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THE PRODIGAL CHURCH MEMBER

There once was a church with one member who said to the Official Board, "Give me all the rewards, privileges and joys that go with being a church member that I may take them and enjoy my membership while I am well and able."

And the Board, wanting to be helpful and not unkind, granted the member as much as they could of the blessings and fruits of church membership.

Not long after this, the member left the church in the neglect of his duties, determined to live outside the church. He still retained his membership in the church, however, and even boasted of it. But he did not abide by what was taught in his church, nor did he give much heed to the many appeals by his friends and fellow-members to return to the church and share in its work.

He discarded all notices of church meetings, invitations to worship, the church paper, the little leaflets, and especially all mailings which suggested his giving financial support to the church. Christianity, he told himself, ought to be more spiritual than to suggest men give money.

But one day this member found that his membership had almost disappeared. Few remembered him as a church member, so he checked with the church secretary and found that he was still listed. But what was worse, he felt something missing in

A MODERN PARABLE

V. L. Luse.

his life. No longer were his decisions made with a sureness of conviction, He became more and more suspicious of his neighbors, his relatives and especially of those who "ran the church." He prayed little, except in times of emergency. He even began to doubt that God cared about him.

In desperation he sought help from another who had left the church. But this man left for other reasons. He left in defiance, in the discovery that the church could not be changed to his way of thinking. These two lived together for some time until the Prodigal church member saw that the hate and discord of his newly-



found friend, a true apostle of discord, was not at all helpful, but drove both of them deeper and deeper into dissatisfaction and distrust, and farther and farther away from the church

Finally, the Prodigal church member came to his senses and cried aloud, "Why, in my own church dozens of members who have not been members half as long are much better off!

"What a fool I have been to think that I could have my membership in the church and yet not support it with my attendance, or the giving of my talents and possessions. I have been so foolish to think that I could have a religious faith outside the church. I will go back to my church and say to the whole congregation, 'I have done wrong, in the sight of God and in your eyes. I have wrongly criticised you and your minister, I have resisted your efforts to help me, I have even acted against the church. I don't deserve to be called a church member any more. But please take me in as one who is willing to try to serve, with the hopes of some day being a real member."

So he went back to his local church, and as he neared the church the elders, deacons and others came and greeted and welcomed him. But the Prodigal church member said, "I am not worthy to be called a member of the church."

But they called out, "Hurry, let us have a meeting, let us give this man an opportunity to serve and let us rejoice, for this one who wandered away from the church and its work of redeeming love has returned."

But another church member, hearing the rejoicing but not joining in, asked another, "What is happening?" And it was explained to him all that had happened. Then he made this complaint:

"All these months have I labored with you in the church, I have served on important committees and in many other ways; I have even tithed my time, and possessions, yet you have not rejoiced. I have done all that you asked, but still you have not gone to all the shouting that you have over this man who wasted his membership."

But the elders, being wise, said, "Sir, you have been with us all the time and everything the church has is part of yours. But we had to celebrate and show our joy, for this, your brother; we thought he was lost for good, but he is alive and with us again. It is fitting that we rejoice and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive, he was lost, and is found."—"Christian-Evangelist."

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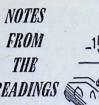
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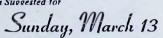
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GENESIS 32: 9-31; 33: 1-4.

Jacob anxiously prepares for his reunion with Esau, first with prayer and then by the sending of gifts. At the ford Jabbok he meets a mysterious Wrestler, and emerges from the struggle with a new name and a greater certainty of divine blessing. Thus strengthened, he goes on to meet Esau, who receives him warmly.

"I am become two bands" (v. 10).—
"Two companies" (R.S.V.). "When "When Jacob first left Canaan, he was a lonely wayfarer, with no companion but his staff: now, blessed by God, he returns with a numerous family and large possessions" (Dummelow).

"there wrestled a man with him" (v. 24).—"Who was the antagonist? Not Esau, not any human foe, not a river God, but the Almighty God of Righteousness, forcing him to make his reckoning. The O.T. story is dramatising here the consequence that comes to every soul that has tried too long to evade the truth about itself" (Bowie).

"except thou bless me" (v. 26). -"Jacob received the final lesson that humbled and broke down his selfwill, and convinced him that he could not snatch the blessing from God's hand, but must accept it as a gift" (Dummelow).

MARK 7: 24-37.

Following the record of how a Syrophoenician woman's persistent faith wins healing for her daughter, Mark tells how Jesus heals a deaf and dumb man.

"unto the dogs" (v. 27). - "There were dogs and dogs in Palestine fierce and wild, marauding beasts; and the diminutive dogs that had their place in the household. This word the Master used was one of these diminutives; and there is so much in diminutives! No one can use them without there being tenderness in the voice" (Morgan). "Jesus' tone of voice makes all the difference" (Barclay).

"under the table" (v. 28). - Eating, as they did, with their hands, people then "wiped the soiled hands on chunks of bread, and then flung the bread away, and the house-dogs

ate it" (Barclay).

"took him aside" (v. 33). - "Everything Jesus did was designed to break down any possible psychic barrier, building up the man's confidence" (Davies).

From his experience as a delegate to the First National Conference of Australian Churches, C. L. SMITH (Hampton, Vic.) looks at a task we are . . .

COMMITTED TO CONTINUE

God has been using dedicated individuals to speak his word concerning unity to the Churches. But now the ground has been prepared and there must be a widening institutional and "churchly" sharing of this concern. This has been true in Australia as overseas, and now the first National Church Conference has committed a very wide section of the Church in Australia to that dialogue, "which must remove the 'specters' which stand in the way of real encounter . . . not . . . a disputation between adversaries, but the form of a constructive encounter between partners" (Visser 't Hooft, The Pressure of Our Common Calling, 74-75).

That the concern for unity has not yet captured the loyalty of the bulk of church members seems clear from the relatively small numbers attending the public meetings of the Conference. But a correlation assumed between numbers at meetings and the blessing of the Holy Spirit can quickly lead us into strange company! The long list of delegates (about 450) from the many Churches and organisations participating makes gratitude rise in me that so many are in fact costingly involved in this obedience to Christ. God-given unity would be a rich gift to Christians, who need desperately the sharing of the Spirit's gifts to the Churches. Above all, it would mean obedient witness to those outside of Christ, for there would be less room for that evasion which so often rebuffs the evangelist, "I belong to someone else." We must continue in faith that what has been already accomplished in the growth of charity between Churches and Christians in the reaching out of aid to human need, and in stimulus to Biblical and theological thought, is only an earnest of what God has for our obedience.

Richness in Worship

There was a richness about the worship of the Conference. The wonderful use of the Bible and prepared prayer, morning by morning, by the Archbishop of Melbourne, and his final address, based on the account of the transfiguration, set the whole Conference in a context of prayer.

1 Peter came vividly alive through the lucid, incisive preaching of Bishop Newbigin day by day, so that God moved often upon the congregation in Melba Hall. For many of us some of the most treasured memories of the Conference will be of what he said and of what he is. The fact

that in the first week of the Conference more time was given to Bible introduction and small-group studies of 1 Peter (using the booklet prepared by Dr. F. Nichol), than was given to the work of the Commissions, was as it should be. The Biblical motivation of the ecumenical movement was, for me, confirmed. On the last Wednesday morning



M. M. Thomas — Indian guest, whose clear thinking made a fine contribution to the Conference.

Trinity chapel was packed for a Church of South India communion service conducted by Bishop Lipp. That service witnessed to a hunger for a deeper fellowship still commonly denied by our divisions.

This context of prayer and worship surely explains the absence of heat and bitterness in the discussion of serious matters in the Conference.

The task of chairing the business sessions must have caused Dr. Watson and his helpers much anxiety, but by a good-humored flexibility the time-table was observed, discussion was not stifled, and important decisions were made. On many farreaching proposals there was an amazing unanimity. The detailed reporting of the work done by the five Commissions will come before you in due course, and cannot be

attempted here. I can only suggest what seemed to me to be some "points of distinct emphasis."

The Missionary Task

1. There was a growth in awareness of the total obligation resting upon the whole Church to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, and claim for Christ every aspect of human life. The missionary task has been too much the concern of individuals and agencies. The call of God to unity has been in something of the same situation. Now the "mission" of the Church (i.e., "its total task in the world") and "missions" (i.e., "to go outside the existing areas of Christian belief in order to bear witness to Christ") are being seen as facets of the one obedience. In Australia this is symbolised by the negotiations to integrate the National Missionary Council and the Australian Council for the World Council of Of Churches.

Bishop Newbigin has said:

"There can be no true ecumenical movement except that which is missionary through and through, for there can be no true doctrine of the Church which is not held, so to say, in the tension of urgent obedience between the Saviour and the world he came to save."

The Spirit's Leading

2. There was a pressure upon us to take the fact of the present work and sovereignty of the Holy Spirit seriously. He who is the life-giver and only sufficient minister of Christ was, and is, calling us into new patterns of obedience in "mission" and "missions."

Our brotherhood should be able to respond more readily than some of our more ecclesiastically sophisticated brethren. It is this which I have in mind when I say that I belong to Churches of Christ not simply for what they have been but for what they can be. And yet we become tied to traditions and have to be pried out of them repeatedly. An open-ness to the leading of the Spirit through Word and circumstance is a New Testament characteristic! If we deny God's calling today, to mission and unity, then we will speedily be brought to judgment. Indeed, our present impotence in witness, and the scandal of our divisions, is God's judgment.

Bishop Newbigin is surely right in his attempt to begin drawing into the ecumenical movement not simply the Catholic and Protestant insights, but also what he calls the "Pentecostal" — i.e., "... the Christian life is a matter of the experienced power and presence of the Holy Spirit today."

We know how extensive is this current in the world Christian scene today. It, without the insights of its complementary streams of tradition, is of course unbalanced. But reckon with it we must, for God is thrusting us into the encounter. There is here the possibility of freedom from institutional inertia, and yet a receiving from the past of "God's selfmanifestation in Jesus Christ, who possesses all men who receive him" (A. C. Outler).

Take the World Seriously

3. There was a sustained call to take the "world" seriously. There has been much confusion about the Biblical teaching at this point. Almost every speaker made some attempt to draw into focus that "God owns the world as well as the Church" (A. Booth). Bishop Newbigin said in his opening address: "The truth is that the movement of which the gospel speaks is that within which world history is enclosed, that Jesus Christ is not one of the figures of world history. He is Alpha and Omega; he from whom world history begins and in whom it is summed up and brought to its conclusion." We have not been bold enough in appropriating the fulness of the doctrine of creation in Genesis, and of the "new creation" in Jesus Christ.

Professor Takenaka suggested that some have in fact interpreted John 3: 16 as "God so feared the world that he gave the Church to save some out of the world." H. Ruedi-Weber caricatured some sorts of evangelism as "extractive evangelism," with the Church as the safe place where hands and conscience can be washed, and a costly identification with the world in witness and service can be shirked. In Christ we are only free from the world to serve the world. This is the arena of our struggle, and in Dr. Nichol's words, "... we need our faces pushed into the complexity of human existence..."

Take the Church-Community Seriously

4. We were called to take the Church-community seriously. M. M. Thomas, at a point of discussion on the report of the first Commission, drew attention to its tone of individualism which had quite escaped our Australian notice! The men from Asia knew what Bishop Newbigin meant when he said, "It is surely a fact of inexhaustible significance that what our Lord left behind him was

not a book, nor a creed, nor a system of thought, nor a rule of life, but a visible community." Outler highlights the significance of this fact when he speaks of the recovery "of Christian community over the principle of "pure doctrine" "making possible the "mutual recognition of Christians as Christians the precondition of ecumenical work rather than the goal." It is at the point of excessive emphasis on individualism that our own Movement has some hard thinking to do.

Space fails me now, but allow me

one final comment. I overheard a table conversation which began on a note of surprise that "Churches of Christ were participating in the Conference." One of the secretaries was able to chasten that surprise by reference to our New Zealand record. And, of course, he knew the vital roles which members of our churches were playing in the administration and conduct of the Conference. As a brotherhood we have reason for gratitude for the work done over many years by our members in the ecumenical movement in Australia.

POS WOMEN

Programme for April

Mrs. C. Connell, Qld.

Theme:

"Great Wisdom" - Psalm 19

MEDITATION.

"He spoke of grass and wind and rain,

And fig trees and fair weather; And made it his delight to bring Heaven and earth together.

"He spoke of lilies, corn and vines, The sparrow and the raven: And words so natural yet so wise Were on men's hearts engraven.

"And yeast and bread and flax and cloth,

And eggs and fish and candles— See how the whole familiar world He most divinely handles."

HYMN.

No. 61, "The spacious firmament on high" — Joseph Addison's expression of the thought contained in the first verse of today's psalm — "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handywork."

PRAYER.

"Accept our thanks, O loving Father, for the revelation of thyself and thy great wisdom which thou didst give through Jesus Christ our Lord.

"Shine, now, into our hearts with the pure light of that knowledge of thyself; open the eyes of our minds to the simplicity of thy profound wisdom, so that in all things we may both think and act according to thy good pleasure, that truly the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts may be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen."

BIBLE READING.

Psalm 19.

DEVOTIONAL.

Worldly wisdom is where we expect it. Divine wisdom comes from the unsuspected quarters which the world holds in derision. Christ, the revelation of Divine Wisdom, chose the insignificant Bethlehem for his birth, the ridiculed Nazareth for his youth, but the glorious Jerusalem for the shame of his death. "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" was said — Nazareth, in Galliee, a despised region in the eyes of cultured Judaeans! Yet the "Light of the World" was a Galliean! Infinite Wisdom chooses the "foolish things" to confound the self-wise and proud.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

Christ's hearers, sneering at his "village" schooling, asked "How can he know? He hasn't studied." How did he know? He knew what he knew because, in addition to his human intellect, he had a wisdom not schooltaught, not self-taught, nor even Godtaught. The secret of his wisdom lay in what they never suspected — his oneness with the Heavenly Father.

Our Divine Master identified Divine Wisdom with himself when he said, "I am the Way; I am Truth and Life; nobody can come to the Father except through me. If you had learned to recognise me, you would have learned to recognise my Father too." Without the way, there is no knowing, and without the life, there is no living; and all three are lovable once they have become personal. The Father is hard to discover unless he be seen through the loving and lovable personality of his Son, who is the only means of communication with the Father.

David, the poet-king, when penning the lines of today's Psalm, surely

glimpsed something of the perfection of Divine Wisdom yet to be re-vealed: "The law of the Lord is perfect -, the testimony of the Lord is sure —, the statutes of the Lord are right —, the commandment of the Lord is pure —, the fear of the Lord is clean —, the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous."

The Psalms, though the product of one dispensation, have become the property of two - Jewish and Christian. As the product of the Jewish, the poetic imagery that fills their lines is easily traceable to that "museum country," Palestine, varying as it does from arid desert to snow-capped peaks; its vines and

fruits, its valleys thick with corn and shining with lilies, its mountains, tor-rents, rivers and lakes, its beasts of prey - all are there in the Psalms. As the property also of the Christian dispensation, the Psalms are as liv-ing now as when they were written; they are now what they have been for centuries — an expression of the deepest religious experiences man can know. When our simple minds attempt to comprehend the wonder of Divine Wisdom who loved to the extent of becoming flesh, dwelling amongst men, even fulfilling his own law's demands in order to reveal the way back to himself, surely, in deep humility, we say again with David,

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer."

No. 4, "Awake, my tongue, thy tribute bring."

BUSINESS.

ADDRESS.

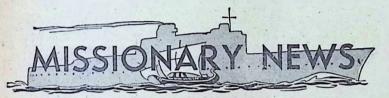
MISSIONARY NEWS.

MISSIONARY PRAYER.

HYMN.

No. 57, "Praise ye the Lord! 'tis good to raise."

BENEDICTION.



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

Witnessing case

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Jesus. "No, never." "Would you like to hear of this One whom God sent into the world to be a Saviour, and to bring us close to himself?" "Yes, tv a few

know much of Christ and admire him, but somehow do not feel their need of him, nor of turning from idols to serve the true and living Others, with true hearts, seek God. earnestly to find and worship the true God, but are yet in darkness without the knowledge of that one Name by which men must be saved. Brethren, pray for India, for I firmly believe that it is only through prayer and a mighty work of the Spirit of God that victories will be won in such hearts as these. - Dorothy Geyer, Baramati, India.

WHEN SOARS the SOUL

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

Father, we thank thee for the power we have felt in others' surrendered lives. May there be something in our own which will draw men closer to thee. Amen.

Tuesday, March 15

Romans 10: 4-13.

Thought Text: "Boundless resources are available to all who turn to him in faith" (v. 12, Phillips).

"Boundless resources available to all!" — it sounds like the Eldorado of man's age-long dreaming. But Paul isn't writing of those material riches, on whose possession some men pin their hopes of happiness. As he put it so triumphantly to the Corinthians: "As having nothing, and yet possessing all things!" (2 Cor. 6: 10).

Yet so many Christians live on only a fraction of their inheritance, limiting life's possibilities with their lack of faith. Is that how it is with my life?

O thou who didst come that men might have life, and have it In the same way, real Christian worship is no formal duty, but the joyous response of the overflowing heart, pledging itself gladly to the Master's service. That demands the stewardship of time, talents and treasure — a response in which nothing is held back.

Even then, we can never fully repay the debt of love we owe. But let what we have to give be given with love, and God can do with it beyond our dreaming.

Lord, keep me true to all I have pledged for thee, and ready to go beyond it, at love's urging. Amen.

Friday, March 18

Psalm 145: 1-9.

Thought Text: "I will declare thy greatness" (v. 6).

The Psalmist makes it quite clear that when he says in verse 4: "One generation shall praise thy works to another," he isn't just indulging in a comfortable generalisation, and responsibility out

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v. 1, 2, 5, 6).
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Theme for the Week: "PERSONAL RELIGION"

Sunday, March 13

Acts 9: 1-9.

Thought Text: "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (v. 6).

It was typical of the man who had flung himself with such restless energy into the persecution of Christianity that, once convinced of his tragic mistake, his first thought was, "What can I do for Christ?"

But before he could do



MIY

Praise my soul, the King of heaven: To his feet thy tribute bring;

Ransom'd, heal'd, restor'd, forgiven, Who like thee his praise should

sing?"

It is so easy to sing when all is going well with us, but how very difficult when we are in trouble.—

John Walker in "Christian World."

His Personal Concern

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."—1 Peter 5: 7.

J. B. Phillips puts it thus: "You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon him, for you are his personal concern."

That is a good paraphrase, is it not? "You are his personal concern." There is a difference between the two words translated care and careth in our text in the Greek. Dr. James Moffatt gives us the following translation: "Let all your old anxieties fall upon him, for his great interest is in you." But my old Principal, Dr. W. M. McGregor, with unerring scholarly insight puts it thus: "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth without anxiety for you."

A distinguished surgeon, who was often asked to write in autograph books, used to say: "I'll give you the best prescription I have ever known

O taste and see that the Lord is
good'." And a friend of mine, the late Dr. J. Douglas Adam, used to say whenever I met him in Highbury New Park, London, when he was minister of Highbury Quadrant Church, "Keep believing." A certain medical officer of health in one of our large cities once said this: "We might add twenty years to life, if we could only twenty years to life, if we could only get rid of three things — worry, hurry, and flurry." Jesus often reproved his immediate disciples for unbelief and fear and anxiety. On one occasion they cried out in a crisis: "Master, Master, carest thou not that we perish?" But he calmly replied: "Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?"

A good friend of mine from London, Ontario, told me that when his father-in-law was undergoing a his father-in-law was undergoing a serious operation the doctor for some reason or other gave him a local annesthetic, and the patient suffered a good deal. Another doctor said to the patient: "Why don't you curse the surgeon?" But he meekly replied: "I've been trying to sing in my heart that beguifful hymn which my heart that beautiful hymn which regins:

The Home Missionary

He pushes out the frontiers of life, He is the gallant pioneer of God, His wide-flung State is not too big

for him, He hears the call wherever man has trod.

He knows no boundaries of race or class.

No color bar is smeared across his plan, His heart is like his Master's, big

enough

To shalter and to succor every man.

He shares with all their problems and their joys,

They know their secrets he will always keep,

The children love him, and the aged smile, And close their tired eyes in

peaceful sleep.

He meditates wherever he may go. With God within him he is not alone, He knows the mystery of his com-

pany, And sees his work in every tree

and stone. But nothing thrills his yearning heart as much

dawning light that shines in human eyes, Revealing God has softly entered

in Another soul, who with his life

replies.

-F. Oswald Barnett in "The Spectator."

In H. G. Wood's biography of the late Dr. T. R. Glover, there is this

One holiday Sunday, Glover was present at the little village church. The preacher was a local man, original, but much esteemed. In one seat sat Dr. Glover, Prof. Rendell Harris and Dr. W. B. Selbie, all visitors, and all men of outstanding ability as scholars and preachers. The old local preacher began by saying he had asked one of the three visitors to preach, but as they all had re-fused, he must do it himself. "Now," he said, "you must not worry or think about who is giving you the bread, but concentrate on the bread itself."

Hearing this, Rendell Harris turned to Glover and said, "That's the best thing I have ever heard about preaching - not the man who gives you the bread, but the bread itself, that's what really counts!" —Murray J. Savage.

The Heart or the Liver

We love the Lord with the heart, but the Karre people of French Equatorial Africa love him with the liver. The Conob Indians of Guatemala love him with their stomachs, and the Marshall Islanders in the South Pacific love him with their throats.

But do all these different wordsheart, liver, stomach or throat — make any difference in the meaning of love? Not in the least. The words may change but the message is the same. It is for this reason that the message of the Scriptures can be communicated into all the different languages of the earth. Though we may say, "I press toward the mark" (Philippians 3: 14), and the Navajo Indians say " I run with my mouth open," it is one and the same message which goes forth.-Eugene A. Nida.

Your Upper Koom Bernice Ayers Hall.

There is an Upper Room, as friends, they met-Stout fishermen. how fragile their belief! Could dear, familiar things help them forget? Could boats and flashing sails assuage their grief? Oh, one blest moment, and they were aware There is no death! Lo, Christ was standing there! All through the long-drawn centuries he stands! And oh, that moment you behold his feet, His pierced side, the nail prints in his hands,
And know his presence beautiful and sweet—

Lo, from that one momentous, sacred hour

You, too, as they, must witness for his power! Where love abides to strengthen and illume-There is your Christ, and there your Upper Room!

Clerk: How can I stop women customers from talking about the low

prices in the good old days?
Floorwalker: Act surprised, and tell them you didn't think they were old enough to remember them.

HERE AND THERE

V. T. Parker has entered his 7th year as minister at Annerley, Qld. It is regretted that Mrs. Parker has been ill for many weeks.

The church at Lygon-st., Carlton, Vic., entertained the Federal College of the Bible community at tea on Mon., Feb. 22. R. J. Duckett, representing the church, expressed good wishes for the 1960 session of College, and especially welcomed new students. This function, convened by Mrs. N. Haddow, was one of the happiest in memory. Following the tea, Dr. W. A. Kemp presided over the Inaugural Session, when Les. E. Snow delivered a fine message to the students. The music, provided by the College Quartet Party, was also much enjoyed.—K. A. Jones, Sec.

Subscriptions to "The Australian Christian" are now payable, and subscribers are requested to make prompt renewal and assist us in reducing overhead costs. Postage rates were partly increased late in 1959 and the additional rate authorised by the Federal Government, but deferred as a result of protests, becomes effective on March 1. These costs and the marginal increases of 28% to employees have not been passed on to subscribers; your subscription is unaltered for 1960. A subscription form is printed on the last page of this Issue for subscribers' convenience. Prompt payment would greatly assist this office. In keeping with modern business practice, receipts will not be issued unless especially requested.

The annual sports carnival of the PI Christian Fraternal Orders (affiliated with VIc.-Tas. Churches of Christ Youth Dept.) will be held on Monday, March 14. Melbourne readers are invited to see the Kappas and Phis in action at Dolamore Oval, Mentone. The ground is in Nepean Highway, just past the round-about at Balcombe-rd., near Second-st. The oval is a recently constructed amateur track. —M. J. Anderson, General State Scribe,

The morning service of the Park-st,. Unley church, S.A., will be broadcast through station 5DN, at 11 a.m. (S.A. time) on March 13. C. H. J. Wright, B.A., will be the speaker.

Excellent attendance marked the concluding services on Sunday, Feb. 14, of the fruitful ministry of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. A. Pieper, at Taree, N.S.W. Mr. Pieper spoke on both occasions, and the largest number for any one Sunday in the history of the church

communed that day. There were two haptisms and nine were welcomed into fellowship, and at the close of the gospel service there was another decision. On Monday evening, 15th, a social evening was extended to Mr. and Mrs. Pieper prior to their departure for Albion. This was under the chairmanship of A. W. Billingham (church sec.) who voiced the appreciation of the officers and members of a work faithfully carried out. Others to speak were Mrs. H. H. Cox. (ladies), D. E. Billingham (B.S. and C.E.) — both making presentations — and Brigadler A, V. Boaden (Ministers' Fraternal). The chairman presented Mr. and Mrs. Pieper with a travelling rug and a wallet of notes. Mr. and Mrs. Pleper made suitable acknowledgments.

Australian registrations for the Edinburgh World Convention of Churches of Christ now number 170. Overall registrations up to Feb. 1 were 1,705, thus giving us a 10 per cent representation. The Australian Committee is very gratified with this response. Some delegates have already left Australia, but the main party sails on the "Orontes," due to leave Melbourne on May 28. Programming details have not yet been completed, but information already received shows that Australia has been given good representation on the platform and in discussion groups, etc.

As indicated in an advertisement in this issue, opening date for the church building at Mt. Gambier, S.A., has been postponed to April 30.

The officers of the Ringwood (Vic.) church went into conference at Dromana over the second weekend in February to "think through" the problems confronting the rapid expansion of the church, and to lay the foundations of a three-year plan for church growth. The conference considered five phases of work: worship, prayer in the life of the church, evangelism, membership conservation, Christian education — with special bearing on adult classes. Small discussion groups considered questions raised in a prepared, thought-provoking statement by the minister (J. H. Cain) of the conditions and needs of the Ringwood church. These discussion groups were followed by plenary sessions, when a common mind was sought, and decisions made. The fellowship was rich and the attempt to come to grips with the real work of the church in the community was stimulating and enlightening.

The next meeting of the Ministers' Fraternal of Churches of Christ in Victoria will be held on Monday, March 7, at 2 p.m. The speaker will be Mr. Newman Rosenthal, Head of the Department of Visual Aids of the University of Melbourne. Mr. Rosenthal will discuss some aspects of the social significance of television. Members are reminded of the luncheon fellowship at 1 p.m. We are pleased to be able to announce the speaker for the Fraternal's session at the forthcoming Easter Conference, on Thursday, April 14, 2 p.m. He will be Dr. Cunningham Dax, Director of the Mental Hygiene Dept. of Vic. All members should make a note of this occasion and plan to be in attendance.—R. W. Longthorn, Sec.

News of British Churches

Ten years ago a new church was opened at Braunstone, Leicester, in one of the city's largest housing estates. The development of the work has made necessary additional accommodation, and the utility all-purposes chapel which has served so far is to be replaced by a permanent building. The foundation stone of this was laid by A. D. Carmichael, C.B.E. in the presence of visitors from the district churches, and from other Midland churches. A service was conducted by James Gray, and the preacher for the weekend was Sam Mason. The nucleus of the membership at Braunstone was drawn from the Andrewes-st, church, which had to be closed down owing to replanning schemes.

A new chapel was built at Coventry a few years ago, in the knowledge that the district was scheduled for replanning. Since it was opened, the church has been marking time. Elevenstorey flats are now being built adjacent to the chapel, and with the repopulation of the area, the church is expecting its work to develop.

Members of the Christian Women's Fellowship in the London churches held a training course, which was conducted by May Segain, the C.W.F. organising secretary.

organising secretary.

Gifts to the World Refugee Year

Fund, sent through the Social Questions Committee, total nearly £3,000.

Overdale College students are to hold two Crusades this year. Teams will visit the churches at Netherfield and Bethesda, Manchester.

At Evington-rd., Leicester, anniversary it was reported that offerings had reached a record figure during the year. Work among young people is especially promising. K. C. Burdett, formerly of India, is minister in succession to Eric T. Hart, who returned to Australia.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Stoke-on-Trent attended a party at Burslem to honor Mrs. F. Smith on her 90th birthday. —G. J. Ham-



Discipleship

Mr. Williams, Croydon, Vic. R. Mason, Fremantle, W.A. Mr. MacPherson, Garry MacPherson, Ian Watson, Footscray, Vic. Ken Danes, Yarrawonga, Vic. John Watson, Beverly Hills, N.S.W. Peter Owen, Ararat, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. Max. Pankhurst, Eric Latimore, Mrs. J. Edwards, Berice Murray, Kaye Emerton, Gae Dries, Jennifer Bishop, Susan Billingham, Ross Murray, Noel Pullen, Taree, N.S.W.

Membership

Mrs. Williams, to Croydon, Vic. Mr. and Mrs. Carb, to Bundaberg, Qld.

Mrs. Dunn, to Footscray, Vic. Mr. and Mrs. I. Atwell, Mr. Newitt, Mrs. Roberts, Portland Baptist to Portland, Vic.

Barbara McCredden, from Box Hill, Vic.; Allen Crisp, from Albion, Qld., to Wattle Park, Vic.

Glynne Pietzsch, St. Kilda to Maidstone. Vic.

Marriage

Sylvia Bonney to Ian Carter, Footscray, Vic.

Ruth McKirdy to Pieter Boshma, Wattle Park, Vic.

Fay Akam, Moreland, to Len Williams, Coburg, Vic.

Kathleen Prentis to Bill Jones, Burwood, N.S.W.

Fallen Asleep

Mrs. O. P. Kitto, W. J. Rudd, Glenelg, S.A. Mrs. H. W. Hermann, Alblon, Qld. Mr. Howlett, Ararat, Vic. James Workman, Moreland, Vic. Mr. Vears, Burwood, N.S.W.

AUST. CAPITAL TERRITORY

Canberra (G. R. Stirling, B.A.). Av. attendances for four Sundays to Feb. 21 were: a.m., 131; p.m., 102; communed, 131. On Feb. 14, church enjoyed message from S. R. Baker, and participation of R. F. Geyer in both services. Many other visitors to Canberra for opening of B. & F. B. S. Memorial Bible House were also welcomed. Church regrets removal of Mr. and Mrs. Warwick Randall and family to Ringwood, Vic., and of Miss Heather Stirling to Sydney for training as occupational therapist. B. Buffinton is recovering well from sur-gery. R. Fergie has been welcomed back from Adelaide for a short period. On 21st, Ross Rugendyke preached at morning service and G. R. Stirling at night. B.S. attendance of 205 on 21st was record. All youth activities are in good heart. Voluntary work of many members and friends is helping ensure completion of new buildings to schedule,

TASMANIA

Invermay (R. S. Hoffman). -- On Feb. 14, T. Turriff (chairman, Vic.-Tas. Aborigines Com.) preached at night, and afterwards screened slides of work being done among Aborigines. R. S. Hoffman spoke at both services on 21st, when aims for 1960 were launched. These include increased attendances, and giving through duplex envelopes; emphasis on evangelism as continuing task of church; reduction of debt on manse, with view to strengthening Building Fund. Election of elders resulted in appointment of H. B. Martin, D. W. Lee and C. R. Edmunds.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Subiaco (A. W. C. Candy). — Attendances on Feb. 21 were: a.m., 113; p.m., 147, Aborigines offering was £145, Y.P. camped at Waterman's Bay for three days and returned for Subjaco evening service. John Penrose presided at camp communion service. Mr. and Mrs. A. Lee were camp father and mother.

Fremantle (L. Donaldson). and Mrs. Donaldson have settled happily into work of church. After gospel message on Jan. 17 a man made his decision to follow Christ. Attendances are still improving, with averages over last five weeks; a.m. 122; p.m. 85; breaking bread, 128. Midweck prayer

meetings have also grown in numbers. Weekly church paper, Fellowship, has been commenced. After several years as Primary supt., Miss Laurel Robartson has resigned, owing to her approaching marriage. Miss. Olwyn Thomson is new supt. Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Williamson and A. Vanstan have been ill. Church enjoyed fellowship with large number of country visitors over holiday period. Church con-gratulates Dixie Willis on being chosen to join State women's team for National Athletic Championships in Hobart during March.

QUEENSLAND

Albion. - Members mourn passing of Mrs. H. W. Hermann, very active member for many years. Chapel was crowded for funeral service. During Feb. a series of addresses on My Best for the Church was given by mem-bers and visiting speakers. Speaker at evening service on 21st was Reg. Goldsworthy (formerly of Kaniva, Vic.). Fluorescent lights have been installed in chapel and have improved its lighting and appearance. Working bees have been held at manse each Saturday. Ladles have assisted by providing meals.

Annerley, Moorooka, Salisbury (V. T. Parker). — First circuit meeting of the three churches with H.M. rep., showed keenness in work. V. Parker was elected pres. and Will Finger, sec. Salisbury attendances have been encouraging. B.S. is under leadership of Kevin Reade, who also assists in circuit preaching. Two decisions were received over the past month. T. Hallop was welcomed into circuit on Feb. 7, at Moorooka church, followed with fellowship tea. J. McCormick and C. G. Flood inspired those present with challenging address. Church has purchased manse and is painting it by voluntary labor. Eric Byram has donated and erected floodlit wayside sign, 5 x 3 ft. Annerley attendances have been excellent. On 14th, chapel was crowded at morning services; 7 adults and 1 young girl were baptised. Four were received into fellowship on 21st. Annual meeting of church showed progress. H. J. Lee and L. Martin were elected as elders; Will Finger, sec., H. More, treas., and board of 9 deacons.

Bundaberg (S. W. Vanham), -Two were received into membership on Feb. 14. Mr. and Mrs. Vanham visited Gladstone on 7th and Mr. Vanham preached at both services. C.W.F. has resumed meetings. Mrs. Van-ham was elected pres., Mrs. Linsdell, vice-pres., Mrs. W. Pohle, sec., Mrs. Dewar, treas. Special meeting of women was addressed by Pres. of Women's Conference, Mrs. S. Hoens, on 15th.

Rockhampton (W. J. Davidson).— Church is grateful to R. Dobbs, H. Clow, N. Watson (Conf. Sec.), H. Hospital and G. Shanks who took services during minister's vacation. G. Cullen has been elected church sec. and T. Jones treas. H. Clow has been appointed leader of C.Y.F. Church enjoyed visit of Conf. Pres., G. V. Haigh and Mrs. Haigh during Australia Day weekend. Mrs. Haigh addressed ladies after gospel service. First monthly service at Moongan for year was held on Feb. 14. C.W.F. at William-st. elected as pres., Mrs. W. J. vice-pres., Mesdames J. Davidson: Fury and T. J. Jones; treas., Mrs. K. Dempsey. Fellowship was enjoyed with recent visitors: T. Orr (Melb.). Mr. and Mrs. N. Jones and K. Jones (Mackay), Mr. and Mrs. Lowe and family (Toowoomba), Mr. and Mrs. N. Watson and family (Ann-st.), Mr. and Mrs. Thoday, en route to min-ister at Mackay.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Belmore (F. D. Craig). — A young lady has made her decision. There was good support for Mudgee work by members, with over £160 in hand so far. Appreciated visiting speaker on Jan. 24 was C. P. Hughes (org. sec., S.A. Temperance Alliance). Two half-nights of prayer were organised for Mudgee, and Hawthorne missions. C. Bowser was the missioner for Mudgee, and A. Webb, A. Leane and B. Benz are missioners for Hawthorne, Old. Both Messrs, Bowser and Webb have been with Belmore since they first started B.S. On Feb. 6, C.W.F. held missionary evening. S. M. Fairfull (Australian Missionary Aviation Fellowship) screened two films concerning that work; over £12 was raised for missionary parcels.

Canley Vale (D. Hammer, .jnr.). —
Annual business meeting was held on
Feb. 6, after tea provided by C.Y.F.
Officers were re-elected, with exception of changes made for health
reasons. Vic. Stimson continues to
improve, and was at morning service
on 21st. Main objective of church
this year is commencement of new
hall at rear.

Hornsby. — At gospel service on 17th, Misses N, Dallinger, E, and M. Maskill contributed in song. Church pienle was held on Australia Day at Caddle Park. Church attended Caringbah mission on 4th. Mrs. Dallinger during this year will be conducting religious instruction in some of the local schools. K, R, Fennell has been

appointed leader of C.Y.F. Annual offering for Aborigines Missions amounted to £19/16/6. After-church fellowship on 14th was conducted by Mr. Bartholomew. At the gospel service the film, A Faithful Witness, was screened. Recent speakers have been Messrs. Dallinger, Ellerby, Hall, Kallmier and Bartholomew.

Albury - Wodonga - Lavington. - YP, from 3 churches attended Cheshunt camps over holiday period; Mr. and Mrs. Winch, Mr. and Mrs. D. Oldfield were among leaders. Happy Hour at Lavington showed good attendance, reaching 52. Recent visitors included Misses Roberts (Sydney) and Croaker; Aub. Jackel and Barry, S. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker, Sis. Harbottle, Mr. and Mrs. R. Greenhalgh. Mr. Greenhalgh addressed a fellow-ship tea. All three B.S. and clubs are in full swing again after the holiday break, during which time church was greatly assisted by the fellowship and work of Mr. and Mrs. D. Oldfield, who endeared themselves to all. Sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Beach and family in passing of Mrs. Beach's father, also to Mr. and Mrs. Martin in loss of their son Edward. Albury C.W.F. ladies made gift to church of three lovely new platform chairs; presidents for ensuing year are: Albury, Mrs. A. Pickett; Laving-ton, Miss B. Morris.

Beverly Hills (R. W. Beadle). — Special addresses during Feb. have attracted large congregations. At close of evening service on 7th, a young man made good confession, and baptismal service was held on 14th. There were 42 members present at C.M.S. meeting on 21st to hear talk on The Blood, by Dr. Campbell (Burwood). Church expresses thanks to all speakers who took minister's place during his holidays.

Inverell (G. H. Earle). — C.W.F. held successful street stall during month. At meeting held on 17th, programme for year was submitted to ladies, and promises to be most interesting. Minister has begun series of special ermons.

Burwood (A. G. Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.). — Church picnic, on Feb. 1, at Cattai Creek, proved very successful. Delegations have visited Caringbah "New Life Crusade" on recent Thursday evenings. C.W.F. opening meeting for year was held at manse on 11th. Building operations in connection with new youth hall are well on the way. Special working bees, in which men of church served under direction of Mr. Leach and his helpers, have prepared way for builders. Dr. Elliott has commenced a new series of Wednesday evening studies on The Church and the Churches. Men's service on 21st was well attended. Church was saddened in sudden passing of Mr. Vears.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Fullarton (J. C. Cunningham). — There was a good attendance at morning worship on Feb. 21. Fellowship was enjoyed with Mr. and Mrs. Norup (Moorooka, Qld.). E. Stevens was soloiste.

Glenelg (C. E. Curtis). — Fellowship has been enjoyed with many visitors during recent weeks, among them Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Wilson, Jill and Lynne (Brighton, Vic.). Seven Asian students, from Overseas Christian Fellowship Conference, shared in helpful morning service. Thanks are due to Messrs. Beiler, Lockett, Mathieson, Barrington and Mauger, who occupied pulpit during minister's holidays. Graduation service marked opening of C.E. societies for 1960. Two girls from B.S. were baptised on Feb. 14, having confessed their faith in Christ at C.E. Christmas camp.

Grote-st., Adelaide (L. E. Jones).—Attendances at recent meetings have been excellent. C.Y.F. held first meeting for year on Fcb. 19, with devotional, followed by a barbecue at The Gorge. A man made his decision at gospel meeting on 21st. C.W.F. held first meeting for year on 14th, and elected officers for ensuing year. Church extends sympathy to Mrs. Bagshaw and family in passing of her father. W. Watson (choir-master) has taken up duties after recent illness.

Hindmarsh (H. E. Greenwood).—B.S. teachers gave pre-wedding evening to former kinder teacher, Rosalind Hallett. Feb. 14 was observed as Family Sunday, with 116 at morning service; 101 communicants. Aborigines offering was £47. Mr. Bell screened latest slides of Aborigines Missions on 10th. Attendances have suffered from unusual number of serious illnesses. B.S. picnic was held at National Park on 20th, when school was host to 30 Aborigine children from Colebrook Home.

Unley (C. H. J. Wright, B.A.). — Excellent meetings marked services on Feb. 14, when minister was welcomed back after annual holiday. Over 200 attended both morning and evening services. Well attended annual business meeting was held on 17th. Reports submitted showed all phases of the work in a healthy condition. Sir Philip Messent was re-elected elder, and Messrs. R. P. Gitsham, E. V. Lawton, P. W. S. Messent, C. R. Tonkin and D. G. Whyatt were elected deacons. Mesdames Bowes, Curtis, McCallum, Misses L. Batchelor, D. Gore, D. Hart and D. Walden are assisting with visitation of some church homes this year. C.Y.F., led by Peter Johnson, shows an average weekly attendance of 40-45 at its meetings. These Y.P. are loyal in their church attendance, and many assist in various ways in the services.

VICTORIA

Brighton (S. H. Wilson). — On Feb. 14, a teachers' dedication was held during morning service. School has six new teachers and also six new scholars. Adult education group is meeting during school time on Sundays. C.M.S. enjoyed 3.D. films screened by R. P. Morris, this year's pres., on 15th. On 16th, C.S.F. presented £5 to Inter-Church Aid after seeing film on that work. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Minnis on loss of her husband. A young lad was baptised on 14th. Messrs. Chambers, Forrest and Regis have been in hospital. David Verco and Bill Graham (Chalswood) have visited church.

Emerald (H. I. Walmsley).—Church was pleased to have fellowship with visitors during holidays. On Feb. 14, C.E. Quartet took evening service, which was well attended by church members and people of the district. In the morning the BS. held its promotion day. Four Y.P. have been added to staff of school. Mrs. Sercombe is holidaying at Lorne after her long illness.

Maryborough. — Feb. 7 marked commencement of interim ministry with J. Plummer (Middle Park) for month of Feb. Recent annual meetings and election of office-bearers for coming year were: Ladles' Ald: pres., Mrs. F. Drake; sec., Mrs. F. Robertson; vice-pres., Mrs. DaFonte; treas., Mrs. Chamberlain and Mrs. Mathews; C.Y.F.: pres., A. Monk; vice-pres., N. Quaife; treas., R. Drake; sec., G. Rowles, Once again Y.P. will have Mr. and Mrs. F. Robertson as their leaders.

Warragul (M. D. Keatch). — Good attendances at both services on Feb. 14 marked introduction of theme: 1960 for Christ and the Church. At morning service minister reviewed resources of the church, and outlined the year's programme, consisting of 5 main features. After the evening service, which was a family service, film, Why I Am a Protestant, was screened. This was followed by fellowship supper in school hall. C. Waters is making steady progress after recent illness.

Croydon (P. Retchford). — Numbers increased in B.S. over past weeks. Kinder has 60 on roll. Record school attendance on Jan. 31 was 106. Church is pleased to welcome Mrs. Parker back after several weeks' absence with injury. Explorers have 23 boys on roll, with av. attendance of 20. One decision for Christ was received at close of service on Feb. 14.

Bayswater (H. Prime, C.O.B.). — Church and B.S. picnic was held at Carrum on Jan. 30. Social evening was held on Feb. 13 to mark conclusion of A. O. S. Baker's ministry with church. A wallet of notes was presented to him in appreciation of work done at Bayswater. Welcome was also extended to Mr. and Mrs. Prime and family. Wednesday morning prayer meeting for ladies has re-commenced in home of Mrs. Dyer.

Footscray (A. E. Hurren).—C.W.E.F. held jumble sale on Feb. 16, resulting in £18. All auxiliaries gave reports. Av. attendances over six months were: a.m., 93; p.m., 65; communed, 106. C.Y.F. held drama night on 20th, and elected officers: pres., Alan Morgan; sec., Pam Easton; committee: Glenys Welsh, Alan Thompson. W. W. Saunders, representing V.L.O.A., was speaker at morning service on 21st. C.M.S. assisted at evening service. Following evening service three were baptised. Recent visitors have been Mr. and Mrs. W. Hurren (Ascot Vale), Mr. and Mrs. C. Cordy, Bevan and Stuart (Hurstville, N.S.W.), Mr. and Mrs. A. Jackel (Wangaratta), Mrs. W. W. Saunders (Caulfield).

Gcelong (A. C. Caldicott). — Recent visiting preachers have been J.E. Webb (S.A.), and H. B. Robbins. There have been interstate visitors, as well as Victorian holidaymakers. 180 were present for broadcast, over 3GL, Essendon Church of Christ Y.P. choir assisting. Excellent reports on reception have come to hand. B.S. picnic at Portarlington, Feb. 1, was one of grand fellowship. Dennis Foletta (Woolwich) was home during vacation.

Hamilton (A. B. Clark). — Church is aiming at av. attendance at communion of 75 members, and recent figures have neared this target. Fine display of produce marked Harvest Festival, at which thankoffering of £55 was received, part of it going to new Organ Fund. After a break of four years, Explorers' Club has recommenced, under leadership of Mr. Leishman, commencing with camp on Feb. 26. Change to morning B.S. has helped increase attendances to 78 for first two weeks.

Parkdale (P. Perry). — An elderly man was baptised on Feb. 14. B.S. teachers' dedication service was included in gospel service on 21st, after tea-table fellowship. Four buses conveyed scholars and parents of two B.S.'s to Church of England Camp Site at Frankston on 13th. C.Y.F. paid visit to Frankston on 12th, and enjoyed fellowship with C.Y.F. members there. C.W.E.F. had demonstration given by Carnation Milk Products.

Red Hill (R. Veal). — Karl Hilli has entered C.O.B. Good Companions opened work for 1960 with social evening, to which parents and friends were invited. C.Y.F., at annual meeting, elected Miss Thelma Littlejohn as sec.; Trevor Torney was re-elected

pres., and Jean Armstrong, treas. At half-yearly meeting of church important matters were discussed on future building plans of church, etc. Barry Wright has taken up student teachership at Red Hill Consolidated school. Some ladies attended C.W.F. camp at Monbulk. T. Mawson conducted song service on 21st, and Diana Claire was soloiste.

Strathmore (K. Parry, C.O.B.). -Attendances over holiday period have been well maintained, with three bap-tismal services conducted by H. Hammon. Church has been without a student minister since Dec. Members of church brought gospel messages each Sunday until Feb. 14, when new student preacher, Kelvin Parry, conducted his first service at Strath-more. On Feb. 13, a get-together social was held in church hall to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Parry and son. Strathmore (formerly Pascoe Vale).

Mrs. L. M. Weatherhead is kinder supt., Mrs. A. Hunter re-elected Corder and Corder a Roll supt., and Ian Gordon re-elected general sec. B.S. C.M.S. held first meeting for 1960 on Feb. 7; G. Morrison (chaplain, Brunswick Tech. School) gave lecture on Work Among Young People. C.W.F. commenced work for new year on 10th. Mrs. Weathernead (pres.) gave devotional to well attended gathering. Extensions to building, and other improvements to BS., are well in hand, and it is hoped the addi-tional "breathing space" will soon be completed, to cope with increasing membership. Sing-song around the piano, held on last Sunday of each month after evening service, has proved huge success. Church is in-debted to F. Robertson and Mrs. R. Hammon, conductor and pianiste respectively.

Swan Hill (A. A. Avery). — C.Y.F. tendered kitchen tea to Yvonne King and Fred Burge on Feb. 5. C.M.S. held Question and Answer session on 7th, when some very helpful discussion took place. Following gospelsorvice on 14th, church made presentations to Robin Leach, who has taken a position in the city, and Lynn Baxter, entering C.O.B. Mr. and Mrs. Stan Scott have returned from Portsea holiday camp, where they had been in charge of 50 children from Swan Hill district.

Ararat (R. W. Marshall). — Good attendances are enjoyed. Mrs. Foster had accident, but is recovering. Douglenkins is also recovering from injury. Miss Joyce Fletcher (Melbourne City Mission) was present on Feb. 14.

Moreland (C. M. Dunse). — On Feb. 12-14, 36 Y.P. camped at Anglesea, theme for discussions being The Holy Spirit. All campers returned to chapel for youth tea and to share in evening service, with several campers leading, reading, etc. After-church fellowship was held to honor Fay

Akam and Len Williams prior to their marriage. J. Workman was called Home after 13 years of ill health. Sympathy of church goes to Mrs. Workman and family. C.W.F. has donated £75 toward car port for manse.

Portland (C. G. Henderson). - C.E. members and preacher attended rally at Hamilton on Feb. 13. At monthly after-church fellowship, Mr. Selwood gave illustrated talk on Solomon's Temple. For last 3 months previous records in av. weekly offerings and attendances have been broken, January's av. offering being £29/6/4, av. morning attendance 127, evening 59, communicants 91. With support of numerous visiting brethren, Feb. has continued to show increase in offering and attendance, culminating in Temple Day on Feb. 14, when Principal E. L. Williams was guest speaker for day. Well attended P.S.A. in Wesley Hall heard with great interest the address. The Church in Communistic Countries. Artists who assisted were Mrs. A. M. Goldsworthy, K. Cook (Portland), J. Cook and L. LeCoutier (W'bool). Special thanksgiving offering reached record amount of £215 for first day of appeal. On 21st, at family film service, 2 films were screened, Flying Straight and Crossroads. Plans are in hand for continuation of Aborigine work at Condah now that Whittlebury State School has been sold, in spite of efforts by church to buy it. On Feb. 7, an elderly lady confessed Christ at Condah Mission service. Four have been received into fellowship by transfer. Church again assisted in Fraternal Stand at local show on Feb. 19-20.

Yarrawonga (D. Russell). — Annual business meeting was held Feb. 7. Reports of auxiliaries showed work in good heart. Miss Helen Colless was elected Y.W.L. leader in place of Miss Alison Starr, who has gone to live in Melb. All other officers were re-elected, including elder and deacons: J. Houghton (elder), A. Chappell, W. Nothrop, R. Starr, J. Colless. A young man was baptised recently and has been received into membership. B.S. is holding rally with object of gaining new scholars.

Maidstone (H. Pietzsch). — Jan. averages were: a.m. 68; p.m. 46; communicants 54. Church has been glad to welcome two into membership. R. Ryall exchanged with A. E. Hurren (Footscray) on 17th at 11 a.m. Cr. and Mrs. G. Dobson and members of the "House of Happiness" attended morning worship on 24th. 96 were present at night, last service of Mr. Ryall's ministry, Miss Dulcie Gray bringing appreciated messages in song. Visitors have included Mrs. Flood, Mr. and Mrs. Murphy and family (Ballarat), Miss Tooth (Ashfield, N.S.W.) Mrs. Heard (Bambra-rd.), Mr. D. M. and Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Ryall (East Malvern). Thos. Hampton, Mr. and

Mrs. H. Pietzsch, L. MacKinnon, Pamela Heard and Wendy Taylor have been added to B.S. teaching staff. H. L. Pietzsch commenced an interimministry on Jan. 31.

Tribute to Mrs. H. W. Hermann

F.M. Board

With the passing of Mrs. H. W. Hermann, many have lost a dear friend, but none will mourn her loss more than those who have been associated with the Overseas work, both at home and on the Fields.

No missionary visiting Queensland for the past 30 years or more failed to stay at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hermann. There they received encouragement and strength, and were more fitted to carry on their task again.

Mr. and Mrs. Hermann became associated in the work of Overseas Missions in 1914, when Mr. Hermann was made treasurer. In 1921, Mr. Hermann was made secretary, and Mrs. Hermann treasurer. Mutually they carried out their tasks until they laid them down last year, after over 45 years of splendid devotion to duty and to their Lord. In their first year of office a little over £200 was received for the work, and in the last year of office nearly £3,000 was received. Mrs. Sebra Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hermann, now carries out the duty of treasurer to the State Committee in Queensland.

Our sympathies go out to Mr. Hermann, who has now almost reached his 84th birthday, and to the other members of the family, who are all interested in the work of the Lord.

At the last meeting of the Federal Board, the following minute was recorded: "That we learn with deep sadness of the passing of Mrs. Hermann, after 45 years of association with the Qld. F.M. Committee, most of it as treasurer in association with her husband. That we assure Mr. Hermann of our prayerful sympathy and trust that he will know in full the comfort of the Lord, and our constant remembrance of the loving service rendered by his partner in life."—A. Anderson, Sec. F.M. Board, Adelaide.

Helping Refugee Children

Refugee children — reliable sources estimate that at least one in every four refugees is a child or young person — have been described as a problem within a problem.

Ten million have been uprooted and transplanted, have been born or have died, as refugees since 1945. Scores of thousands remain in need of assistance at the half-way point

in World Refugee Year.

One way that the World Council of Churches tries to help ease this most delicate problem in the whole field of refugee relief work, is to lift many children out of the dark and depressing world they find themselves in. They are sent on holiday or to rest centres.

Paraphrased, here is a summary of careful and reliable studies made over a period of both fit and rundown children arriving for the first time at rest homes:

They arrive mostly timid, silent and solemn. A few are pathetic, others are afraid of getting thrashed after the unsoft treatment in the camps. They are crowd-conscious, on edge and watchful. Nobody tries to look different. They are also clearly uncertain when they have to choose and express their own wish. They are dispirited. Many of the children seem badly in need of relaxing from the sheer pressure of the too close quarters in some of the camps, the frequent poverty, the broodings and the bad nerves of the grown ups. But after only a few weeks in the homes, it seems to dawn upon them that life can be more cheerful. They unfold, They relax. They grow younger.



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Department of Social Service

(The Church in Action). Churches of Christ Centre, 217 Lonsdale-st., Melbourne, C.1.

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Remember the Homes in your will.

Information from the Secretary.

FB 2447.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Elizabeth Clark.

At the close of 1959, Mrs. Elizabeth Clark fell asleep at the age of 97 years. Baptised in her teens at Collingwood, Vic., she continued an active Christian life for 80 years in several Victorian churches. Clark lived her life for the sake of others. It would be impossible to fully know the extent of her service for Christ, especially in terms of practical help to those in need, for in this she worked sacrificially and untiringly. For the last four years of her life she was confined to bed much of the time, and the only regret she expressed was that she was unable to participate in the fellow-ship of worship. Those who visited her surely went away feeling that they were taking with them more courage and cheer than they had brought. Her wise advice was invaluable and conversation with her was always stimulating. Despite great pain that often made speech impossible, she gave "thanks always for all things." Before she was called Home, she was able to speak to her loved ones in such a way as to impart to them something of her own great strength and faith. The services were conducted at Parkdale chapel and New Cheltenham Cemetery by the writer. We thank our Heavenly Father for the fragrance of her life.—P. E. Perry.

DEATH

WORKMAN. - On Feb. 19, 1960, at 94 The Avenue, Coburg, Vic., James, dearly beloved husband of Jane Emma, loved father of Gwendolyne (Mrs. Packer), father-in-law of Gordon. Late 5th Battalion, 1st A.I.F. "In God's care."

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

E. Salisbury (secretary, Wattle Park church), 13 Clifton-st., Box Hill, Vic. R. A. Ryall (minister, Surrey Hills church), 6 The Avenue, Surrey Hills,

Vic. Phone 83 - 7577.

H. L. Pietzsch (part-time preacher,

Midstone church), 1 Irwin-st., Maidstone, Vic. Phone MW 9564.
R. I. Field (secretary, Jordanville church), Bales-st., Mt. Waverley, Vic. B. A. Roberts (minister, Padstow church), 70 Doyle-rd., Revesby, N.S.W.

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BIRTHS

KIMBER (Kerrison). -- Patti and Charles announce the birth, on Feb. 23, of Nigel Llewellyn, at Airlie Hospital, Ivanhoe, Vic.

WILLIAMS (Butler). — On Feb. 17, at St. George's, to Jeanette and Bruce, a daughter — Kerry Anne.

IN MEMORIAM

MAIDMENT. — In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Wilfred, called Home March 1, 1957. "Time passes, but memories remain." -Inserted by his loving wife and

ENGAGEMENT

CARLTON - JOHNSON. - The engagement is announced of Irene, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Carlton, 49 Tassell-st., Glenroy, to Clifford George, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Johnson, 6 Cheddar-rd., Reservior, Vic.

SILVER WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. A. O. S. Baker, of 11 Erica-cresc., Heathmont, Vic., have pleasure in announcing the 25th anniversary of their marriage, celebrated by the late T. H. Scambler, at Middle Park, on Feb. 23, 1935.

COMING EVENTS

Preliminary Notice — TUMBY BAY CHURCH (S.A.) 50th JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS will be held from July 3-10, 1960.

Opening Day . . . MOUNT GAMBIER

(S.A.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1960.

Visitors invited. Contact D. M. Fimmell, 30 Canavan-rd., Mount Gambler, S.A., for information.

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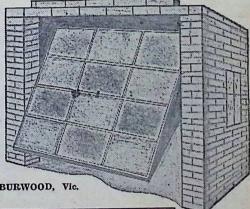
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Just contact A. H. C. PFEIFER, at 23 Warley-rd., East Malvern, or the SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT, and a supply of stamps to soak, to-gether with full instructions, will be sent you.

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Youth to the Rescue

AID TYPHOON RECONSTRUCTION

The assistance given by Japanese Christian youth to victims of Typhoon Vera which struck the Nagoya area last September represented the largest single voluntary action by church youth in the nation's history.

Responding before any special appeals for aid were made, more than 500 youth volunteered more than 3,000 work days, it has been reported by George Nishido, secretary of the Youth Commission of the United Church of Christ in Japan.

As a result, he said, their work has been the means of establishing new contacts with the strongest Buddhist sects, and has been a valuable evangelical witness.

In letters to ecumenical youth leaders abroad, Mr. Nishido writes: "We decided to be an arm of Japan Church World Service, and located our 'base camp' at the Nagoya Chuo Church. We never sent out a single letter nor made any special appeal, yet an amazing thing happened. Students and youth from Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe areas rushed to the Nagoya area, carrying rucksacks on their backs and holding their own shovels and picks. They came voluntarily, without having been asked.

"The typhoon casualties were the worst in the history of Japan, but at the same time, the number of Christian students who voluntarily rushed to the scene, and their dedication, motivated purely by the love of their fellow-man and by the Christian stewardship principle, was also 'the most' in our Christian history in Japan.

"Within a few days after the disaster 22 work camps were organised, all based at local churches in the Nagoya area. The camps did relief and reconstruction work for a month and a half. When they disbanded at the end of November, almost 500 youth had served, having given more than 3,000 work days.

"Recently I had a telephone call from Nagoya saying that the people there wish to have Christian work continually after the work camps as the memory of their witness. Nobody could expect such a wonderful fruit. Christian services have opened the doors of the strongest Buddhist sects. We can realise that Diakonia, Christian service in this part of the world, has really important evangelical meaning."

Mr. Nishido also reported that the Youth Commission of the Kyodan Church is planning to hold a year-long ecumenical youth work camp programme in the typhoon area. Several separate camps will be organised under the programme, to be

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conducted in co-operation with Japan Church World Service, the govern-ment and voluntary agencies. Camp work will be concerned with flood clean-up, distribution of relief supplies, reconstruction of buildings and fields and the care of orphaned children.-E.P.S., Geneva.

> Daily Vacation Bible School. MONKLAND, QLD.

Altogether sixty-five children atthe Daily Vacation Bible tended School at the Monkland Church of Christ (Qld.), conducted by Brian Willersdorf, a graduate of the Qld. Bible Institute. It was held from 9 to 11.30 a.m., Jan. 11-17. Six young people of the local church helped with the school, and they were assisted by other young folk in an advertising programme that was conducted the preceding week. Circulars were delivered to each home in the district and many homes were visited personally.

The daily programme included chorus singing, games, sports, gymnastics, hobbies, a serial, puzzles, etc., and concluded with a talk with the boys and girls about the things that matter most. At the morning tea break the children were given cordial drinks.

On the Thursday night a Teenagers' Barbecue Tea was held, with over 50 teenagers from the Gympie and Monkland areas. More came for the social that followed and the little chapel was packed out with a crowd of 65 young people.

Friday night was parents' night, and a number of older people came to see what their boys and girls had been doing during the week. The programme closely resembled the morning one, with the boys and girls giving a demonstration of gymnastics and showing what they had made at the hobby sessions, It concluded with a story which contained a message to parents and children as well.

A good crowd gathered on Saturday night for youth night, and on the Sunday night a number of Monkland people attended the Gympie chapel for the gospel service.



• The presentation of the Gospel. . Things that really matter!

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Financial support gratefully acknowledged by L. R. E. McClean, 26 Warrast., Toorak, S.E.2, Vic.

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