea, E. T. Hart gave a challenging address on "Saints in Overalls, Saints in Caesar's Household, Saints in the Church." There is the need for the three-fold aspect of Christian living in the lives of the men of our churches.

At the great Service of Witness in the Sydney Town Hall, the audience were delighted with beautiful solos and anthems from Mrs. C. G. Taylor and the Conference Choir. C. G. Taylor (Melbourne) gave a stirring address on The Name Above Every Name.

Names of famous world figures who come and go are lost and blotted out. The name of Jesus Christ lives on. It is the name at the heart of this Conference and at the heart of every Christian.

There are at least 55 names in the New Testament for Jesus Christ of Nazareth, yet they are not sufficient to portray him. We call ourselves Churches of Christ because we feel no human name should come between us and our Lord.

As committed Christians we must go into homes and tell of his Name — the Name above every name.

As Mrs. Taylor sang the words, "He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," the crowd of 2,000 was hushed—a fitting climax to a wonderful Conference.

Conference Resolutions

"That this meeting of Conference, having in mind the static nature of the membership of the Churches of Christ in this State, commends to the faculty of the College the desirability of more emphasis being placed on pastorship in training for the ministry."

"That the College Board afford facilities for part-time training for 'lay' preachers in New South Wales."

"That this Conference sends greetings to our missionaries serving with Aborigines Missions."

"That the brotherhood, under the leadership of the Social Service Department, establish a hostel for our country young people studying in Sydney."

"Churches of Christ in New South Wales assembled in Conference deplore the use of violence in racial disputes in South Africa, and beg that those who are seeking a solution of that country's problems prayerfully follow the guidance of Christian teaching in recognition of the equality of all men before God."

"The Churches of Christ in Conference deplore recent outbursts of anti-semitism in Australia and other lands, and urge that our people foster tolerance and goodwill towards minority groups of whatever race, and so encourage the growth and appreciation of the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God."

"This Conference of Churches of Christ in N.S.W. supports the N.S.W. Temperance Alliance in its approach to the State Government for the retention of a meal break in hotel trading hours. We believe that the present meal break preserves some degree of family life."

"Realising that this nation's hope of tomorrow is dependent upon the training and outlook given its youth today, this Conference of Churches

of Christ respectfully urges that the Commonwealth and State Governments consider subsidies to church homes for child delinquents."

"(1) This Conference approves in principle the concept of the establishment of a Brotherhood Centre on a site conveniently located, and that the development of the project be under the direction and control of the Conference Executive.

"(2) A Fund to be known as the 'Brotherhood Centre Fund' be set up with the objective of raising funds for the establishment of the proposed Brotherhood Centre.

"(3) In the event of a property becoming available, that is considered by the Conference Executive to be suitable and within the means of the brotherhood, the Conference Executive is authorised to obtain an option on such property, and submit the proposition to a Special Conference, or, if time or the conditions of sale will not permit of a Special Conference being called, the Conference Executive may take steps to secure the property.

"(4) The Conference Executive is authorised at its discretion to effect alterations to increase office accommodation at the City Temple."

—Eric F. Morris, Conf. Sec.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES, 1960-61

In addition to Conference officers listed above:

Aborigines Mission Committee: Mrs. L. H. M. Bills, C. T. Garrett, G. E. Knight, G. S. Laney, E. E. Oswald, E. H. Park, H. Roose.

Advisory Board: Principal A. W. Stephenson, T. W. G. Bagley, R. Greenhalgh, E. T. Hart, N. D. Morris, G. Smith, P. E. Thomas, P. G. Verco.

Chapel Extension Committee: P. H. Morton, N. D. Morris, W. K. Hunter, S. C. Woolley, R. J. Taylor, E. F. Morris, L. H. M. Bills, K. Baker, N. H. Matthews, R. F. Bartholomew, B. E. Perkins.

Bible College Board: Principal A. W. Stephenson, R. W. Beadle, C. E. Bowser, F. D. Craig, K. E. Crawford, N. H. Matthews, E. W. Roffey, G. H. Sloman, R. W. Stanhope, I. J. Torode, D. J. A. Verco.

Building Advisory Committee: K. L. Baker, L. H. M. Bills, G. B. Brown, F. Ellsmore, C. O. P. Hensby, J. A. Jackson, W. A. Oldfield, Keith Sawdy.

Christian Union Committee: C. E. Bowser, F. D. Craig, L. K. Green, L. G. Read, G. Smith, D. J. A. Verco, G. Wladysluk.

Department of Christian Education: P. Coulton, A. Crouch, N. K. Elliott, W. Gray, R. Greenhalgh, F. H. Harper, J. W. Hunter, B. Lowne, John

Morris, Neil Morris, C. A. Saxby, M. Titterton.

Home Missionary Committee: J. G. Carey, J. W. Fraser, Mrs. E. R. Fishburn, W. D. Howard, L. A. Hall, M. C. McArthur, J. McCloy, R. B. Millar, W. H. B. Palmer, B. E. Perkins, R. H. Wakeley, A. K. Wilson.

Boys' Home Committee: J. B. Ferry, Mrs. D. Frost, D. Harrop, W. Hill, R. F. Kimpton, G. E. Knight, Mrs. June Maxwell, J. I. Smith, A. R. Warren, L. E. Wylie.

Men's Work Committee: G. V. Brogden, R. D. Main, D. W. McElvenny, W. H. McWhinney, R. C. Sack, L. C. Yields, E. Tweedall.

Overseas Missions Committee: L. H. M. Bills, D. J. Edwards, C. R. M. Graham, C. J. McKenzie, L. A. Piper, Miss H. V. Rofe, E. W. Roffey.

Social Service Committee: J. W. Boswell, B. F. Bradshaw, W. E. Crawford, V. S. Dallinger, L. A. Hall, E. T. Hart, P. V. Jackson, E. F. McIlhagger, K. E. Parker, W. C. Roffey.

Nominations Committee: A. Baker, J. Christison, R. Greenhalgh, H. E. Hayward, A. T. Laney, E. F. Morris, L. A. Piper.

Property Trust: P. H. Morton, N. D. Morris, W. K. Hunter, S. C. Woolley, R. J. Taylor, E. F. Morris, R. Bartholomew, B. E. Perkins.

MISSIONARY NEWS

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

Our United Task

(New Hebrides).

"You can play a tune of sorts on the white keys and you can play a tune of sorts on the black keys, but for harmony you must use the black and the white." Here on the Mission Field we realise the truth of these words of Kwegir Aggrey, of Africa. We could not stop here unless we received help from the native people. We need their help in strenuous tasks such as unloading stores, manning ships, building houses, schools and hospitals.

We need their help as teachers and nurses. We need their help in winning people for Christ and strengthening the faith of the believers. Without their help we could not translate the Scriptures, neither could we learn their customs nor understand their problems.

They need our help so that schools can be built where the children are not only taught the three R's but the three H's — the head, the hand and the heart. Our help is needed in the battle against sickness, disease and death. They need us to encourage them to go forward with Christ, and to firmly establish the Church.

To take the gospel into all the world Christ needs black people as well as white. We are laboring with them to bring Christ to men and women. Pray for the native Christians and help them in their task by sending out missionaries if unable to go yourself, and by giving so that the work is never hindered through lack of finance.

PROGRESS IN SCHOOLS.

Schools commenced in February after the long vacation. Eighteen girls and forty-two boys are enrolled at the Ranwadi school. The enrolment of girls is a step forward, as previously we had not given attention to the education of older girls on Pentecost. The Ndul-Ndul school (Aoba) has been educating girls for a number of years, and these girls now teach in village schools and take an active part in women's work. There are now four district schools on Pentecost, conducted by teachers trained at Londua, and good enrolments are reported.

On Aoba interest has increased in village schools. For years we have

been encouraging the people to build a school room in every village, instead of using the chapel. Practically every village has now built a school, and some have erected dormitories for children who come from a distance. We are awaiting the arrival of Mr. Engling (formerly a teacher in N.S.W.) who will supervise the Ndul-Ndul school. Meanwhile Willie Toka (educated in Fiji) and his assistant, August Ben, continue in that task.



Miss Pauline Jones with Rachel,
one of the helpers.

At Londua forty-five students are enrolled, and many of these show promise of becoming good preachers and teachers.

A number of students from the Nasawa school, where they had undertaken courses in mechanical training, have now come back to continue their studies. Stephen, the first Londua graduate from Maewo, now assists Reg. Combridge at Nasawa. There are three village schools on Maewo, but more trained teachers are urgently needed.

Please pray for the work of the schools and especially for the native teachers.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS.

Two of our boys, Michael Toka and Tom Bakoo from the Londua school, having won scholarships, are now attending King George 6th school in the Solomons. Now in the higher branches of education, they do not find the going easy. Frank Spooner

continues at Fiji on the medical course, with two years to go after this year. Also pray for these boys. They are away from the home environment and meet all kinds and conditions of man—Ron. S. McLean, Aoba, New Hebrides.

SETTLING ON PENTECOST.

The medical dressers and nurses were able to carry out some of the medical work after the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Smith for furlough in Australia. They did a good job, but were glad to hand over to Sister Pauline Jones when she arrived some weeks ago. Previously Miss Jones had mentioned reaching Santo by plane and now she continues the story.

"I left Santo on a copra ship called Natora. The journey to Pentecost took 11 hours, putting off at Ranwadi where I stayed a couple of days with Mr. and Mrs. Edwards. They are going ahead very well in a very difficult place. There was a warm welcome awaiting me at Ranwadi; the women and the men had been very busy both inside and outside the house. The hospital is not too busy, although there is one extremely ill woman here. She had been here for a long spell and recovered, but suffered a relapse over three weeks ago.

"I do covet the prayers of all, both for these people on the Island of Pentecost and for myself that I might be useful in his service in this place . . . I have to go now and take a look at this poor woman. I do not know what further to do for her, from the human level, but we do trust in the Great Physician."—Pauline Jones, Pentecost.

MEDICAL WORK, AOBA.

"We have busy times at the hospital, and at other times not so busy. These people are a mass people, for when there are numerous folk in, a lot of other folk come to see them. People come to see other people, and they have ills and aches that they never dreamed of when they were home. . . . It is a case of 'the more you have the more you get.' We have had people here lately that we have never seen before — people from villages way up on the top of the hills. We have booked in expectant mothers, whom we have never seen before, and wonder if this interest springs from a case that came from a distance and things had gone wrong. They brought her here, and within a half an hour she was sleeping peacefully, with all her troubles over. Now several people from this area, who were never interested in coming, have been to visit us. Of course, we are glad that they are beginning to come, and trust that this interest continues."—A. F. Kennedy, Aoba.



Theme for the Week:
**"UNTO UTTERMOST
PARTS"**

Sunday, May 22

Galatians 3: 21-28.

Thought Text: "As many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ" (v. 27).

What does Paul mean by this phrase, "put on Christ"? "Clothed with his life and character" is the way Dr. Wand translates it, while J. B. Phillips suggests, "Put on the family likeness of Christ."

In the preceding verses, Paul writes of growth from that stage of immaturity in which "the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ." The word, "schoolmaster," is a misleading translation — the word refers to the slave whose responsibility it was to take charge of boys between 6 and 16 years of age, taking them to school and keeping them from evil ways. He stood for immaturity; "putting on Christ" symbolises the maturity of those who are "sons of God through faith."

O God, may more of the family likeness of my Lord be seen in the maturity of my thinking and living.

Monday, May 23

Acts 16: 7-15.

Thought Text: "When he saw the vision, he immediately sought to go" (v. 10, Barclay).

Paul must have been a sadly bewildered man by the time he reached Troas, the westernmost point of his travelling to that date. Twice his eagerness to preach had been baffled by closed doors in the province of Asia and in Bithynia; he could not understand why the Holy Spirit should forbid the fulfilment of such longings. The appearance of the doctor, Luke, at Troas, suggests that a breakdown in health might have been involved.

Whatever it was, once the vision came that beckoned him to Mace-

WHEN SOARS the SOUL

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

donia, and to the rest of Europe, Paul had no hesitations. How much the world has gained by his swift response! But how much has it lost when others have failed to act on their visions?

Lord, help me to share thy dreams, and be swift to make them real.

Tuesday, May 24

Acts 16: 16-24.

Thought Text: "The hope of their gains was gone" (v. 19).

These words are a scathing commentary on any form of ruthless commercialism that rides roughshod over the needs of the individual. That Paul's act made a better person of the girl mattered nothing to her exploiters; all they were concerned about was that her "sales" quality was gone.

Ernest Burch has pointed out a sad sidelight on this story — that, up to this stage, Paul's only contacts in Philippi had been with women seekers of the truth. The first men to appear on the scene are these soul-deadened commercialists. With which group do we stand — the seekers, or the money-hungry?

Save us, O Lord, from ever using another's suffering, or abusing another's need, for our own ends. Give us an unselfish love of men. Amen.

Wednesday, May 25

Acts 16: 25-34.

Thought Text: "At midnight, Paul and Silas prayed and sang" (v. 25).

In night's darkest hour, these men who had been beaten, and yet remained unbeaten, showed the real quality of their faith. "Did song ever come out of the heart of deeper injustice," asks Stanley Jones, "and did it thereby ever have deeper meaning? They went higher and higher in their notes of praise until they struck such high notes that God had to bring in the earthquake for a bass!"

Song like that was born out of prayer. No suffering could rob men like these of the vital sense of God's presence.

May the joy of thy salvation, O Lord, be the strength of all who are in pain today. Uphold all who suffer today for thy sake and the gospel's.

Thursday, May 26

Acts 17: 16, 22-33.

Thought Text: "Him declare I unto you!" (v. 23).

Starting from the Athenians' conventional acknowledgment that there might well be gods unknown to them, Paul wastes no time in declaring to them the God he knows — the Father

of all, for whom the questing soul of man had groped so long.

Modern Gallup polls show that a very high percentage of people admit to some faith in God, but "the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" is still, in reality, unknown to vast numbers of them. Are some of us like Mark Twain, whose daughter is reported to have said to him once, "Daddy, you must know almost everyone worth knowing, except God."

O God, help me to know thee better, and to witness to thee more faithfully, with a life that seeks above all to do thy will. Amen.

Friday, May 27

Acts 19: 23-28, 33-41.

Thought Text: "There arose no small stir about that way" (v. 23).

"The Way" is one of the earliest names for the Christian faith, and the "no small stir" is in reality "a great commotion" (Phillips). Paul was like his Master in that no one could ignore him or his message for long.

In Thessalonica, he and his fellow-workers had already been called "upsetters of the world" (Acts 17: 6, Moffatt). Here in Ephesus, commercial interests reacted even more bitterly than in Philippi.

How much does the Church "upset" the world today — with down to earth judgments on such sins as exploitation of others, race prejudice, hate and war?

Make thy Church, O Lord, such a force in the world that none will rest easy at the sound of thy voice through its message. Amen.

Saturday, May 28

Acts 20: 17-25, 32-38.

Thought Text: "But none of these things move me" (v. 24).

The prospect of "bonds and affliction" could not turn a man like Paul from his task. "I care nothing for all that," he writes, "I do not count my life precious compared with my work" (Knox).

The man who could say, "To me to live is Christ," had learnt that if ease and safety could only be bought with compromise and disloyalty to his Lord, then the price was far too high. He shows faith's thrilling answer to persecution when he talks of finishing his course "with joy."

Do I let lesser things move me from the path of absolute loyalty?

O Saviour Lord, who didst go all the way for me, may no discouragement of soul or worldliness of mind turn me aside from following thee.



OUR FAMILY PAGE

Rapid Growth

Clifford J. Wright, in *The Spectator*.

During the 1950's the population of Australia increased by about 2.1 million people. Reliable estimates are that in the 1960's the increase will be continued, so that by 1970, by natural increase alone, the population will rise to about 11.7 millions.

In 1958, in the 10-14 age group, the numbers were 909,000 as compared with 535,000 ten years before. This represents 9.2 per cent. of the population, as against 7.1 per cent. in 1948.

In 1958, there were nearly 1,000,000 in the 5-9 years group, and there were 1,040,000 under five years.

In 1954, 124,000 adolescents reached the age of 15 years. In 1958, the number was 144,000. Estimates, allowing for a net migration of 70,000 per year, indicate that the number of people reaching 15 years of age will be no less than 215,000 by 1962, an increase of just over 50 per cent. above the 1958 figure.

For the remainder of the 1960's the number in each year reaching 15 years of age will probably be about 200,000 per year.

So, within the next few years, Australia will be on the threshold of a vast increase in the adolescent population.

The whole Church should face the facts which the statistics reveal, and think realistically about their implications.

We need to plan for an unprecedented effort in the field of youth work. Leaders must be trained, local churches must be equipped with adequate buildings, every local church needs to be alerted and needs to make an act of commitment of time, money and talents for the winning and training of these young people.

Recently I heard a Sunday School superintendent complain that in a church of over 200 members, and a Sunday School with an enrolment of under 200, few adults would accept the responsibility of teaching. The result? The Bible Class was "be-headed," immature young people were given a major teaching responsibility with little experience of life or understanding of the faith. "Here am I, send the other fellow" seems to be the motto of a vast majority of adult

church members when it comes to the Christian nurture of children. Yet the quality of the nurture of these children will largely determine their allegiance during adolescence. There should be a new commitment, enlistment and training in local churches for work among the rapidly increasing child population — not only through Sunday Schools, but through week-night activities, Vacation Church Schools, camping, fostering of Christian family life and so on.

A better job among the children and young people, pressing into our community in increasing numbers, depends on a better job being done among adults. Adult programmes of Christian education deepen the faith and train for service the parents of the children and young people. The parents are in the key position; they are the teachers first in importance and influence. They are in need of nurture themselves. As the faith, commitment, and training of the adult congregation increases, the effectiveness of the work among children and young people increases.

Andrew Rykman's Prayer

Pardon, Lord, the lips that dare Shape in words a mortal's prayer.

Let the lowliest task be mine,
Grateful, so the work be thine;
Let me find the humblest place
In the shadow of thy grace;
Blest to me were any spot
Where temptation whispers not.

If there be some weaker one,
Give me strength to help him on,
If a blinder soul there be,
Let me guide him nearer thee.
Make my mortal dreams come true
With the work I fain would do;
Clothe with life the weak intent,
Let me be the thing I meant.

—John Greenleaf Whittier.

Nailed Down

A pastor was trying to persuade a woman to teach a class in the church school. She was well-qualified and had time for it. She declined, saying over and over, "I don't want to be tied down to things." Finally the pastor had all of that he could take. He looked her in the eye and said, in a kindly voice, "You know we serve a Master who was willing to be nailed down to things. He was nailed to a cross." —Halford E. Luccock.

"Blessed by Helping"

Frank Leggett.

I remember reading in the "Life" of Dr. Grenfell, of Labrador, written by himself, an incident which might seem of little more than passing moment, but which I think has a bearing on this matter. He tells us of a lady who had been an invalid for years and had never been able to take an interest in anything except her own health. She was one of the kind we have all known at some time or another who enjoyed bad health. Yes, she enjoyed it, she positively enjoyed it. She was never very ill. But she was never very well. "She always had some cause for complaint and nothing that the doctor could suggest and medicine could do seemed to give her any relief" from this chronic state of invalidism in the midst of which she lived. She was the doctor's despair and perhaps the doctor's delight, for it must be really nice for a doctor to have a patient who is never very ill and never very well. When the books come to be made up at the end of the quarter, there must always be a nice bill to be sent in.

A friend of hers, however, asked her if she would not take an interest in the fisher lads' writing association; then a new thing started in connection with the Deep Sea Mission. The idea was that some who had rather more time on their hands than the rest of folk should receive the names of a number of young fisher lads at sea and undertake to write regularly to them. They were also, if possible, to look them up when they returned to land.

Now somehow it caught the invalid's fancy. She became quite keen about it and forgot everything else. A miracle was worked upon her. Doctors were no longer needed; drugs no more required. She, who had been a burden to her friends and a nuisance to all that knew her, was now strong and well and active and interested, busy about the affairs of other people. And the last time Dr. Grenfell saw her, he says, she was standing on a quay, "surrounded by a bevy of blue jersey lads, whom she was being blessed by helping."

A shipwrecked sailor who had spent three years on a desert island was overjoyed one day to see a ship drop anchor in the bay. A small boat came ashore and an officer handed the sailor a bunch of newspapers.

Officer — The captain suggests that you read what's going on in the world and then let us know if you want to be rescued.

HERE AND THERE

On Saturday, April 30, a largely attended gathering met at Nailsworth, S.A., to farewell Mr. and Mrs. N. Gavros, at the end of their five-year ministry. Mr. Rebbeck (elder) presided and introduced speakers representing the S.A. Conference, local Preachers' Fraternal, C.E. Union, men's and women's organisations and the youth of the church. The Secretary, Mr. Oxenberry, made a presentation. Mr. and Mrs. Gavros each responded, and a social hour concluded the function.

Our office has received Postal Notes for £1/7/6 with a Tinana, Qld. post stamp. The accompanying Australian Christian subscription form was not filled in. Will the subscriber who posted the envelope on April 30 please forward name and address to the Austral to enable the subscription to be credited.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Randall were farewelled by the church at Ormond, Vic., on April 24, after a successful 12 months' interim ministry. They entered into all church work. Mrs. Randall received many gifts and her husband a nice rocker chair. During the year, 9 were added to the church. At the gospel service, the C.M.S. quartet rendered items and members took part in the service. One young man made the good confession.

In response to repeated requests, Fifty Years Ago, containing items of news from The Australian Christian of half a century ago, will be featured in our columns as often as pressure of up-to-date news permits. This revives a feature which was very popular some years ago.

A large representative gathering met at Malvern (Vic.) chapel on April 29, to say farewell to Wilkie J. Thomson, who has accepted a call to the Croydon church. Present at the meeting were R. Bolduan (Vic-Tas. Conf. Pres.), Mr. Evans (Ministers' Fraternal) and Mr. McAdam (Armadale Baptist). Items were presented by Mr. and Mrs. J. Beveridge and Lynette (trio), Frances Cowper (solo) and Mrs. Archibald (elocution). The work of the departing minister during his nine years of service at Malvern, where he had made a great impression on the life of the community, and also the able assistance of his wife and daughters, Lola and Chloris, were eulogised by all speakers, representing the Explorers' Club, C.Y.F., Tennis Club, B.S., Official Board, C.E. and Women's Fellowship. The Conference President and visiting ministers also spoke. Pam Bever-

idge presented Mrs. Thomson with a lovely bouquet, and Mrs. J. Welsh, on behalf of the Women's Fellowship, made her a presentation from all church members. F. Illingworth, on behalf of the church, presented W. J. Thomson with a cheque, and after a tasty supper provided by Mrs. Garrett, a further presentation was made to Chloris by Margaret Moody. Chairman for the evening was the elder of the church, J. Holloway.

Permanent employment is offered a senior or junior female clerical worker at The Austral office. Conditions and surroundings are congenial, the work is varied and interesting, and

a knowledge of typing would be an advantage. Here is an opportunity for Christian service in a Christian atmosphere. We want to employ a member of Churches of Christ in our brotherhood establishment. Contact Mr. Haskell for an interview.

The Vic-Tas. Dept. of Home Missions and Evangelism is now responsible for Churches of Christ participation in the nightly "Epilogue" over GTV-9, Melbourne. A panel composed of W. W. Saunders, C. G. Taylor and A. E. White has been asked to represent Churches of Christ in future telecasts, each man appearing, on the average, once a month.

On May 1, K. J. Clinton commenced an interim ministry of three months with the church at Malvern, Vic. Chaplain G. Crossman (R.A.A.F., Laverton) has accepted an invitation to serve the church upon his demobilisation from the R.A.A.F. next year.

World Convention News

The Programme Committee has completed its work on the main part of the 1960 Edinburgh World Convention programme. All speakers who have been invited to speak on the programme, with only two or three exceptions, have accepted. On April 22 this programme was sent to the Edinburgh printers for publication in the Convention Programme Book.

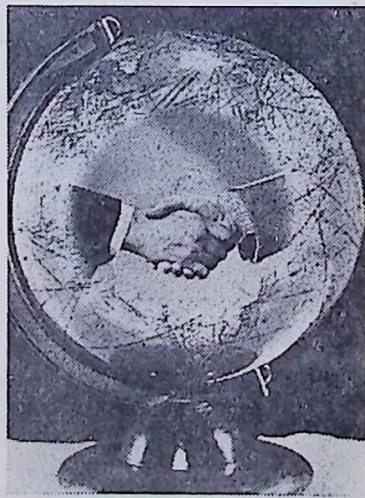
Jo Riley, minister of the Central Christian Church in Decatur, Illinois, and Myron C. Cole, minister of the Central Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, will train the elders and deacons for the World Convention Communion Service to be held on Sunday afternoon, August 7, at 3 o'clock. All the elders and deacons serving at the communion table will be from the British Churches of Christ.

The registrations from the United States, Canada and Porto Rico number 2,320 as of April 16. Also, as of this same date, 425 have been booked on the s.s. Ivernia, which leaves from Montreal on July 22 and arrives at Greenock, Scotland, on July 28. Arrangements have been made through a special committee of our Glasgow Church, for housing, meals and tours for this group from the time of arrival until the opening day of the Convention on August 2.

The local Edinburgh Committee is working hard in order to prepare adequately for all delegates who will be at the World Convention, August 2-7. This Committee makes a special request that no delegates arrive in Edinburgh before August 2, since all housing in hotels, hostels and homes has been arranged to begin on this date. The Convention begins at 7.45

on Tuesday evening, and closes on the following Sunday evening.

There will be 12 study groups of 100 each, meeting simultaneously on Thursday and Friday afternoons from 4-5 p.m. Each study group will have a chairman, two resource leaders, a secretary and a host and hostess.



The Publishing Committee of the British Churches of Christ (Disciples) of Birmingham, England, and the Christian Board of Publication of St. Louis, Missouri, will have a joint book exhibit in the Assembly Rooms in George-st. This is the building where delegates register, and where teas, luncheons and evening meals are to be served. —Jesse M. Bader.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

TASMANIA

Nubeena - Highcroft - Kellevie (E. K. Morrison). — Nubeena: Averages for April were: a.m., 30; p.m., 24; communion, 25; offerings, £11/4/6. £25 from General Fund has been donated to Carnarvon relief, Mission Band £5, plus special offering of £25 received on May 1. **Highcroft:** Averages for month were: a.m., 32; p.m., 22; communion, 27; offerings, £9. Special offering for Carnarvon relief has raised £6/19/-. Sympathy of church is extended to relatives and friends of late Mrs. W. Spaulding. Church rejoiced in hearing the good confession made by a teenage girl. **Kellevie:** Averages for month were: a.m., 29; p.m., 26; communion, 21; offerings, £4/9/-. Preacher was released from commitments to lead Easter youth camp held at Tarooma. 12 from circuit attended camp full time, and two car loads of interested young people came for Sunday activities. C.E. highlight was a film strip in semi-cartoon form on Two Dollars — teaching stewardship of treasure.

Ulverstone (N. Reese). — Church is gladdened by addition as members of two sisters. B.S. attendances are encouraging. Newly formed Junior Club grows weekly and is proving a success under the leadership of N. Reese, aided by Miss J. Phipps. Morning services are well attended.

QUEENSLAND

East Ipswich (R. Acland). — Good Friday morning service was well attended. D. Mansell (Home Mission Organiser and Youth Director) was speaker at both Leichhardt and East Ipswich gospel services on April 10. Special training classes conducted by minister are being held each week in preparation for an intense visitation evangelistic programme by the church. Some twenty people are participating in this special task. Weekly cottage prayer meetings are being conducted by ladies in various homes in support of campaign. John Feeney, who recently underwent surgery, is progressing favorably. Harmony Club visited home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Risson, where an enjoyable evening was spent. Youth Fellowships are very active. Combined Bible Schools of East Ipswich and Leichhardt held their annual picnic on May 2. Church extends sympathy to F. J. Hinrichsen in loss of his brother, Dr. W. Hinrichsen.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Mosman (L. E. Wylie). — On morning of Apr. 10, A. Surtees (Tamworth) exhorted church, and at evening service, two young men, who recently confessed their faith, were baptised. On Good Friday, combined service with Baptist brethren was held in their tabernacle. On 24th, V. Dallinger (Hornsby) was visiting speaker. During the afternoon an Anzac commemoration service was held in Mosman Park, with L. Wylie taking part.

Hornsby (V. S. Dallinger). — Good Friday service was held at 9 a.m., and attendance was good. V. Dallinger was speaker at morning service on 17th, and Mr. Glazier was soloist. Combined Asquith-Hornsby B.S. Olympic social was held in school hall, in connection with Olympic Sunday School competition. Recent speakers have been Messrs. Bartholomew, Fennell, Schofield, Wylie.

Auburn (L. G. Read). — Attendances are encouraging and B.S. has qualified for pennant in recent Increase and Attendance drive, with a number of new scholars. A good delegation of Y.P. spent a happy Easter in a house party at Ettalong, whilst others were at Lake Illawarra camp, where one young man from the church made his confession of faith. Considerable developmental work is in progress. A Life Boy club is in final stages of preparation and it is proposed to follow with a G.L.B. and a more advanced boys' club as soon as practicable. Youth teas have been reorganised and the Saturday evening Fellowship reconstituted. Meanwhile plans for a new building are proceeding, though developments are necessarily slow at this stage. Well attended morning service on May 1 heard Dr. Michelson (Los Angeles) make a plea on behalf of the Jewish people, and an offering was received for his work. Following a well attended evening service, G. Knight presented slides of our Aborigines Mission work. G. Potter is recovering after surgery. A number of visitors, some interstate, have been welcomed recently.

Inverell (G. H. Earle). — A school-teacher, of Tinga, made her decision at gospel meeting on April 24. Girls' and boys' clubs recently held games evening in park, when there was a large attendance. At morning service on May 1, C.W.A. parade was held, when representatives of other

Discipleship

Roger Briggs, Oakleigh, Vic.
Christine and Julie Richards, Virgina Wren, Jennifer Simmons, Ian Hearne, Kevin Hill, Nalls-worth, S.A.
Mrs. Jary, Irene and Frank Jary, Ronald, Cheryl and Janice Oliver, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.
Barbara Perches, Janis Kelly, Barbara Jennings, Ormond, Vic.
Helen Simms, Mrs. Henson, Graeme Klechammer, Swan Hill, Vic.
Harvey Goldsworthy, Kaniva, Vic.
Mrs. A. Wyett, G. Bannam, Hamilton, Vic.
Coralie Clayton, Preston, Vic.
Judith and Annette Phipps, Ulverstone, Tas.
Elaine Owers, Inverell, N.S.W.
Helen Reardon, Highcroft, Tas.

Membership

Mr. and Mrs. H. Edwards, Lane Cove to Hornsby, N.S.W.
G. D. Wren, Koongarra Park to Nallsworth, S.A.
Lois Malone, to Swan Hill, Vic.
A. Wyett, Horsham to Hamilton, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. G. Price, from Cheltenham; Mr. and Mrs. G. Emmett, from Clayton, to Brighton, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. N. Hart, Pt. Augusta to Cowandilla, S.A.

Marriage

Elaine Plant to Trevor McKenzie, Oakleigh, Vic.
Mavis Quarumby to Les Quarumby, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.
Sharon Litt to Ron Brown; Helen Pearce to Don Thornhill; Phyllis Seedy to Noel Hopkins, Brighton, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

Miss L. Rankine, Box Hill, Vic.
W. H. Hinrichsen, Northcote, Vic.
Mrs. W. Spaulding, Highcroft, Tas.

denominations attended. C.M.S. met for combined tea and fellowship in Presbyterian hall on 2nd.

Wagga Wagga. — Visiting speakers have been P. Cavanagh and Ian Thomas. Mr. Knight and Mrs. Powell, snr., are in hospital. Six were baptised into Christ during April. Miss H. Cassidy was speaker at C.W.F. meeting.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Nailsworth. — Services were well attended on May 1. Visitors included Mr., Mrs. and Miss Williams (Rockhampton, Qld.). Three responded to the invitation at gospel service. Youth offering was £29. Mr. and Mrs. R. Gaskin left on May 2 to take up missionary work in Ghana. Mr. and Mrs. Gavros left the same day, to commence ministry at Ormond, Vic.

Clovelly Park (J. E. Webb). — C.W.F. held successful birthday meeting, with approx. 120 ladies present. Interesting slides on missionary work in Ghana were shown after gospel service on Apr. 10 by Ross Gaskin (Nailsworth) who, with his wife, will soon take up work in that field. Dr. Steward gave talk to senior boys and their fathers on 12th. Interest in midweek prayer meeting has increased, with av. attendance of 14. On May 1, a youth tea was held, followed by special gospel meeting with 5 young men assisting, and visiting soloist, W. Buxton. After-church sing-song was happy conclusion to a successful and well attended service.

Victor Harbour (F. B. Burt). — Minister gave several addresses leading up to Easter services on Sunday. Splendid meetings were held, with many visitors attending. Harvest Festival was another occasion, when special singing by the choir, and solo by Mrs. R. Knight (Stirling), were also enjoyed. Church anniversary and Temple Day resulted in £128 being raised towards Youth Hall which, owing to excellent workmanship of church men, is well on way to completion.

Cowandilla (D. H. Smith). — May 1 was observed as Youth and Christian Education Sunday. Many Y.P. assisted in morning and evening services, and all youth groups were in attendance at evening service. After-church fellowship was held and a report by some of the youth of recent camps at Longwood and Barmera was heard. Special film, Steadfast, concerning work of Boys' Brigade was screened. C.W.F. had successful 11th birthday evening, when many other Fellowship groups attended. C.M.S. is maintaining numbers, with an average of 30. Newly formed football team had successful day for their first match.

Murray Bridge (R. Graham). — Services for Easter Sunday were very enjoyable — 111 took communion. Many welcome visitors attended. Women's Conference of Southern District, held at Goolwa, was enjoyed by 14 delegates who attended. C.Y.F. from Strathalbyn visited Murray Bridge for a happy night of fellowship. At a sing-song after-church meeting, a presentation was made to W. Harper as an appreciation of his many years of teaching in B.S. Mr. Lovell (pres., Sth'n. District Conf.) and Mrs. Lovell visited on May 1. Mr. Lovell spoke at both services and Mrs. Lovell was soloist at gospel service.

VICTORIA

Red Cliffs (S. K. Bannon). — There was a lovely display of goods for Thanksgiving services. John Leng transported the goods to Melbourne for the Social Service Homes. A presentation was made to Denis West recently, prior to taking up studies at Dookie College. C.W.F. held monthly church parade in April. The following Sunday was a picture night, screening *The Way to Heaven*. Minister and 8 Y.P. went to camp at Barmera, over Easter. C. L. Lang and L. Keatch conducted Easter services. Members joined with other Protestant Churches in combined service on Good Friday, and also sunrise service on Easter Sunday. Attendances are well maintained, with 100 in mornings and 90 at night.

Box Hill (W. A. Wigney). — C.E. enjoyed hike and barbecue through Sherbrooke during Easter holidays. On April 27, B. McIntosh brought message to midweek prayer meeting. C.M.S. visited East Kew on 28th to hear Police Commissioner Porter. Church's 49th anniversary was celebrated on May 1. F. T. Morgan was speaker at worship service. Parents of C.E. members visited their meeting, with members taking active part. A fellowship tea was also held. Two decisions have been made during past month.

Clayton (J. L. Reid). — At invitation of U.F.M., preacher is making extensive tour of Mission Stations in New Guinea. On May 21-23 he will visit the Church of Christ Mission at Tung. On afternoon of April 10, chapel was filled to capacity, with some 400 people, when Dr. Epp (Back to the Bible Broadcast) was speaker. All auxiliaries report blessings and successful meetings. Y.P. attended camps at Belgrave Heights. Early morning prayer meetings are being held while preacher is in New Guinea.

Gardiner (F. A. Youens). — Preachers for April 17 and 24 were T. A. Fergusson (Shepparton), A. D. Pyne

(Federal Conference President), I. Mackie (Dept. of Christian Education) and H. Sedgeman. Large congregations on May 1 heard Miss D. Geyer (India) at worship service, and saw the Billy Graham film, *Oil Town*, at gospel service. Three young men responded to the invitation following the film. Miss L. Sommers took a concert party to Emmaus Home on 30th. Mrs. McCann addressed C.W.E.F. on *Our Church Library*, and afternoon group welcomed Miss Geyer as speaker.

Hamilton (A. B. Clark). — Church rejoices over two additions by faith and baptism and looks with expectation to God's blessing during mission from May 22 to June 5. College of the Bible students, K. Harvey, A. Male and D. Nelson will combine in leading children's Happy Hour and the main mission meetings. Work is proceeding on youth hall under leadership of S. Butcher. Explorer Club enjoyed Anzac weekend at Hall's Gap camp, and attendances are keeping steady for I.C.E. and B.S. Ladies have worked hard for street stall to raise funds for a new organ.

Kaniva (G. A. Grainger). — L. A. Trezise was speaker at services, when circuit rally was held. Opportunity was taken at afternoon meeting to make presentation to D. R. Williams in recognition of work at Hall's Gap camp site. At close of evening service a young man made his decision and was baptised on Easter Sunday. Minister is on holidays, and Mrs. Grainger has undergone surgery at Royal Melbourne Hospital. C. M. Wheaton has returned to Nhlll Hospital after being home for a time. Evening was held at Lillimur to farewell Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Williams and Mrs. Williams, snr., who leave shortly for overseas trip, which includes World Convention. Four members attended State Conference in Melbourne.

Maryborough (B. White). — During Easter period, eleven Y.P. shared in fellowship at Hall's Gap camp. Two rededicated their lives, and whole group returned spiritually uplifted. On April 23, C.W.F. held an apron parade and film night. The evening was a great success, with a large gathering present. Aprons were sold and profit was £17, which will benefit Church Building Fund. Masonic Lodge held annual church parade at evening service of May 1; A. Kennedy, Lodge Master, assisted in the service. Good Companions and B.S. are conducting new member campaigns.

Middle Park (C. A. Latimer). — Mr. Cooke (Dept. of Christian Education) was speaker at morning service of April 24. Y.P. combined with district churches for hike on 25th. Fellowship tea and gospel film night was held on May 1. Sis. Lumb is progressing after surgery; Mrs. Hart-

vigsen has been absent through an accident.

Ormond. — Speakers on May 1 were representatives of Dept. of Christian Education and H. Hunt. Sis. Hunt, Tinkler and Eicke are still ill. P.B.P. were successful in swimming sports. Youth parade and after-church fellowship are held on 1st Sunday in month. Kinder ladies have donated money to B.S. for installation of wall tables, etc.

Camberwell (K. W. Barton, L.Th., Dip.R.E.). — Mrs. Ah Mouy has left to reside at Ivanhoe, and she received commendation for service in B.S. and C.W.F. P.B.P. held concert on April 5, raising £20 for curtains for new church hall. Easter gospel service featured church choir. K. J. Clinton concluded a much-appreciated interim ministry at morning service on April 24, after which he was presented with a gift as a token of thanks. Gospel service on 24th was conducted by C.M.S. On May 1, church shared fellowship with members of Camberwell branch of C.W.A., holding annual church parade that evening.

Swan Hill (A. A. Avery). — Good Companions and young Explorers held combined social on April 27. Prior to the gospel meeting on 24th, a baptismal service was held, when a young girl was immersed. Following the gospel message, a B.S. scholar and a married woman made their decisions for Christ. C.Y.F. girls' basketball team has again entered in local competition.

Brighton (S. H. Wilson). — Under leadership of H. Plummer, choir rendered Stainer's *The Crucifixion* at Easter. On Easter Sunday, G. Andrews (Bendigo) addressed gospel service. H. A. G. Clark was speaker on 24th. C.S.F. held successful camp at Monbulk over Anzac weekend, led by N. R. Arnott. £36 has been donated to Local Option Alliance. Beverley Lewis has taken over leadership of Good Companions from Barbara Strahan. C.M.S. held working bee on church property. J. Plummer has left for an indefinite stay with his daughter and family at Thursday Island.

Preston (G. W. Barnett). — On Good Friday morning, church combined with Preston South Methodist at a communion service at which T. Salisbury (elder) presided and Methodist minister addressed congregation. J. Whitten (Jordanville) was visiting speaker at morning service on April 17, and at night, a film, *The First Easter*, was screened. At close of address at gospel service on 24th, a young girl made her confession of faith. Eighteen Y.P. spent happy time in camp at Taggerty over Easter weekend. An extended programme of Christian Edu-

N.S.W. Women in Conference

The 66th Annual Conference of the N.S.W. Christian Women's Fellowship was held at Enmore Tabernacle on Tuesday, April 5, 1960, at 10.30 a.m. Mrs. Fishburn (President) presided, and welcomed to the meeting D. J. A. Verco (President of General Conference), who brought the greetings of General Conference to the sisters.

Mrs. A. G. Elliott (incoming President) took the devotions, assisted by Mrs. Leach, soloiste. Mrs. Elliott spoke of Isaiah's vision, the challenge he received, and his response. Often we experience some mountain-top experience, but we let the vision fade, we fail to act, we dodge the challenges thrown out to us. God wants us to be willing to respond, "Here am I . . . send me," and let us really go.

The President brought the Prayer Committee's thought and greetings to Conference. The Secretary read greetings from Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Whelan, Mrs. Paternoster, Mrs. Roberts (Albury), C.W.F. Victoria and Tasmania, Churches of Christ in Qld. Women's Conference, Aust. Churches of Christ Foreign Missions Board, New Guinea, Carnarvon C.W.F., Women's Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia, Mrs. Hammer (Carnarvon).

At the Roll Call, 364 sisters responded from 40 city and 11 country churches. Special welcome was given to Mrs. Qwong (Chinese Church), Mrs. Pyne (W.A.), and to Mrs. Goldsteen (Vic.), who brought special greetings from Mrs. Strack.

Mesdames Cox, Morris and Roger-son (Bankstown) sang a trio. Appreciation was expressed of work done by many sisters over past years.

cation commenced on May 1, when classes were commenced and attendances were encouraging.

Frankston (D. A. V. Thomas). — Morning speaker on April 10 was D. Nicholls. C.Y.F. members conducted evening service, when film, *Teenage Code*, was screened. Good Friday service was well attended. Many visitors on Easter Sunday included Mr. and Mrs. Amos and family (Blackburn), Ian Bentley (former member). Keith Taylor was welcomed after recovery from serious accident. Mrs. Taylor, snr., is still unable to attend services. Mrs. P. Roberts has also been kept in bed for two months after painful accident. R. Ryall (Dept. of Christian Education) was morning speaker on 24th, when Mr. Thomas was speaker at Carrum Downs. More than 40 C.Y.F. members shared in district hike-barbecue-rally at Red Hill on 30th. Sympathy has been expressed to Mrs. M. Bentley in passing of her father. T. Brown (formerly of Alcoholics Anony-

The Treasurer, Miss Rafe, on bringing her report, stated that the special effort for the new year was to go towards furnishings at the College.

After the presentation of the reports from the various Committees, Mrs. Elliott introduced the new Year Book, which was available to all sisters at the cost of 1/- per copy.

The President announced to the meeting that Mrs. Wylie had been appointed as Australian Representative of the Federal Women's Council Executive of the World C.W.F.

Mrs. Fishburn stated it was the pleasure of the Executive to honor all those sisters present at the Conference who were 75 years of age and over. These sisters were presented with a small token.

After the luncheon break, Miss Joyce Trickett delighted all with her presentation of the Passion Play, Oberammergau.

The incoming Officers for the year were introduced. Mrs. Elliott (incoming President) spoke of the splendid work done in the past year by Mrs. Fishburn, who had radiated the "joy of the Lord."

Mrs. Elliott presented Mrs. Fishburn with a New Testament as a small token of appreciation. In responding, Mrs. Fishburn thanked all those who had rendered service in the past year.

The meeting was closed with a Dedication prayer, offered by Mrs. Mackenzie, and the singing of "Blest Be the Tie that Binds." — E. Robertson, Recording Sec.

mous) was guest speaker at C.M.S. tea on May 1, and later at evening service.

Despite wet conditions on Sunday, May 1, good attendances marked the commencement of the ministry of K. W. Barton, L.Th., Dip.R.E., at Camberwell, Vic. At the morning service, J. McG. Abercrombie (an elder of the church) received Mr. and Mrs. Barton into fellowship. On Wed., May 4, an evening was held to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Barton and family. Mr. Allsep (Official Board) was chairman, and speakers were J. McG. Abercrombie (church), Miss D. Reynolds (B.S.), A. Willing (Y.P.) and Mrs. Melvor (ladies). Musical items were presented by the church choir. Supper closed a happy evening.

Many of the delegates from Australia and New Zealand have left for the World Convention. Some will visit relatives, and others will tour Europe and Great Britain before the Convention begins.



"THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT"

by William Barclay.

This is a book well worth reading. Its style is simple and appealing, and its contents are challenging and helpful.

Each year the Methodist Church of Great Britain publishes a Lent book. In the past such men as Bryan Green, Donald Soper, W. E. Sangster, and Edward Rogers have been the authors. For 1960 the honor fell to Dr. William Barclay, of Trinity College, Glasgow. Dr. Barclay is extremely well known in our country through his Bible studies, and similar works. His new book, *The Promise of the Spirit*, rates on a very high level.

Dr. Barclay claims that he did not choose the theme of the book, but rather that the theme chose him. He says that throughout the pages of this work more than 90 per cent of Scripture references to the person, ministry, and work of the Holy Spirit are quoted.

There are seven very helpful chapters in the book: 1. Men of the Spirit. 2. The Holy Spirit in the First Three Gospels. 3. The Holy Spirit in the Fourth Gospel. 4. The Holy Spirit in the Expanding Church. 5. The Holy Spirit in the letters of Paul. 6. The Holy Spirit in the Life and Thought of the New Testament Church. 7. The Holy Spirit and the Church Today.

The book is full of telling sentences, fine illustrations, and stirring thoughts. The brief section, in Chapter 2, when Barclay discusses the Holy Spirit as "the finger of God," is very interesting, and his longer treatment of "The Unpardonable Sin" in Chapter 2 is most helpful. At some points we may not agree entirely with the author, but for all that this is a book well worth reading, and if carefully studied will do our people a great deal of good. It brings us face to face with realities in the spiritual realm. Dr. Barclay confesses that his own study (from which the book arises) of the work of the Holy Spirit "has been . . . a humilitating, a challenging, and a comforting experience."

The book is available from the Austral Bookshop, 217 Lonsdale-st., Melbourne. The board cover edition is 9/6, and the paper covered is 6/3. —R. V. Amos.

"At Home" at Emmaus, Vic.

More than 200 friends gathered at the Emmaus Rest Home, Murrumbidgee, Vic., on Sat., April 30, in response to an invitation from the Matron, staff and guests. Matron Button and all available staff and patients of the Nursing Home co-operated.

For some months past, the Home has been in a simmer of expectancy as all, some under serious handicaps, prepared for an exhibition of handicrafts resulting from occupational therapy, which has operated at both



Will H. Clay, M.B.E.

the Will H. Clay Nursing Home and the Rest Home. Matron Nance-Kivell, supported by Nurse Symes and other members of the staff, and guests, under the direction of Mrs. Thomas (a trained expert in therapy), had accumulated a variety of made-up goods, including beautiful plastic bags, made by both male and female guests, which were offered for sale.

A special creation in the shape of a large vase, made by a patient in the Nursing Home, won the admiration of all. This was truly a remarkable production.

The "At Home" was arranged particularly with a view to exhibiting a phase of life in an Aged Persons' Home. The occasion was most successful from every point of view.

A mannequin parade, in which guests and some members of the staff figured, exhibited a variety of garments and useful articles, and a

humorous dialogue by two aged guests greatly interested and amused the gathering.

A varied programme of musical and elocutionary items, and an excellent afternoon tea, greatly contributed to what all agreed was an unqualified success.

The Matrons and available staffs of our other Homes were present, providing evidence of the splendid spirit of co-operation existing among them.

A sum of approximately £100 resulted from the occasion.—Will H. Clay, M.B.E.



Fifty Years Ago

From "The Australian Christian"
for May 12, 1910.

Shouting "Hallelujah!" — Taking the Commonwealth as a whole, and including New Zealand also, I am confident the spirit of optimism was never stronger, evangelistic activity never so great, and the prospects of the cause we love never so promising as at present. When the Christian arrives, I often feel like shouting "Hallelujah!" as I read the reports of progress. —D. A. Ewers.

New Ministry, Fremantle, W.A. — A. J. Saunders has accepted an engagement with the church. He commenced his labors with us today (May 1), speaking morning and evening. A young woman took a stand for Christ. —W. E. Vinicombe.

Queensland Conference. — The 27th annual meeting of the Associated Churches of Christ was held recently in the Ann-st. Christian chapel, with Andrew Moore as President Elect. The total membership was reported as 1043, with 680 B.S. scholars. A resolution was passed, asking all members to contribute a penny a week at least to Home Missions. The report of the public meeting mentions that "Miss Cassels sang 'No Burdens Yonder' with much feeling. The congregation then sang with much vigor, 'Throw Out The Lifeline'."

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APPROACHING MARRIAGE

DEGUET - CURTIS. — The marriage of Phyllis, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Deguet, to Kingsley, eldest son of Pastor and Mrs. Curtis, will be celebrated at the Church of Christ, Glenelg, S.A., on Saturday, May 14, at 5 p.m.

BIRTHS

MARCHANT (Wheaton).—To Merle and Brian, at Box Hill Hospital, Vic., on April 25, 1960, God's gift of a son — Daryl Brian.

JOHNSON (Gill). — On April 16, 1960, to Beverley and Brian, a son—Christopher Jordayne. Both well.

MILNE (nee Chislet). — To Lyn and Henry, at Redcliffs Hospital, Vic., on April 19, a son — Douglas Henry. Both well.

DEATHS

HINRICHSEN. — On April 30, 1960 (suddenly), at his home, 340 Whitehorse-rd., Balwyn, Vic., Doctor William Henry, dearly beloved husband of Florence, loved father of Kevin, Ian, Gladys (Mrs. Watkins), and Gordon; father-in-law of Nance, Bill and Beverley; fond Grandpa of Julie, Colin and Rodney. "In God's care."

HINRICHSEN. — On April 30, 1960, William Henry, eldest son of the late August and Caran, Rosevale, Qld., loved brother of John, Annie, Ernest (dec.), Alf., Fred., Lily (Mrs. Machin), Vera (Mrs. Stevens), and Arnold.

EDWARDS (McAlpin). — On April 23, at Croydon Park Private Hospital, Margaret Hellen, dearly loved wife of the late Hubert (dec., Aug. 27, 1959), of 26 Garnet-st., Preston, Vic., dearly loved mother of Shirley (Mrs. E. A. Martin, Wantirna), Thelma (Mrs. F. Finger, Wantirna); mother-in-law of Ned and Fred, loved Nana of Grenville, Darrol, Cheryl, Edith, Lyn-ton; dear sister of Laura (Mrs. Bell), William Symes, Astell (Mrs. Albery). "Our dear loved ones reunited."

DAVIES — Jeanie Main, on April 25, 1960, beloved wife of the late John Samuel Davies, much loved mother of Lindsay (dec.), Hazle (Mrs. W. Crouch), Hilda (Mrs. L. G. Cameron), Dorothy (Mrs. A. R. Mansell), Walter and Isabel, (Mrs. C. M. Leng), in her 90th year. At Private Hospital, Mildura, Vic.

IN MEMORIAM

DICKENS, E. M. — Treasured memories of my dear friend, who was called Home, May 7, 1945.
—B. Sinclair.

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C. R. Johnson (secretary, East Preston church), 1 Goulburn-ave., Reservoir, Vic.

N. Gavros (minister, Ormond church), 9 Arnott-st., Ormond, S.E.9, Vic. (58-2727).

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**Letter from a Youth
Camp**

Youth Camp,
Rotary Camping Ground,
Taroom, Tasmania,
Easter Time.

Dear Friend,

We have just returned from our annual Easter Camp for Youth, and I would like to share with you some of the rich experiences that were ours.

Altogether, there were 36 in camp full time; this includes camp staff and a couple of younger children who came with the Camp Mother. Visitors from as far afield as Launceston came to see us on both Saturday and Sunday. We were glad to share with them our enjoyments. Camp was really a home away from home. We are very grateful for the combined efforts of Mr. and Mrs. H. Byard and M. Davis, who so adequately prepared all we needed, and also for Aunties Ev. (Camp Mother), Joan and Dorothy (Cooks), and Uncle Bruce, who helped to keep us happy and contented - as a well-run family should be.

During the camp, campers were divided into three teams, red, white and blue, led by two joint captains - a girl and a boy. Keen competition to gain points for duties and beds, etc., took place, with red team having a narrow victory over the other teams.

These teams not only worked together, but also studied together, and thus shared in every aspect of camping life together. Master Secrets of Prayer was the basis of the studies. Smaller groups of three to four within the team studied the topic, and then shared their thoughts with the team, and later each team shared with the whole camp. Such topics as Definition, Necessity of, Approach to, Hindrances to, and Practical Advice for, Prayer, were discussed. The findings were very helpful and if the campers put these things to work in their own life we will see wonderful things in this year ahead.

Recreational activities included team games, both outside and inside, depending upon weather and time of day; trip up to Mount Wellington, where near blizzard conditions were overcome by a short snappy snow fight, a concert and mock trial. All added to the overall enjoyment of the campers.

Sunday's meetings were inspirational - the breaking of bread meeting at 8 a.m., when our thoughts centred around the resurrection; an offering taken on behalf of the Bethany Boys' Home amounted to £72/-; buzz session on campers' questions in the afternoon; the gospel meeting with thoughts on the Cross - all drew us close to our Lord.

Perhaps some of the deepest experiences of the camp were the -

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How little of the actual blessings received into our hearts this conveys to you. May you have the grace to read between the lines and to share fully with us the blessings of our Lord.

Your friend in Christ,
Uncle Ed. Morrison.

News of British Churches

The College Committee has announced that Dr. William Barclay has consented to give the 11th Joseph Smith Memorial Lecture on the occasion of the College rally next October. The lecture will be on Fishers of Men: N.T. Methods of Evangelism.

One hundred women from the churches in Scotland were present at Netherhall, a conference centre near Largs on the Clyde coast, for their convention. The visiting speakers were Miss McLellan, of the United Nations' Association, and Mrs. Fraser, of the Baptist Union of Scotland.

Two churches, Hucknall and Aberfan, have recently held Inner Missions. Two other churches, Derby and Burslem, have held evangelistic missions, with good results.

Interest in the work of the Social Questions committee has been increased in the churches of South Wales by an extended visit by Sam Mason, organiser. Greater support for the work of the committee has

been promised.

At the yearly meeting of the churches in the Leicester district, it was reported that there had been 21 baptisms during the year. The permanent church at Braunstone is nearing completion, and developments in other areas on the outskirts of the city are being discussed. At the evening session three speakers dealt with the theme, *The Church Reaches Out*. —G. J. Hammond.



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