

THE AUSTRALIAN Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Yearly 27/6 (A. & N.Z.), 32/6 (For.) Weekly — 5½d. through church agent

The £14,000 building was an all-church effort, and the pleasure of worshipping in this beautiful setting was reward enough for the labor.

Much interest was evidenced in the seating, which was made by the men. Each upholstered pew, with comfortable seating for 7 people, actually contains 84 individual pieces of timber. The oversight of this work was in the hands of M. Peacock. The lights, unique in design and dignified in effect, were also made by a team of electricians in the church.

The completed set of buildings now provides the church with equipment to enable effective planning for years to come.—J. Collins.



NEW CHAPEL — SOUTH PERTH, W.A.

"To God's glory and the salvation of souls." This was the thought uppermost in the hearts of all at South Perth church on Sunday, Sept. 24, when at 11 a.m. H. Fitch, in opening the building, prayed God's blessing on the new beautiful chapel. To B. Wesley was given the well deserved honor of opening the doors with a specially inscribed key.

The day began at 10.40 a.m., when a very humble congregation, led by B. Wesley, packed to capacity the old hall and gave thanks to God for the wonderful times experienced there while it was their church home. Many have found their Saviour in this place, and there had made decisions which had led them into missionary service, and to Colleges to prepare. So it was that, after the singing of praises, the reading of the Word by A. Johnston, and a prayer of thanksgiving by F. Raymond, H. R. Fitch, minister, led the congregation along the path to the new chapel doors.

Inside, the service was led by Mr. Fitch, while R. Raymond preached the first sermon, an honor conferred in recognition of his years of association with South Perth, and the fact that he preached the first message when the work was commenced in the Collins-st. hall 13 years ago, and later also in the church hall.

At 3 p.m., the chairman of the Officers' Board presided over a crowded service of recognition and thanksgiving. 346 people shared in this public service to hear greetings from the City Council, the local churches and the Member for Swan, R. Cleaver.

Subiaco choir rendered the anthems, and L. Cooke (W.A. Conf. Pres.) brought the greetings of the brotherhood and a challenging address.

At night the building was again crowded to the doors. Mr. Fitch conducted the service, his message being *The Builder's Triumph*.

It was a wonderful day, firstly because of the three decisions at the evening service, then because of the richness of its fellowship when a total of 876 people attended.

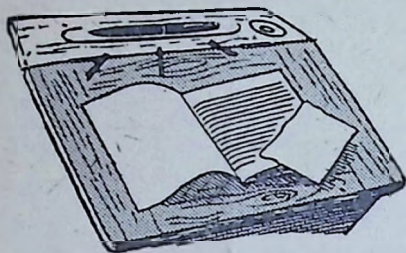
Greetings for the 115th anniversary of the church at Grote-st., Adelaide, on Oct. 22, were received from His Excellency, the Governor of South Australia, Sir Edric Bastyan, and Lady Bastyan. C. E. Curtis (S.A. Conf. Pres.) was the morning speaker, when seven new members (by baptism and transfer) were welcomed into fellowship. Interstate and country visitors were among the large gatherings, which enjoyed the singing of the choir, led by W. Watson, at both services. Re-lighting of the chapel is meeting with widespread approval. The ministry of L. E. Jones, B.A., is appreciated.

David Mansell (Qld. H.M. Organiser) is conducting a Festival of Faith and Film for the church at Albion, Qld., in a tent at Clark Park. Up to Oct. 25 there had been one decision for Christ.



South Perth chapel, opened Sept. 24.

OPEN FORUM



A SQUARE LOOK

Regarding the recent editorial on church membership — a study of Conference statistics from the past reveals a decrease in membership at periodic intervals.

These surely ought not to discourage us but rather to stop us from being complacent, and challenge us really to accept the responsibility of evangelising.

In the last decade our churches have made some real progress, as your editorial suggests. For example, in Queensland for the 13-year period ending 31/12/60 there was a 44 per cent. increase in attendance at the Lord's Table and a corresponding increase in membership.

During the past four years our churches in Western Australia have reported an increase in membership of 32 per cent., and an increase of 38 per cent. in the average number of communicants. Similarly the South Australian churches during the same 4-year period have reported an increase of more than one third in the number attending the Lord's Table.

In these past ten years we have seen dozens of new churches established. Congregations have been formed in such strategic centres as Canberra (A.C.T.), Geraldton (W.A.), Mt. Gambier (S.A.), Tamworth (N.S.W.) and Warwick (Qld.), to name a few. We have seen an amazing growth in our social service work, there are now a record number of missionaries on our overseas fields, new areas are being entered, and our Bible Colleges have raised their educational standards and facilities whilst maintaining full enrolments.

These facts all point to a steady growth in our Australian brotherhood which should encourage us in our efforts. The opportunities for expansion are numerous, therefore let us be assured that God can and will use us in proclaiming the gospel and in influencing the community for good. We must go forward in faith and accept the challenge of such areas as North Queensland, where in a population of a quarter of a million we do not have one self-supporting church; Gippsland, where, in a booming population, we have but a token witness; and a large part of Central New South Wales where the Restora-

tion Movement cannot claim a single congregation. — Alan Rackemann, Brighton, Vic.

CHURCH AND ARMY.

One of the urgent requirements facing the Church today is to be courageously objective in meeting the facts of life. It will not surprise those who know me that the article in your issue of October 17, by P. D. Chaplain J. H. Butters, caused me to ponder and question.

Isn't there a startling incongruity in the fact of a minister of the Christ of the Mount warning these lads of the sins of sexual promiscuity and drinking of alcoholic liquor, whilst knowing that their major activity is to be trained in the use of rifle and bayonet, the napalm bomb, the murderous methods of the commando and guerrilla warfare, and the indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas?

Is it illogical to suggest that the Church's acquiescence in this obvious dual sense of values, in the specious name of national defence, is part reason for the growing scepticism with which Christianity is being looked upon?

The fact of the Army sponsoring such spiritual guidance brings to mind the words of Bishop Wand in his book, *The Church, Today*: "... the genius of the Church will be manifest not only in its moral certainty as teacher and guide but also in the character it displays and incubates. What precisely that character is may not be easy for us to distinguish. We live in a world that has been largely influenced by Christian ideas, while the Church itself has suffered from the infiltration of the world. . . . The Christian in our western civilisation cannot as a rule be immediately distinguished from the non-Christian."

Is continuation of such a situation consistent, particularly for a brotherhood which is pleading for a return to primitive Christianity? Consideration of Canon Carpenter's chapter on Realism and Commitment in his book, *Commonsense About Christian Ethics*, could be helpful in this connection, together with the challenging text, "Ye have not so learned Christ." — L. O. Collyer, Boronia, Vic.

CHRIST A GAMBLER?

Would you permit me space to reply to article of 19/9/61 issue?

Would Mr. Thomas be good enough to give Scriptural authority in defence of the blasphemous poem quoted?

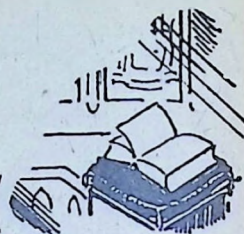
Christ was no gambler. He did not throw his life away. He did not take a chance.

This is the kind of negative modernistic teaching that is helping to create the drift of our sons and daughters from the church.

I quote John 10: 18 to support my claim for correct Bible teaching.—A. L. Furlong, Emerald, Vic.

NOTES FROM THE READINGS

as suggested for



Sunday, Nov. 12

JEREMIAH 38: 1-13.

When Jeremiah counsels surrender to the besieging Babylonians, his enemies secure the king's permission to have him thrown into a cistern, where they expected him to die, either from suffocation or starvation. However, a friendly Ethiopian court official wins the king's consent to rescue the prophet.

"he is in your hands" (v. 5). — "This verse reveals the weakness of Zedekiah. He was friendly to Jeremiah, and often wished to follow his counsel, but he did not dare oppose the officials who insisted on resisting the Chaldeans, and considered the prophet a traitor" (Hyatt).

"thirty men" (v. 10). — "Three men" (R.S.V.) — a quite adequate number.

"under the treasury" (v. 11). — "A wardrobe of the storehouse." Being a court official, Ebed-melech knew where to find the "old rags and worn-out clothes he needed for his rescue mission."

1 TIMOTHY 2: 1-8.

Paul gives a detailed charge to Timothy concerning the ministry of intercession, stressing the universal sweep of the Christian gospel.

"for all men" (v. 1). — "Few passages so stress the universality of the gospel. Prayer is to be made for all men; God is the Saviour who wishes all men to be saved; Jesus gave his life a ransom for all" (Barclay). "Exclusiveness is a basic betrayal of Christianity" (Gealy).

"for kings and all in authority" (v. 2). — Whatever else their faith might demand of them in relation to hostile rulers, early Christians recognised one imperative duty — to pray for them. See Tit. 3: 1.

"one mediator" (v. 5). — "Christ is the unique revelation of God, the unique way to God, and the unique reconciler of man to God" (Noyes).

"to be testified in due time" (v. 6).

— "Providing, at the fitting time, proof of the divine purpose" (N.E.B.).

"preacher . . . apostle . . . teacher" (v. 7). — "These three words convey a good picture of a well-rounded ministry" (Noyes).

"without wrath and doubting" (v. 8). "Without anger or quarrelling" (R.S.V.); "without resentment or doubt" (Phillips).

"Backward and Forward Look in Britain"

VENTURES IN SERVICE.

On looking back we see much in the history of the British Churches of Christ of which we may be justly proud; but also, as truth must be told, a good deal of which we must be ashamed. The record of service at home and abroad is honorable, especially when we bear in mind that the work has always been sorely hampered by the dearth of qualified people able to give full time service to the church. The need for a programme of training for young men who felt the call to be preachers and pastors was recognised at an early stage. At first such men were placed under the care of an experienced evangelist and learned while they assisted him. Later, training was in the hands of a succession of able leaders. At length, in 1920, Overdale College in Birmingham was founded, where many men and women have since been trained. The influence of Overdale on the life of the churches has been marked and very beneficial.

Since 1892 the British churches have maintained Missions overseas, for a time in Burma, later in Siam, India and Africa, in which three fields the work continues. When the work overseas is related in scale to the total membership of the home churches it becomes clear that we have not been behind-hand in this vital phase of outreach. As our numbers have diminished, the financial strain of supporting the work has increased. The easement brought in recent years by the generosity of the U.C.M.S. in Thailand (Siam) has been welcomed with gratitude and appreciation.

Continuous and keen attention has been given, and is being given, to youth work and education, and to Christian action on the serious moral, social and international problems of the times.

In the ecumenical field the British churches have taken, and are taking, a full share. The work of their Union Committee in this sphere has been quite outstanding. Churches of Christ submissions to discussions on Faith and Order have attracted much attention among theologians. Dr. W. Robinson, first Principal of Overdale College, was a member of the Theological Commission of the World Conference on Faith and Order. He contributed a chapter on the view of Disciples or Churches of Christ to the volume published in 1938, entitled *The Ministry and the Sacraments*, and containing the report of the Commission. In different parts of the home country our churches and churchmen take a big share in ecumenical activities, in local associations, through Free Church Federal Coun-

PART II

Dr. William Arthur,
R. A. Long Professor of Mathematics,
Bethany College, Bethany, West
Virginia.

Delivered at the Kansas City
Assembly of The International
Convention of Christian churches
(Disciples of Christ)

Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 4. 1961.

(This talk, prepared here in America, far from people I would fain have consulted, consists of glimpses into the history of the Churches of Christ (Disciples) in Britain, a glance at their present condition and just a peep into future possibilities. The views expressed are personal and unofficial.)

cils, and in Scotland through the Scottish Churches' Ecumenical Association. We are represented on the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. James Gray, chairman of the Central Council of the British Churches of Christ, will attend the Third Assembly of the World Council at New Delhi in November of this year.

NEGATIVE PHASE.

The British churches have been served, in home and foreign fields, by a succession of devoted men and women, many of whom added outstanding scholarship to devotion. Nonetheless, dispassionate and unprejudiced study of our history will, in my view, make it clear that the influence of one or two of the men who played dominant parts in the brotherhood was not entirely for good. Growth in grace and also in numbers was hindered by misdirected loyalty and faults of emphasis which now seem grievous. Questions of quite trivial importance were sometimes inflated into matters of fundamental principle, and inordinate attention was given to them, with the saddest results. In the middle period of our history it appears that some of the most influential leaders of the brotherhood had ceased to be worthy of the priceless heritage handed on to them in sacred trust, and that for them the clear vision which inspired and impelled our pioneers had grown dim. We became, on the average, more concerned about the preservation of "our position and plea" and about our particular interpretation of the New Testament than about the active promotion of Christian reunion. We were more sure of the things we opposed than those we supported; better antis than pros. We built a high wall round ourselves and were well satisfied to be different, and of course right.

The loftiness of purpose and generosity of spirit of earlier times seemed to be giving way to dogmatism, exclusiveness and hardening of the theological arteries. Inevitably, there were protests by intelligent people against the rigid unwritten creed which bade fair to strangle the Movement, and pleas were made for intellectual freedom. It took a long time, however, for a spirit of toleration to spread throughout the brotherhood, and in the meantime many fine people were lost to the churches, to our great detriment. By the grace of God, the negative and sterile phase has been outgrown. Few though we be, a new spirit of love and kindness pervades our people, as well as an unimpaired, indeed a renewed, devotion to Christ and loyalty to the teaching of the New Testament about his Church.

HEARTENING SIGNS.

Britain has 119 Churches of Christ, with only a score of supported ministers to serve them. An obvious and crying need is for a greater number of fully-trained men and women in full-time service. There is some encouragement in an increase in the number of students in training at Overdale College, but the number would need to be stepped up considerably if there is to be any significant improvement in the minister-congregation ratio.

About the future I am not in any degree pessimistic. Although numbers are low and the situation is seemingly precarious, there are heartening signs. Quality is more vital than quantity, and on the test of quality the life and work of the British brotherhood in many of its phases now rank high. The churches are served abroad by a splendid group of men and women; at home, by a very able team of ministers, and by many consecrated, enthusiastic people who, after the day's work and at weekends, make the work of the church their main concern, and seek by study to improve the nature of their service. Leadership is in the hands of people who are not only endowed with rich gifts of heart, mind and spirit, but also sincere in their desire to become more and more fully committed to Christ.

The 115th Annual Conference of the British Churches of Christ, held in August of this year in Liverpool, produced a number of encouraging things. The retiring President, Paul Smith, devoted his year of office to the raising of a special fund to eliminate the bank overdrafts which have been casting ominous shadows over the work of the general committees. In this he was completely

successful, and all committees are now out of "the red." The Home Missions Committee met with a fine response in launching a new organisation, the Fellowship of Church Workers, intended to bring together and help all who wish to equip themselves more fully for service and improve the quality of their worship, work and witness in and through the local church. Several young people are offering themselves for missionary work abroad. The report of the Social Questions Committee reflected an increasing practical concern for the under-privileged, the refugee and the outcast, shown in generous giving for their relief.

True, in Britain we are weak and in difficulty; but our Lord's commission still holds. He said, "Lo, I am with you always"; and we have the assurance, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." We are under the compulsion of love to him, and needs must evangelise. It is ours to evangelise even unto death, should it be his will that we die. In the situation of the British churches today the call is, "Evangelise or die"; not in the sense that the fear of death is a worthy motive for evangelism, but merely because these words express a basic truth: failure to evangelise brings corporate death to any church or churches. Dr. James Stewart put it thus: "Christ will not remain in the midst of a church that neglects its missionary calling." With all our energy, and in reliance upon God's resources, we must go out to win people for his Kingdom. Woe unto us if we do not. The word of God to Moses when the outlook for the Israelites seemed to be utterly hopeless and no move seemed

possible, was "Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward."

It is therefore my personal belief that the key to future growth and development lies with the Church Extension Committee of the British churches. This committee was appointed by Annual Conference in 1958, when reports of a further drop in membership were received and the prospect seemed drear. It was charged with the duty of raising a substantial fund to help churches with new building projects. In the circumstances, that was a bold and imaginative action on the part of Conference. The response of churches and individuals to the appeal of the Extension Committee has been splendid; and the allocation to the committee of the magnificent thankoffering made to the host churches by the World Convention in Edinburgh last year gave further cause for thanksgiving and rejoicing. Financial help has already been given, by gift not loan, to one or two churches with building projects designed to make expansion of their outreach possible.

The most promising project of the churches in Britain at present is the development of the new church at East Kilbride, near Glasgow in Scotland. We are very grateful for past financial help with this venture received from our brethren in America, and for the consecrated hard labor on the building site given by a fine group of young Americans in the summer of 1956. After a setback to the work (which has now been overcome), building operations have been resumed. The steel framework of the sanctuary has been completed, and it is confidently expected that the building will be finished by the end of this year.

Most of the resources of the Extension Committee are for the present being channelled to East Kilbride. It is our firm hope that the Extension Fund will make it possible, later on, for effective financial support to be given to a series of extension projects in various parts of the country.

The work at East Kilbride began in 1954 with a nucleus of 16 members, half of them from churches in Glasgow. The membership is now about 150; the average age about 30. There is a large and thriving work among children and adolescents. East Kilbride is a new town, in the process of being built according to a comprehensive plan. At present the population is around 30,000; when the town is completed it will be over 70,000. The site on which our church building is being erected is an excellent one, with no other church site in the near neighborhood.

The opportunity here is vast. More favorable conditions for a successful extension venture are not likely to occur anywhere or at any time. It is my firm belief that, if we bring the maximum available power to bear on this part of the front, wonderful results for the Kingdom will be achieved. Success here might well mark the turn of the tide in Britain. It would act as a tonic to the whole brotherhood, and an encouragement to bold and enthusiastic venture for Christ. My prayer is that this may happen, if such is the will of God. Will you join me in that prayer?

God grant that we in Britain may be found faithful as stewards of the noble heritage that has fallen to us, and ready to give to the uttermost as we work out our destiny in accordance with the will of God.



(Notes supplied by R. S. A. McLean).

BOMBAY CHALLENGE

On Saturday, Sept. 30, Mr. and Mrs. Coventry and I left Shrigowda to motor down to Bombay. We were joined at Dhond by Dr. and Mrs. Patil, and at Poona by Mr. Waghmodi and Dr. Patil's son, Vijay. It was dark by the time we reached Bombay, and with the rain pouring down it was no easy matter for Mr. Coventry to drive through the narrow streets packed with pedestrians, cyclists, bullock carts, cars and heavy transport vehicles. However, we arrived safely at the American Presbyterian Mission, where we were informed that Ross Thomas, who had

gone to Delhi on secretarial work in preparation for the W.C.C. meetings, had kindly offered us the use of his bungalow.

The following day we set off for Kiroi village in Ghatkopar to meet with our Bombay brethren around the Lord's Table. We met at the home of Manohur Jadhav, who is a foreman at the Lambretta factory in Bombay. Mr. Jadhav's home is very small, and is surrounded by slum dwellings. Over forty people attended the service, but the room in which we met would only accommodate fifteen. Some sat in an adjoining room, and the rest outside. The inadequacy of such a meeting place is a clear indication that a church build-

ing must be erected as soon as possible. After the service the request was made that when we build the chapel we should include in our planning a hostel for young men, and if possible, rooms for married couples. It was explained that it was extremely difficult to secure suitable accommodation in Bombay, and as members were living in widely scattered areas, it was expensive for them to travel to church. This request cannot be ignored. One of our young men, who had come to Bombay, could neither find nor afford accommodation, and for a whole year the only shelter he had was an umbrella. Walk down any street in Bombay at night, and you will see hundreds of people sleeping on the footpaths with no shelter at all. One of our missionaries walking along the street one night saw a young girl asleep in the middle of the footpath. She had no home, and had kept walking until too tired to take another step — had gone to sleep unperturbed by the fact that hundreds of pedestrians had to walk around or step over her

body. We do not want our young brethren to be homeless in Bombay, nor do we want them to live in places that will endanger their health or ruin their souls. We want to provide them with accommodation where they can live as a Christian community.

Accommodation must also be provided for the pastor of the Bombay Church. At present he lives 35 miles away from the home where our brethren are meeting. It is exceedingly difficult for him to minister to a scattered congregation from such a distance. As it is impossible to purchase large plots of land, we must think in terms of erecting a building of several storeys. Such a building would provide a place of worship, a book room, accommodation for the pastor, and a hostel for single men. Recently a man offered to sell land situated only a few minutes' walk from where our brethren are meeting at present. It is only a small plot of land, but it is ideally situated in that it is located in an area where a number of our church families are already living, and it is only one hundred yards from the Vidhayavihar Railway Station, which is served by electric trains from Bombay. It could be reached by most of our members without difficulty.

After viewing this plot we drove out to other areas, to see other sug-

gested sites. We spent several hours going from one site to another, but most of them were far from suitable. There are no Land Estate Agents in Bombay, and the whole matter of purchasing land is extremely difficult and complex. It is vital that the right choice be made, and with the number of "land swindlers" around, extreme caution is necessary. Having seen a number of possible sites we returned to the one near the Vidhayavihar Station, which is the one preferred by our Indian brethren. We noticed that nearby a number of buildings of several storeys were being erected on smaller plots of land, so we felt confident that, although the plot is small, it would be adequate for our needs. It has now been decided that Mr. Coventry and Mr. Bhosle should consult a lawyer regarding its purchase.

While in Bombay we visited the homes of some of our members. They gladly welcomed us into their small dwellings, most of them being small flats. I was impressed by the earnest desire of many of these brethren to witness for the Lord. We particularly enjoyed the fellowship of Miss Kusum Shinde, who is a trained nurse and the daughter of one of our pastors at Shrigonda, and Mary Choudhari, Shantabai's sister, who is also a nurse.

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, the Himalaya arrived, and it was our pleasure to

meet Mrs. A. W. Stephenson, returning from a holiday in England, and Mr. and Mrs. Heath, returning to Australia after studying in America. Before the Himalaya sailed, we bowed our heads in prayer, thanking God for so many blessings and praising him for the experiences we had shared during the past six weeks.

As I return to the homeland, I do thank God for this great privilege of seeing first hand our work in India. Never before have I seen so many pathetic sights, the beggars in the streets, the lepers, the crippled, the homeless, the people bowing down to idols and the masses without Christ. The one great impression that I have is that there are so few to care. May God forgive us for not praying for India as we should, for not sharing our possessions, for we have so much, and they so little, and for not sending forth the laborers into this great harvest field. Remember, brethren, there are no other Missions working in our area in India, and unless we tell the multitudes in our area about Christ they may never hear about him.

Brethren wishing to send food parcels to India may obtain from the the Federal O.M. Sec., 53 Tarragon-st., Mile End, South Australia, information concerning suitable contents and customs and postal arrangements.

THE MINISTRIES OF OUR



SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The first monthly meeting for the new Conference year was held in Grote-st. chapel on Thursday, Oct. 5, 1961. Mrs. A. R. Jones presided, and led devotions, basing her remarks on the theme for her year of office: *Growing in Grace*.

There were 195 present, which was a good attendance in view of the fact that many of our delegates were at a counselling class in connection with the Joseph Blinco Campaign to be held shortly.

Leaders of the Departments introduced their Committee members to the meeting, so that they may be better known. We have almost ninety women serving on various Committees this year.

The Leader of the Catering Department, Mrs. M. Tippet, reported that approximately 2000 meals were served at Annual Conference this year, and that after all expenses had been paid, there was a balance of almost £58

remaining. The Committee requested gifts of glass bowls (such as those containing peanut butter) for use as sugar basins.

The Goodwill Shop has moved to more spacious premises at 44 Henley Beach Road, and a request was made for any saleable goods, even used table linen and tea towels. Toys for Christmas are especially needed at this time. Proceeds from the shop will be given to the fund for the Youth Hostel in North Adelaide.

The Annual "At Home" at the Christian Rest Home following Conference was most successful this year. Miss Grant reported that there was a good attendance, and that £15 was taken for afternoon tea, and over £100 for sale of goods from the Talent Table. These goods were made by the guests at the Home.

President's "Promise for the Month" came in the words of Jesus: "My grace is sufficient for you."—Barbara B. Fitzgerald, asst. sec.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The October meeting opened with Mrs. Stewart welcoming several visitors and all sisters present. Mrs. Smillie was welcomed back after her sojourn in the Eastern States, and she brought greetings and told of visits to other Fellowship meetings. Mrs. Stewart then read a short verse, "Just for today."

Devotions were prepared by Nedlands Fellowship, led by Mrs. Lushey. Mes. Rowe, Bennett and Calladine also took part.

Mrs. Stewart shared her prayer text from Col. 3: 16, after which prayer was offered for our sisters who are sick, by Mrs. Wyss.

Roll call of churches showed that 97 sisters were present — apologies, 23. The financial statement as read by Mrs. Calladine showed a balance in hand of £999/18/8. The prayer of thanks after the offering was given by Mrs. Fallon.

An afternoon tea is being arranged at the Christian Guest Home on Saturday, Nov. 18, when the newly refurbished Jubilee Wing may be inspected.

One of our sisters celebrated her 100th birthday on Sept. 28 — Mrs. A. Sharp. Auxiliary sisters took the opportunity of honoring her on this occasion, and presented her with a lovely blue stole and a "conversation

piece" posy of blue and white flowers. Mrs. Sharp thanked sisters for their loving thought of her, and commended the work of the Auxiliary to God.

A concert in aid of the President's special aim of £300 for the Centre Fund is being held on Nov. 1, when the C.T.A. Choir will provide the programme.

Reports: **Aborigines:** Mrs. Pallot told of an interesting visit to the Norseman Mission, and asked for continued prayer for this work.

Hospital: Mrs. Wyss is in need of devotional books for distribution and would appreciate gifts.

Wocroloo: Mrs. Verge reminded sisters of the need of sponge bags, soap and face washers for distribution to patients for Christmas.

The prayer for Missions and missionaries was given by Mrs. Michael.

As it was felt we were losing the personal touch with the manner of our present roll call, it was suggested we return to the name calling of Fellowships. After discussion it was decided that this be done in future.

Social Service: Mrs. Holloway reported on her visit to the South West Half-Yearly Rally, when she spoke on the work of this department. Men's socks are their most urgent need at the moment.

There being no further business, Mrs. Collins closed with prayer. — P. Reid, sec.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

There were 77 ladies present at the October Conference meeting held at City Temple on Friday, Oct. 6.

Mrs. Baker was in the chair, and welcomed all to the meeting. The theme for the month was: Whose God is the Lord, Show us what is Good.

Mrs. Bell (Chatswood) led the devotions, and Mrs. Fax gave a solo.

Mrs. Baker thanked all those who had helped to make Convention day such a success. Almost 200 ladies were present, representing 30 local churches and 4 country churches. 10 sisters took part in the Yes-No session, when 5 interesting subjects were discussed.

After lunch the ladies were divided into three groups when Mes. Elliott, D. Verco and Larcombe very ably led the discussions on different aspects of women's work.

Sister Wilson (Sydney City Mission) was the special speaker for the day, and brought us a very interesting talk on the work of this Mission.

Mrs. Schofield led in the intercessory prayer, remembering especially the families of those who had been called Home during the month — Mes. Goode, Terry and Whittington.

Mrs. Baker brought greetings from the sisters at Wyoming where she had been visiting. The meeting closed with hymn and prayer.—J. Torode, asst. sec.

W.C.W.F. OCTOBER PRAYER

That Christ's love may radiate our lives so that others may see him and come to him. Pray for the women of India, China and Japan, that they may be given strength and grace according to their needs.

Churchman, Don't Shilly-Shally

Dr. George A. Tolman.

"Is the Church on the way out?" he asked. It was not the snide remark of a cynic, but the probing question of an honest soul. He was deeply concerned about our shaken world and equally concerned about the seeming blind aloofness of the Church.

My first reaction was to overwhelm him with statistics about church attendance, membership, and new buildings. My second thought was to take the theological tack, "Eventually God's way will triumph and his way is to work through his Church." But the troublesome question would not dissolve quite that simply. Is it, I pondered, even possible that the Church is on the way out?

Any honest churchman should be objective enough to frankly admit this is a real possibility. The Church's proper claim is that Jesus Christ can save the world. The Church proclaims to be the agent of this salvation. But the average person is not impressed at all. The reason is clear. He simply cannot imagine the local church in his community in any such heroic and revolutionary role. Many an honest and concerned citizen looks at the Church and goes away wholly unchallenged. He sees a Church which seems to exist upon a constant parade of trivialities, which mistakes promotional activity for religious accomplishment, which is absorbed in little money-making projects and engrossed primarily in pro-

tecting and edifying itself. In short, it has little to say and nothing to offer to a world in the throes of revolution. It may go by the name of First Church or Central Church or Smith Memorial, but it is not in truth the Church of the Living God. It is not an open channel for God's grace and truth, and therefore it has no message and no mission to people who flounder in the confusion of our day. Such a Church may well be a hindrance to the Kingdom. Thus, if it is not a mighty instrument for God's truth, Biblical judgment tells us God will "spew it out of his mouth" and it will sink, a useless tool, from the scene of God's history.

The Church of the living God must be steeped in and motivated by the fulness of God's amazing love. Mind-challenging, heart-changing theology is essential. Great action is motivated by great convictions. Denominational doctrines and peculiar little pleas are shadow substitutes which neither fool the Eternal nor change mankind. Such a provincial and perverted gospel is taking a terrible toll. It is deaf to God's urgent demand for a courageous witness for righteousness. For example, in a world wracked with fear, Dr. Schweitzer asks, "Are we churchmen doing anything to muster world public opinion against the further poisoning

of the atmosphere by atomic fallout?"

When it comes to an unapologetic Christian witness, the Church is too often guilty of concealing or muffling God's truth. Our gospel suffers from a laryngitis which threatens to become permanent. Said a music teacher to her mousey pupil, "You seem to play the piano with a feather duster. You never strike down deep to the music that is in the instrument." Can the same be said about the Church today? Apologetically, we touch the keys of life, as with a feather duster. No great chords come forth. No one listens. No one cares. No one is truly saved. There is no courageous crescendo for righteousness. The prophet's admonition still holds, "If the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are warned, and the sword comes and takes anyone of them; that man is taken away in his iniquity."

The sword of conflict, revolution and life-shaking problems, is coming. In many areas it is already here. A confused and troubled world cries out of its darkness for light. A perplexed world is probing for answers. If the Church insists on answering questions nobody is asking it is on the way out. Unless the Church is utterly convinced that God is urgently concerned with righteousness, unless we believe that he has a word for our generation,

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OUR FAMILY PAGE

A Cheerful Faith

Jasper Timbs.

"A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

The writer of this proverb recognised the assets of a cheerful outlook. This certainly was one of the great virtues of our Lord Jesus. His soul was filled with the joy of the Lord. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." "Fret not thyself because of evildoers . . . Rest in the Lord; and wait patiently for him." "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Out of the knowledge of these great assurances of God, Jesus could say with confidence to his disciples: "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16: 33). Jesus not only spoke those words, he lived them through opposition, tumult times and in suffering on the cross. His was the long view of life. Outward calamities couldn't mar the cheerful faith he maintained in all things.

One evening I was calling at the hospital to see a church member in a critical condition. I met the attending physician coming out of the patient's room. "How is she doing?" I asked the doctor. He replied, "Well, she has a cheerful attitude." "Does that mean she is going to be alright?" I asked. The doctor answered, "It's

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unless our faith is expressed, not only in our worship but in our work, our home life and the way we organise life, namely our politics, it may well be that the Church is no longer his Church, and he will choose another instrument to accomplish his will.

When the great slavery abolitionist, Wendell Phillips, went out to speak to a hostile crowd, he knew he was not alone. First, God was with him. And, secondly, he went with the words of his invalid wife still in his ears, "Now, Wendell, don't shilly-shally!" What a word for the Church today! God has a message which must be spoken, an act which must be acted. If the Church is not ready to speak and act God's word to this generation, it may well be on the way out. —View Point.

in her favor to possess such a cheerful spirit." This wise doctor agreed that a good, cheerful faith was like medicine for the patient.

We know that Christians aren't immune from dreadful diseases or that, by saying we have faith, we will be assured of the cure for every kind of sickness and suffering. We do know that a cheerful faith provides one with a kind of courage which is a great comfort and help in the absence of good health.

A cheerful faith has a firm hold on the promises of God, it possesses an undefeatable purpose in God's world and it fortifies mind and body with spiritual strength. Any person with a cheerful faith is invulnerable. The source of this unwavering truth is real. It is centred in the One who is Lord of all things.

In close fellowship with Christ our whole being is endowed with a cheerful spirit. Gloom and despair cannot abide in the presence of Christ. "Fear not" from his lips saves us from a downcast spirit.

Thank God for those who reflect a cheerful faith under difficult circumstances. "Thanks be to God" who revealed this faith through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Thank God who can give you and me a cheerful faith that is a good spiritual medicine.—The Christian.

Strictly for Parents

Dr. Elwyn Morey,
Senior Lecturer in Psychology,
Melbourne University.

Because teenagers are searching for their identity, they are daring and venturesome. Adults are not — and here lies a possible source of conflict. Because they are on the threshold of taking responsibility for the world, they have to be challenging — they challenge accepted standards and accepted patterns. Now they feel they can see all the possibilities in a situation; as a matter of fact they can see possibilities that never really existed and never will; thus the teenager is very good at arguing, at challenging and at questioning.

Then, too, they are imitating one another. Recently I attended a concert at the Festival Hall with a teenager — it would be good for all adults to go along with their teenagers to such things. Here they were trying to get identity from one another in a crowd — copying, imitating. The important thing is that adults must help them imitate something that will help them, and that will be constructive.

Parents have to learn a gradualness in letting go, and this must be a continual process. If there is a gradual letting go, then young people gradually accept responsibility.

Then there needs to be more co-operation in the home. The attitude of the adult in relation to young people is too often expressed in such phrases as "getting home at all hours," "spending money so irresponsibly," "not taking care of things," "spending hours on the telephone," "spending hours in the bathroom." All these things are matters for family councils, which allow real co-operation and not direction.

The role of adults, then, is not to behave like teenagers, but to have confidence in them. Adults must bridge the gap without imposing on them or forcing them to grow up too early.

I recently saw a cartoon which depicted two teenagers, a boy and girl, peering around a door into the lounge room. The parents were watching T.V. and were dressed in teenage clothes and sitting in teenage attitudes. The boy was saying to the girl, "Gee, I wish my parents were squares like everyone else's!"—Presbyterian Life.

In His Own Way

In his own way they come,
The answers to our prayers,
Not always as we thought they would,
Nor even as we feel they should,
But in the wisdom of a God
Who understands and cares.

In his own time we see
The things his love has planned;
And when we find that they are best,
We wonder that we did not rest,
But fretted since we could not see
The workings of his hand.

Of times he soon would send
The answers on their way
If we would take him at his word,
Rejoicing that our prayers were heard,
And that his love had planned
the answer
Ere we knelt to pray.

—Barbara C. Ryberg.

First teenager: "Is your Granny very religious?"

Second teenager: "I don't think so. Why?"

First teenager: "Whenever I come to see you she's always reading her Bible."

Second teenager: "Maybe, that's because she's over ninety and I guess she's swotting for her finals."

HERE AND THERE

Interest is quickening and attendances growing at the New Life Crusade, East Bentleigh, Vic., led by J. K. Bond, with C. Gadge as song leader. During the third week of meetings, the average attendance per night rose by twenty to 217. At the end of the third week there had been six primary decisions, four rededications, and one dedication for full-time service.

Dr. and Mrs. Jesse M. Bader left New York on Oct. 28 for the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held at New Delhi. Dr. Bader is the Fraternal Delegate representing the World Convention of Churches of Christ. On the way they will visit London, Leicester, Athens, Cairo and the Holy Land. Indications now are that there will be forty members of Churches of Christ (Disciples) present at New Delhi from the various countries of the world.

The Maxted mission with the church at Kalgoorlie, W.A., began on Oct. 22. There was a large attendance of interested folk and five B.S. scholars made decision for Christ. Young people have shown keen interest in carrying out mission visitation.

Jordanville to Chadstone! At a recent business meeting, the church at Jordanville, Vic., unanimously decided to change its name to Church of Christ, Chadstone. The change was made because the name of the postal area in which the chapel is situated was changed from Jordanville to Chadstone some two to three years ago, and according to the authorities it will not be altered again. The suburb of Jordanville is now non-existent.—R. I. Field, church sec.

The Vic.-Tas. Church Men's Society is delighted to announce that His Excellency, the Governor of Victoria (Sir Dallas Brooks) has graciously accepted the invitation to attend with his party at the "Family Hour" service being arranged by the men, to be held in the Myer Music Bowl, Melb., on Sun. afternoon, Dec. 3.

At the annual meeting of Albury-Wodonga-Lavington circuit, P. Kavanagh was appointed evangelist, to assist D. Oldfield in the work. Plans are being made for a mission to be held at Wodonga, Nov.-Dec. Prayer meetings are held in members' homes every night, and approximately one hundred met in these meetings during the first week. The cottage next to the chapel has been demolished, and the block is being cleared. Plans are drawn up for extensions to the Albury cause, in the way of kitchen,

kinder room and store, also for additions to Wodonga for chapel.

Big attendances marked the "Back to Kaniva" church services on Oct. 15. Farewell addresses were given by G. Grainger on Oct. 22, and a presentation made to Mr. and Mrs. Grainger after p.m. service as they concluded 5½ years of appreciated service with this Victorian church.

Sports Award

His Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Sir Edric Bastyn, presents the Magarey Medal to Australian and Sturt Centreman, John Halbert, before the S.A. League Grand Final at the Adelaide Oval, on Sept. 30.



It was the first time in the history of S.A. football that a Governor has presented this award to the best and fairest footballer of the year.

John is a member of the Department of Christian Education, and also an active member of the church

at Clovelly Park, S.A., and South Australians are proud of his fine record in State football.

He has represented the State in Interstate football for several years, and has been playing football since the age of seventeen.

His Magarey Medal win this year, at the age of twenty-four years, is the highlight of his football career, as he had been runner-up on three previous occasions.—Barry Hannaford.

Planned-Giving Programme

NORTH WILLIAMSTOWN, VIC.

That the giving of money is a teaching and organisational problem has been demonstrated at North Williamstown by the results of the Planned-Giving Programme recently directed there by A. A. Avery, Field Officer of the Vic.-Tas. Home Missions Department. The first offerings of the Planned-Giving Period amounted to £74 on Oct. 15, and £105 on the 22nd, and with this new standard of responsible giving the church will be able to plan for progress in an efficient and business-like manner. The church acknowledges the value of the trained leadership of Mr. Avery, the evidence of which is seen in the results. Prior to this programme the church had engaged in an effort of its own and had done well to achieve a weekly offering average of nearly £40. This, however, had declined to £34 by the beginning of this year. The difference in the results can safely be attributed to the help of Home Missions through the consecrated knowledge, training, enthusiasm and energy of its Field Officer.

In the realm of spiritual values the church has benefited greatly from the programme. During the programme new avenues of activity were opened up for both men and women, enabling them to share in the mission of the Church in a way not known before. The training and experience they gained will undoubtedly equip them to share in the ongoing programme of the local church in the future. Out of this has grown a deepening of fellowship between the members, which will enable them to be more and more the Body of Christ in the community. Consequent upon the giving of their money an increasing interest has been reflected in the attendance and participation of some families who for a long time have not shared in the worship and fellowship of the church. With so many learning the lesson of good giving and sharing, the congregation at North Williamstown will confidently "attempt great things for God and expect great things from God" in the future.—R. C. Bust.



Theme for the Week:
"FORGIVENESS"

Sunday, November 12

Psalm 25: 1-11.

Thought Text: "Remember not the sins . . . remember me" (v. 7).

Here is a cry from the heart, very much like that of the penitent thief on the Cross, "Lord, remember me, when thou comest into thy kingdom!"

"When God forgives, he forgets" — that is the verdict of man's experience of God's mercy. "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us" (Ps. 103: 12). "Repent . . . that your sins may be blotted out!" cried Peter to the Jews (Acts 3: 19). Sins "blotted out" . . . "remembered no more" — that's how unreserved God's forgiveness is.

But the penitent sinner is never forgotten. "Your heavenly Father knoweth . . . he careth for you."

Lord, may we never for a moment forget thee, or the debt of love we owe thee. Amen.

Monday, November 13

Psalm 25: 12-21.

Thought Text: "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him" (v. 14).

In the midst of all his troubles, the Psalmist, with "eyes ever toward the Lord," has proved the invaluable worth of continuing communion with God. True reverence of God (not "fear" in our present-day sense) opens up a man's life to the fullness God intends for all. As the R.S.V. translates this verse, "The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him."

The way for us still is the way our Lord made so plain: "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." To experience his transforming friendship is to find the key to many of life's mysteries.

Friend Divine, in the joy of knowing thee keep us ever responsive to all that such a friendship demands of us in love and service. Amen.

WHEN SOARS the SOUL

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

Tuesday, November 14

Psalm 32.

Thought Text: "Steadfast love surrounds him who trusts in the Lord" (v. 10, R.S.V.).

"Mercy shall compass him about," says the picturesque Authorised Version. Both translations vividly suggest the believer's absolute security — the same kind of confidence found in many other treasured verses of the Psalms.

But there is more than poetry in these words. They have strengthened and held men fast so often that their truth is undeniable. Whatever the crises that confront us, faith knows we are not alone. "I will guide thee with mine eye," says God, and as pupils look for guidance to a trusted teacher, so we "look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith."

Heavenly Guide, keep us looking and learning, our trust in thee deepening, our fears lessening. Amen.

Wednesday, November 15

Matthew 5: 43-48.

Thought Text: "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (v. 48).

This seems at first so impossible an ideal for our frail living that we are relieved to discover that Luke substitutes the word "merciful" for "perfect" in his version of the saying. But even at that it is a high ideal. Throughout this passage our Lord has been emphasising self-forgetting love, seen at its purest in Divine love. How small even our best love seems alongside his!

But the more we love — sometimes in places where it seems as hard to love as it must have been on Calvary — the more like Christ we grow. For that is the emphasis here; not our own frantic striving for perfection, but a growing up into Christ, with all the help he alone can give.

O God, give us a love like thine, strong even when rebuffed and misunderstood. Amen.

Thursday, November 16

Matthew 18: 21-35.

Thought Text: "If ye from your hearts forgive not" (v. 35).

"The one thing God will not forgive is an unforgiving heart," says Campbell Morgan; and Richard Glover makes the wise comment, "Never think of salvation as only a thing

between us and God; how we behave to our fellow-men is of the essence of religion."

It is not merely that God will not forgive; he cannot forgive the man whose bitterness shuts out both Divine and human love. The unforgiving man passes judgment on himself. Intolerance, resentment, grudge-bearing — these all destroy the fellowship God longs to have with us all.

Lord, cleanse us of all self-righteousness. May we never fail thee in the tests of true brotherhood. Amen.

Friday, November 17

Romans 12: 14-21.

Thought Text: "Accept humble tasks" (v. 16, Goodspeed).

Translators are divided in opinion as to whether Paul is here urging a readiness to do humble service, or association with lowly folk — or, as J. B. Phillips puts it, taking "a real interest in ordinary people."

Both meanings fit in with the rest of Paul's advice. The truly humble man will despise no task as too mean nor shun the company of any whom Christ has called brother. Who can measure the influence of the man who makes a ministry of welcoming folk at the church door, or of the woman whose letters to the sick and lonely are prized far more than eloquent sermons?

Save us, O God, from self-conceit and the desire for prominence. Make us humble instruments of thy loving purposes. Amen.

Saturday, November 18

1 John 1: 1-10.

Thought Text: ". . . that your joy may be full" (v. 4).

What a motive for writing a letter — "that joy may be yours in full measure," as Ronald Knox translates it. How many of our letters are written to add to people's joy?

Another interesting thing about this phrase is that some think it should be translated "that our joy may be complete," as the R.S.V. has it. The Amplified New Testament plays safe by including both — and surely both thoughts are involved. For the man who writes, or speaks, or sings, or acts to add to others' happiness in the Christian message finds for himself a deeper joy. How much real happiness do you find in your faith? Share it!

Lord, we thank thee for thy gift of inner joy. May the wonder of it be evident in all we do for thee. Amen.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

Graeme Clarke, Invermay, Tas.

W. Harrison, Miss G. Slaughter, Zillmere, Qld.

Miss R. Griffiths, Boondall, Qld.

A. McDougall, P. Grant, Perth, W.A.

Glenis Steele, Rhonda Gilchrist, Peter Jones, David Brown, Dandenong, Vic.

Thomas Woolman, Maryborough, Vic.

Mrs. Layton, Margret Rossiter, Lynette Major, Lismore, N.S.W.

Karen Douglas, Marion Chapman, Chadstone, Vic.

Mrs. R. Gray, V. Fulton, Red Cliffs, Vic.

Margaret and Geoffrey Mears, Margaret and Lynette Houldy, Bayswater, Vic.

G. O'Hanlon, Kingaroy, Qld.

Membership

Mrs. Hook, John Hook, Gladstone to Dalby, Qld.

Marriage

Jocelyn Clements to Noel Jacobson, Invermay, Tas.

Pamela Hall to Jon Coffey, Ormond, Vic.

Jill Leed to Allen Knights, Dandenong, Vic.

Christine Alderson to Bill Spencer, Maryborough, Vic.

Lyn Rayward to Geoff. Davis, Lismore, N.S.W.

Judith Davis to Kerry Jones, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.

Fallen Asleep

G. Griffen, Merbein, Vic.

AUST. CAPITAL TERRITORY

Canberra (G. R. Stirling, B.A.). — Church entertained boys, staff and committee of Dunmore Boys' Home, weekend Oct. 13-15; barbecue organised by C.M.S., 14th, church luncheon, 15th. L. E. Wyllie (Mosman, N.S.W.)

preached a.m., 15th, and G. R. Stirling at continuation of B.S. anniversary at night. Attendance for day: 245 a.m.; 175 p.m.; 198 communion. Working bee to prepare infants' playground on 21st. Lodge Canberra paraded p.m., 22nd. Attendance for day: 171 a.m.; 159 p.m.; 209 communion. B.S. supt., Ray Bolduan, wished Godspeed on departure for F.A.O. Conference in Rome. Mr. and Mrs. W. Cowan (Morwell, Vic.) welcomed as new arrivals.

TASMANIA

Invermay (P. R. Baker - interim). — Av. attendance maintained. Church released P. R. Baker to conduct mission at Ulverstone. Y.P. tea, Oct. 15. Golden Rule Club held film evening. Feature for C.W.F. was sewing machine demonstration. C.W.F. birthday held 6th, with Margaret-st. and Sandhill joining in. P. R. Baker concluded interim ministry on 29th. Dale Fleming in hospital.

QUEENSLAND

Boondall - Zillmere - Redcliffe (D. H. Paddon). — Talent drive to assist circuit funds brought to close with thanksgiving service and sacred concert by artists from circuit. Drive resulted in £335. Circuit greatly encouraged by information that H.M. Committee will arrange for mission party from south to conduct mission at Zillmere in connection with 80th anniversary of church. Increased attendances and enthusiasm mark youth activities. Life Boys and Boys' Brigade took part in combined sports, winning some sections. Cricket team entered in church union comp. Y.W.L. av. attendance at Boondall now 40. All come to morning service, then attend B.S. C.M.S. completed renovations to school hall; now making additions to manse.

E. Ipswich - Leichhardt (R. Acland). — Good meetings at both centres. C.Y.F. held progressive meeting — having sing-song at D. Risson's, supper at manse and devotions at A. Feldmann's. Fleet of cars carrying about 60 went to Mansell-Pieper mission, Albion. Ipswich chapel painted by men of church. New lino laid on platform. Mr. Fraser, snr. (Hamilton, N.S.W.) welcomed after being ill in Ipswich Hospital. Mr. Ellis and Mrs. Newton (Lismore) also welcome visitors.

Albion (M. H. A. Pieper). — Boys' Brigade formed under joint leadership

of L. N. Smith and L. J. Fittell, for boys 12-17. Life Boys' team, led by C. Dredge, with assistance of K. Dredge, has 13 members. Membership of both growing steadily. Girls' Good Companions' Club re-formed; now led Sat. afternoons by Mrs. S. L. Neil, with assistance of Miss G. Neil. J.C.E. conducted by Mrs. H. Horne; over 20 children attending.

Boonah - Silverdale (R. J. Hill). — Speakers during minister's illness were W. Mandelkow (Coleyville), C. K. Muller (Clumber), H. Lowe (Annerley), J. Christensen (Tarome), F. Smith (Mt. Walker). C.W.F. and minister visited Mrs. Willey, snr., on occasion of her birthday, for time of fellowship. H. Muller and Mrs. W. Vogler ill in hospital; Bruce Warwick has returned home.

Dalby (P. Woolford). — Church and B.S. anniversary combined; D. Mansell speaker at all services. Film, *Does Christ Live in Your Home?* screened to appreciative congregation. Plans made re mission and new buildings at new site recently purchased. Mother and son welcomed by transfer.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Perth (M. J. Savage). — Interstate girls' basketball teams held church parade, Sept. 24. B.S. barbecue at home of J. T. Holloway, 30th. Oct. 15 was first anniversary of transfer from Lake-st. Attendances for Sept.: a.m., 124; p.m., 109.

Kalgoorlie (F. Griffiths). — B.S. anniversary held two Sundays. Singing, items and addresses of high standard. Congregation of 200 saw *Oiltown* film; one decision. D.U.C.E. rally at Norseman attended by many Y.P.; B. Clapp, principal speaker; F. Griffiths re-elected pres. Mrs. Bennett, native missionary for years, and in retirement a champion of their cause, laid to rest amidst big gathering of native people. Sherry family (Vic.) have been visitors.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Burwood (A. G. Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.). — Three Y.P. groups went away Oct. long weekend. One group combined with Penrith, spent weekend at Faulconbridge at visual aids workshop; Boys' Brigade spent weekend under canvas on Pittwater; Life Boys team went to Macquarie Fields. Many members attending counselling classes in connection with Leighton Ford Crusade. Ron Isbister, student-assistant, is ill. Sym-

pathy extended to Somerville and Small families in loss of loved ones.

Albury - Wodonga - Lavington (D. Oldfield). — Record attendance at church business meeting, Oct. 18. Officers elected: elders, A. E. Combridge, P. Kavanagh, S. Winch; deacons, J. Combridge, I. Combridge, R. Beach, D. Van der Pol, R. Rauffers, H. Gray, M. Winch, R. Potter, Mr. McGregor. During meeting, tape-recorded message from J. Mackenzie (U.S.A.) greatly enjoyed. Prayer meetings held every evening except Sunday, in private homes prior to commencement of Wodonga mission. Lavington organised P.S.A., 15th. B.S. pupils presenting splendid programme under leadership of John Combridge. C.E. attended special meeting in Albury, arranged by Dr. Ralph Mitchell (Billy Graham Team) and viewed film, *Sweet Hour of Prayer*. Mr. and Mrs. McGregor (Canberra) now in fellowship at Lavington.

Wagga Wagga (W. J. O. Todd). — Annual meeting elected elders, A. E. Powell, W. J. Caspersonn; deacons, F. Button, J. Morrison, N. Mowsar, R. Pratt, H. Renison, R. Revell, J. C. Rhodes, W. H. Snowden, C. Willis, L. Kavanagh and N. Mowsar hand over B.S. leadership after years of valuable service at Tompson-st., and Koorlinga to H. Renison and W. Caspersonn. Income for year, £3,000. Church gave £850 to brotherhood work and Missions. Y.P. held tea and assisted, p.m., Oct. 15, with excellent attendance of 150. C.W.E.F. arranged social for Chris. Goode (A.I.M.) and raised £20. C.Y.F. held barbecue on Noel Murray's farm. Teachers' College students conducted evening service, 22nd; attendance 125.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Naracoorte (M. D. Williams). — H. Walmsley (Mission to Lepers) spoke a.m., Sept. 24. Members of other churches met following gospel service, when film, *Uplifted Hands*, was screened, and Mr. Walmsley spoke of work of Society, and answered questions. C.Y.F. visited local Amateur Radio Station. J. Farmer showed slides of trip to America to C.W.E.F. Y.P. attended Leadership Camp at Hall's Gap during Oct. 7-9. R. Holmes and K. Horne, camp leaders.

VICTORIA

Camberwell (K. W. Barton, L.Th., Dip.R.E.). — Good Companions' basketball team joined with other teams in Eastern Suburbs' Basketball Association for social evening, Oct. 2. C.W.F. on 9th, farewelled Mrs. Wells, leaving for Canada with husband and son; on 11th, held annual business meeting; on 19th, had Mrs. Manning (Hos-

pital Visitation Com.) as guest speaker. B.S. anniversary, 8th and 15th. At first of four services, cradle and kindergarten prizes presented. Speakers were Cr. Horman (Ringwood), Mr. Evans (Balwyn) and K. Barton. At monthly meeting of C.M.S., 16th, judo demonstration given by F. Dando, 1961 Australian champion. On 20th, gymnasium club conducted spring millinery parade. Mrs. Abercrombie welcomed home from abroad, a.m., 15th. Mr. Willing in Box Hill Hospital, recovering from surgery.

Wattle Park (L. G. Crisp, L.Th.). — Temple Day offering, £503. Mr. Munyard screened films on N.G. Missions to C.W.F., and Mrs. Stott demonstrated cake making. Clubs took part in sports day at Royal Park. Mrs. B. L. Murray and Mrs. L. Deith home from hospital. Visitors have included Mrs. C. H. J. Wright (S.A.). Explorer boys have team in Sat. morning cricket comps.

Middle Park (A. Matheson). — On Oct. 15, Mr. Perry (Cheltenham) presided at Lord's Table. Mrs. Annetts home from hospital after surgery.

Red Hill (L. G. Chapman). — Number of Y.P. attended youth camp, Monbulk; Mrs. H. W. Holmes, a camp "aunt." Manse repainted in preparation for coming of full-time minister, M. Keatch and family, in January. C.W.F. celebrated 31st birthday. Representatives from local churches attended; interesting talk and slides of spastic children given by Mrs. Planner.

Croydon (W. J. Thomson). — October is loyalty month. C.W.E.F. well represented at Hartwell's birthday. Ladies enjoyed floral art demonstration, Oct. 3. Good Companions and Explorers entered outdoor sports at Royal Park, 7th. Much sickness among members. Mrs. Thomson improving after accident. W. Galletly and F. Archer assist at evening service by leading singing. Kinder. dept. reports steady increase of new scholars.

Glen Waverley (R. W. Marshall). — Annual business meeting re-elected Messrs. Alabaster, Salmon, Little, Lloyd; Sis. Clark, Gillespie and Watson deacons and deaconesses. J. Alabaster, sec., and K. Little, treas., were re-appointed, and R. Salmon elected chairman of Board. Membership over past 12 months has increased by 23 to 118; 7 by faith and baptism. 132 children enrolled with school; av. attendance, 95. Latest auxiliary to be formed is Y.W.L., under leadership of Sis. R. Beale.

Dandenong (R. N. Gilmore, B.A.). — Successful youth camp held at "Brooklands," Tecoma. Annual business meeting, Oct. 3; reports showed good year of major activities. Election of officers resulted: elder, W. Berthelsen; deacon, C. Brough; deaconess, Mrs. L. Haggarty; sec., E. Reveleigh. Minister made presenta-

tion to C. Brough on retirement as sec. after period of 10 years. Good attendances at B.S. anniversary; R. W. Marshall, K. Jones, R. V. Longthorp and R. N. Gilmore speakers. Young man made decision. Canvass of all homes in Doveton area for scholars held, with opening of new school in Doveton Public Hall.

Hartwell (H. J. Patterson, M.A.). — C.W.F. birthdays successful events, afternoon group addressed by Miss Trulove; soloist, Miss Lang; evening group had interesting talk by Miss Cook; Mrs. Brearton presented monologues; Mrs. Quaife, soloist. Cricket club commenced season well; junior team playing competition matches Sat. mornings. Church pleased to have Miss Wendy Layton at services again after stay overseas, also Mr. Morrison and Mrs. Everett, returned from extended holiday. Recent visitors Miss L. Piper, Mr. and Mrs. R. Taylor (N.S.W.) and Mr. Moore (S.A.). P.m. soloists, Misses S. Joyce and J. Tolscher. Church regrets removal from district of Mr. Joyce (A.C. agent) and family after years of faithful service. A.C. agent now K. Sinclair.

Maryborough (R. Pritchard). — Chapel filled to capacity, Oct. 13, when the B.S. presented concert and received prizes. Maryborough Youth Parade, a.m., 22nd; teachers' dedication service, p.m. After service, farewell said and presentations made to Mr. and Mrs. J. Hunter and Ian, transferred to Brisbane, also to Robertson family, who have been active in all work of church. Ladies' Aid held "do-it-yourself" pattern demonstration, 18th. Lad baptised 22nd. H. Walters in hospital.

Ormond (R. C. McKenzie, B.A.). — Attendances good. B.S. teachers inducted, Sept. 24. Endeavorers attended C.E. Action Camp at Hall's Gap. C.W.E.F. held family social, 30th, proceeds to Living Link, Mrs. Win. Beale. Men helped with erection of tent for East Bentleigh Crusade. Youth tea, youth church parade and after-church sing-song held by large number of Y.P. Oct. 1. Two baptisms, p.m. P.B.P. received two 1st and K.S.P. one equal 1st at Inter-Chapter Bible reading finals. P.B.P. received 2nd placing in basketball comp. R. Story (U.F.M.) screened film, . . . *Were in Darkness*, at conclusion of p.m. service, 8th.

Portland (C. G. Henderson). — At C.W.F. birthday afternoon in Sept., Matron Gall enthralled large audience, who were very appreciative of her and Mrs. Patterson's long trip for such short visit. Donation made towards craft work at Oakleigh Home. Stall and sale of recipe books prepared for occasion, augmented local funds. Question and Answer night, Oct. 1. After service, 15th, slides shown by Mr. Brown (World Evangelisation Crusade). 10th, Y. P. farewelled Bar-

bara Warburton, left to take up position in England for several years. A. R. Rivett and W. Crouch took services on 21st, when preacher was speaker at Tarpeena, S.A.

Swan Hill (G. A. Harrison). — B.S. anniversary in Memorial Hall, Oct. 15, with Lieut. Ling (Kerang Salvation Army) guest speaker. Afternoon service had excellent attendance, and over 80 prizes distributed to Kinder. and Cradle Roll children. Concert and prizegiving in church hall, 18th. Morning services, 22nd, broadcast over 3SH. Church officers redecorating interior of manse. B.S. annual meeting elected: supt., S. Scott; asst.-supt., Mrs. R. Symmes; sec., A. Carter; Kinder. and Cradle Roll, supt., Mrs. W. Cockroft.

Prahran (G. S. Brown). — Oct. 22 ended two Sundays of successful B.S. anniversary. Children delighted all with singing under baton of Mr. Waters (Bentleigh). At gospel service conducted by minister, three adults made good confession, among them couple recently arrived from Ireland, parents of a B.S. scholar.

Collingwood (S. Wilkerson). — Ten Y.P. made decisions in successful B.S. anniversary services. S. Wilkerson will continue in part-time ministry for further 2 years from Feb., 1962. C.E. had barbecue at Mr. Wilkerson's home, Oct. 5. Scholars' tea and prizegiving, 6th, happy occasion.

Bayswater (H. S. Prime). — C.M.S. enjoyed return visit from Glen Waverley, 5th. Over 40 past and present Good Companions gathered on 7th for 5th birthday tea, with "Auntie Rita" as guest. Church and B.S. anniversary, 15th, with minister and D. Beasy (afternoon) as speakers. P.S.A. had 250 present, including over 100 scholars and teachers on platform. Feature of anniversary was singing of scholars under leadership of Mrs. Adkins. Concert and prizegiving night, 20th, enjoyed by large gathering. Fortnightly Bible study and prayer meetings well attended. Four Y.P. received into membership by faith and baptism.

Chadstone, formerly Jordanville (D. B. McIntosh). — Two young ladies baptised. Young man made decision at conclusion of service. Church officers, deaconesses and auxiliary leaders meeting monthly with representative of Dept. Christian Education to discuss total life and structure of church. Half-yearly business meeting concluded business session in hour and used remaining time in group discussion. Mr. and Mrs. Coventry honored at social evening for missionary service, and Mr. Coventry elected life elder. C.M.S. meeting in members' homes. Planned Giving Programme continues successfully. Y.P. attended South Suburban camp, Monbulk. Explorers and Good Companions competed in

outdoor sports. Tennis club runners-up in grand final. Cricket club won first match.

Merbein (R. Cke). — B.S. anniversary, Oct. 15; speakers Mr. Briguett (Mildura Baptist) and R. Oke. Tea and prize distribution, 18th. Number of new scholars during recent weeks. Loving sympathy to Mrs. Griffen and family in passing of Mr. Griffen. B.S., church and C.W.F. annual meetings held during month.

Red Cliffs (S. K. Bannon). — B.S. anniversary had excellent singing, good attendances. Guest speakers: A. Mac Williams (Mildura) and R. Oke (Merbein). Anniversary tea and prizegiving held following Tuesday. C.W.F. held 30th birthday, Oct. 12, with over 100 present. Stall, etc., resulted in £18. Presentation made to Faye Rosher, now living near Portland. Several members home after hospitalisation.

Toetgarook (H. Hunt). — B.S. anniversary Oct. 15-22, with special singing by scholars. B.S. social, 20th, with entertainment supplied by Alan Rowe. All services well attended, visiting speakers being Ward Paterson (U.S.A.), Kerry Wilson, and Cyril Menz, with seeing-eye dog, Andy. Fete held by C.W.F., 7th.



F. L. Leivesley (Lismore) has accepted a position as State Evangelist (Qld.) with the undenominational Children's Special Services Mission.

Sunday, Oct. 15 was a fitting climax to the week of special services held to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Church of Christ, Nubeena, Tas. Theme of the celebrations was **The Church's Place in the Community**. The chapel was packed with 135 people for the communion service on the 15th. The Federal President, K. G. Mundy (himself a local lad, now living at Hythe), presided at this meeting. J. Park outlined the church's history. A. E. Heard (elder from Hobart) was guest speaker morning and afternoon, giving appreciated addresses. At the P.S.A., 104 enjoyed special items by the Hobart church choir, under N. Monson. Visitors came mainly from Highcroft, Hobart and Launceston. Greetings from churches and individuals were read at the afternoon service, and appreciation expressed to the ladies for arranging the excellent lunch and tea in the Nubeena Hall. 42 local folk attended the final service at 7.45 p.m., when a word of thanks was given to the local artists who had sung during the week, to the organist, Mrs. R. Noye for arranging these items and playing, to B. Spaulding, who had led song services and chaired the special services, and to E. K. Morrison (local minister), who had brought the messages.

An advertisement in this issue marks the 65th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. W. Waterman, who are now both 88 years of age. Mr. Waterman was baptised by A. B. Maston at Collingwood, Vic., in the early nineties. Their son, Will, was baptised at Northcote, Vic., on Oct. 2, 1913, and on that night his mother and a brother also made their decision. Shortly after this, the family moved to Monbulk, from where Will entered the College of the Bible, and was later called to the work in China, where he died. The Monbulk property is now dedicated to his memory.

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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting of Members of the Christian Fellowship Association will be held on November 6, at 7.45 p.m., in the Reception Room, Churches of Christ Centre, 217 Lonsdale-st., Melbourne.

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Young people interested in having their voices trained for gospel singing, etc., by Christian singing teacher (Western suburbs). Private tuition in your home. Enquiries to Harmony, c/o The Austral, 119-125 Hawke-st., West Melbourne, C.3, Vic.

Coming Events

NOV. 5: LYCON-ST. CHURCH (Vic.) commemorates 107th **ANNIVERSARY and HOMECOMING DAY.** You are cordially invited to be guests all day — uniting in three thrilling services: 11 a.m., Worship and Communion; preacher: R. J. Duckett. 3 p.m.: Pleasant Sunday Afternoon. Speaker, W. R. McEwen, "The Changeless Word in a Changing World." Song Service and Fine Programme. 7 p.m.: Splendid Gospel Service; preacher, R. J. Duckett. Come and receive blessing, inspiration, strength and encouragement. Ample hospitality available all day.

SUNSHINE (Vic.) ANNIVERSARY and HOMECOMING, Sunday, Nov. 12. 11 a.m., W. A. Thompson (Conf. Pres.); 3 p.m., G. Brown (Pahran); 7 p.m., B. Goldsteen. Lunch and tea will be provided. An invitation extended to all past members and friends. R. Horwood, 311 - 2317.

MIDDLE PARK, Vic., BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY, Nov. 5, 12. 5th: 3 p.m., T. Ede; 7 p.m., R. Sinton. 12th: 3 p.m., K. Turner; 7 p.m., A. Matheson.

HARTWELL (Vic.) BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY, Nov. 5, 12. 5th: 11 a.m., H. J. Patterson, M.A.; 3 p.m., Cradle Roll afternoon; K. W. Barton L.Th.; 7 p.m., R. Mathias, M.A. 12th: 11 a.m., F. T. Morgan; 3 p.m., D. Beasy (kinder. awards); 7 p.m., Special Youth Service; H. J. Patterson, M.A.

NTH. WILLIAMSTOWN (Vic.) BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY, Nov. 5. 9.45 a.m., Worship Service; R. C. Bust; 11 a.m., School Choir; speaker, L. Firth; 3 p.m., Kinders and Primary; speaker, L. Stewart; 7 p.m., Senior scholars, Building the Church.

OAKLEIGH (Vic.) 45th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY Homecoming, Sunday, Nov. 12. 11 a.m., F. A. Youens; 3 p.m., P.S.A.; 4.45 p.m., Fellowship Tea; 7 p.m., E. J. Miles. For hospitality for the day contact church sec., A. A. Brown, 35 Andrew-st., Oakleigh. Phone 57 - 3215.

SWANSTON-ST., Melbourne, Vic., 96th HOMECOMING Service, Nov. 12. 11 a.m., The Conversion of the Church; 3 p.m., R. S. McLean, Fed. Sec. Overseas Missions Board; 7 p.m., Great Texts of the Bible series — The Great Text About Belief in God. Preacher, K. A. Macnaughtan. Come and join us in a day of worship and fellowship.

BERWICK (Vic.) BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY, Nov. 5. 11 a.m., Teachers' Dedication Service; 3 p.m., Primary and Kinder. Session; speaker, A. E. White; 7 p.m., Play Presentation, The Unforgiving Servant. Special singing. All welcome. Tuesday, Nov. 7: Concert in Masonic Hall. Guest artists. Funds: Aborigines Advancement League.

BIRTHS

MASON (nee Wilson). — On Oct. 23, to Dal and Ken, a son — Robert Llyall.

WATERS (Elliott). — On Oct. 21, at Margaret Coles, to Marje. and Allan, twin daughters — Susan Marie and Jennifer Anne; all well.

IN MEMORIAM

RICHARDS. — Treasured memories of my dear husband and our father, John Loftus, called Home, Oct. 30, 1958; also grand-daughter Glenda (Williams), Oct. 10, 1959. "Beyond the sunset, O blissful morning."

—E. M. Richards and family, Seaford, Vic.

BONE. — In loving memory of our dear mother, who passed away Oct. 29, 1959. A wonderful mother always remembered.

—Inserted by her loving family, Ben, Alice, Beatrice (Mrs. Neighbour) and Jean (Mrs. Alves).

BURTON. — In loving memory of our beloved grandma, Sarah, called Home, Oct. 29, 1958.

"In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore."

—Inserted by Una, Bob and family.

APPRECIATION

Mrs. F. Dines wishes to thank all those friends who, by letters, telegrams and flowers, expressed their sympathy in the recent loss of her dear husband. Will all please accept this as a personal expression of her deep appreciation? 15a Margaret-st., Canterbury, Vic.

ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENT

WATERMAN - McBAIN. — The family of Mr. and Mrs. Will Waterman have pleasure in announcing their 65th wedding anniversary, conducted by Mr. Heathershaw (Methodist minister) in the manse, Gore-st., Fitzroy, on Nov. 3, 1896. Their present address is: Mr. and Mrs. Will Waterman, "Lynburn," Devenish-ave., Montrose, Vic.

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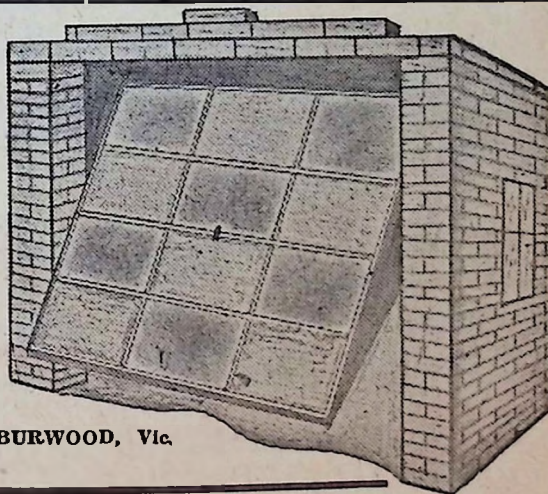
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— or ring 97-2201.

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November 19

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Bread Upon the Waters

Ira A. Paternoster.

A lady visited a friend in hospital and left a bunch of flowers to which was attached a text of Scripture. I am not sure what the words were. The same afternoon a member of my congregation, who was also a friend of the sick lady, visited the hospital and asked if the patient would like me to call, as she had no church affiliation and no minister calling.

I readily consented to call and the following day was received with the greatest kindness. The little text on the flowers had opened the door.

Following this up I visited the home, only to find that during the wife's sojourn in hospital her husband had been stricken by the same malignant complaint. I visited the home regularly and had the great joy of hearing the man acknowledge his faith in the saving power of Christ. He only lived a few weeks, and I was called upon to conduct the funeral service, when I told something of his victorious end to a large company of his friends. Within a week or so the physical condition of his widow deteriorated rapidly, but before the end she too found Christ as Lord and Saviour, and once again at her funeral I was able to speak of the faith with which she "crossed the bar."

Young people, and older ones also, do not be afraid to hand a text with your gift of flowers, or enclose one in your envelope when writing to that friend who is out of Christ. God is still working through his Word. Has he not said, "My word shall not return unto me void"? We are bidden to "cast our bread upon the waters, and it shall return to us after many days."

I was having a cup of tea one day with a friend in a restaurant, and as we entered three policemen were seated at a table near the door. One of them looked up and greeted me as I entered. My friend asked who he was and I had to reply that I hadn't the faintest idea. Before we finished he came across and said, "I want to thank you for the service you conducted for Mr.— the other day." He had been present at the above-mentioned funeral service. Here was a heart open to the recognition of the Lordship of Christ, for that had been the burden of my message.

The word of God is more powerful than a sword with two edges, able to penetrate the hardest heart and able to save to the uttermost all who come to God by him.

A little word in weakness said
May fall on fruitful ground,
And as a harvest hundred-fold
Is at the reaping found.

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32-2445 32-2446

OBITUARY

Bruce Kenneth Dickson.

The sudden Home call of Bruce Dickson on Oct. 10, 1961, at the age of 29, while attempting to rescue four children in a boat, has filled the members at Caringbah, N.S.W., with a deep sense of personal loss. Mr. Dickson served his Lord as Director of C. R. Dickson & Co. Pty. Ltd., Vice-President of C.M.S. and leader in the Boys' Brigade. His life was marked by a love for the witness of our people, and a desire to see others won to Christ as Saviour and Lord. The more I got to know Bruce, the more my own life was challenged by his singleness of motive, to do whatever he could to extend the Kingdom of God. The crowded gathering of over 300 at the Church of Christ, Caringbah, and Woronora Lawn Cemetery, was a fitting tribute to one so highly respected and loved. To his wife and family, the brotherhood expresses sincere sympathy. We are comforted by the knowledge that he is with Christ, which is far better, and give thanks to God for the safe recovery of the four children.—Kevin E. Crawford.

Garnett Griffen.

The church at Merbein, Vic., has lost a beloved brother by the Home call that came to Garnett Griffen on Wed., Oct. 18, at the age of 58 years. It was at the Merbein church that our brother made his confession of faith and was baptised by P. R. Whitmore, and where he served the Lord faithfully as a deacon and church treasurer. The service rendered by our brother was of high calibre, and given unstintingly. He discharged his duties in all aspects as he was able, as unto the Lord. His life lived out before us serves as an example we can all follow, for not only at his place of worship, but also where the Christian's place of witness should tell most, his place of employment, his witness was effective and appreciated. He is sadly missed and mourned by those who knew him and loved him as a husband and father, yet for him it means a time of waiting — waiting for the re-uniting with his loved ones, when he who is the Prince of Life and Death comes to call all his loved ones Home. To his dear wife, and family — Nannette (Mrs. Bennett), Denis and Peter, and son-in-law Harold — we express our loving sympathy. The services, both in the chapel and at the graveside, were conducted by the writer. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—Ralph Oke.

Wholly set up and printed by The Austral Printing and Publishing Co., 119-125 Hawke-st., West Melb., C.3.

Editor: C. G. Taylor, B.A.
Manager: A. R. Haskell.

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