

12 Nov

# THE AUSTRALIAN Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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

## Federal Conference. 1962 Hobart, Tasmania

The 1962 Federal Conference Committee in Tasmania sends Christian greetings to all members of our churches throughout Australia, and trusts that many are planning to come to Hobart for the Federal Conference, to be held Oct. 9-16, 1962.

Posters and registration forms for Federal Conference have been despatched to all churches, and the forms may be obtained on application to your local church secretary.

The registration forms show the Transport Officers appointed in each State, and members planning to come to Conference are urged to contact their own State Transport Officer as soon as possible in order to obtain the benefit of any travel concessions available.

It has been ascertained that all Conference visitors may book at "tourist rates" for air travel with T.A.A. or Ansett/A.N.A. An even greater saving can be effected if planes are "chartered." "Chartered planes" require the complete plane to be booked by an organisation. Members should check with their own State Transport Officer as to whether sufficient members can be obtained to use this method of travel. Another advantage of the "chartered plane" is that dates and times of flights can be arranged to suit the convenience of the passengers.

The Princess of Tasmania, vehicular and passenger ferry, which operates between Melbourne and Devonport, Tasmania, has been "block-booked" by our Committee for the sailing Melbourne to Devonport on Friday, Oct. 5, 1962 (arriving at Devonport on Satur-

day, Oct. 6), and also for the return sailing — Devonport to Melbourne on Thursday, Oct. 18, 1962. Each State Transport Officer has full details of the State allocations for cars, cabins and berths in respect of these trips, and passengers on these two trips must make their reservations through their own State Transport Officer. Bookings on other sailings may be made without regard to "block bookings," but it is

suggested that the arrangements be made through your Transport Officer to obtain the 10% concession to Conference visitors (this concession applies to fares only and not to vehicle freights).

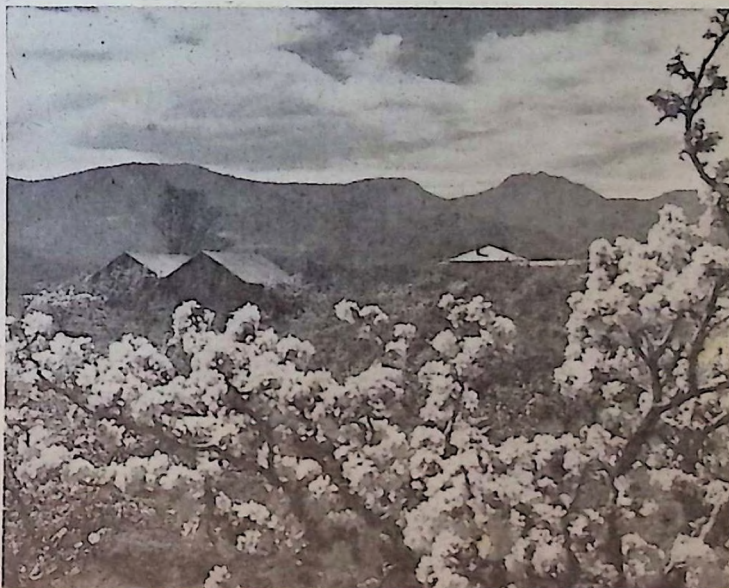
Our Committee urges members who are **not** bringing their cars, or who are **not** passengers in cars, to refrain, if possible, from booking on the Princess of Tasmania for the two trips mentioned, i.e., Oct. 5 and 18, 1962. This will ensure that, on these trips, there will be adequate berths available for car-owners and their passengers, and that the ship is not booked out with non-car owners. (This request does not apply to other sailings.)

Members will note that the closing date for applications is June 30, 1962. Earlier lodgment of registration forms will greatly assist the Committee in its planning and will also enable it to make the best possible arrangements with regard to accommodation. All available guest-house and non-licensed hotel and motel accommodation is being "held" for us by the Tasmanian Government Tourist Bureau. Naturally, preference in accommodation requirements will be on the basis of the order in which registrations are received. Over 60 interstate registrations have already been received.

The Conference meetings will be held in the City Hall, which is quite central and within a few hundred yards of the G.P.O.

"All Day" tours are planned for Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1962 and Tuesday, Oct. 16, 1962. "Half Day" tours will also be available. Details of these

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Apple Blossom in the Huon Valley. — "Sleeping Beauty" in the background. (Conference visitors should see this lovely sight, as October is blossom time).



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A. R. Haskell, Manager.

Printed and Published by The Austral Printing and Publishing Co.,  
119-125 Hawke-st., West Melbourne, C.3. Phones: 30-1848 and 30-1849.

**Subscription.**—Payable in advance. Posted direct (Aust. and N.Z.), 27/6 year,  
Foreign, 32/6. Through Church Agent, 5½d. week (22/11 per annum).

**Cheques, Money Orders, etc.**, payable to The Austral Printing and Publishing Co.  
**Change of Address** — Send old and new address a week previous to date of  
desired change.

**Advertisements.**—Deaths, Memorials (space does not permit verse), Births, Engagements, Marriages, Thanks, 5/- Wanted, For Sale, To Let and Similar Ads., also paragraphed Coming Events, 24 words 4/-, every additional word, 1d. Displayed Coming Events and other Ads., 5/- inch. All Ads. 1/- extra booking fee if invoiced out.

**Quarterly Displayed Advertisements:** 34/6 per inch ad.

To ensure insertion in next issue copy required by First Mail Friday.

## FEDERAL DIRECTORY

29th FEDERAL CONFERENCE, OCT: 9-16, 1962, HOBART, TAS.

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tours will be notified, in due course,  
to members who have registered.

**Volunteers are sought for the Conference Choir!** We would greatly appreciate early advice from any choir members who are coming to Conference, and who would be willing to assist. Copies of the Conference anthems will be forwarded to volunteers. (Kindly indicate whether soprano, bass, etc., and write to the undermentioned address.)

Registration forms should be forwarded to the address given on that form, and all other correspondence should be sent to the undermentioned address.

**IMPORTANT.** It will be noted that the "transport" section of the registration form is detachable so that if transport arrangements have not been finalised, that section may be retained to be sent on later, whilst the balance of the registration form can be forwarded at once. Any members who are retaining the "transport" section are urged immediately to write their name and address on the "transport" portion, so that it can be properly identified when it is forwarded at a later date. **DO IT NOW!**

We seek your prayers for God's blessing on the 1962 Conference. May it be a wonderful season of fellowship and fruitful discussions and decisions. —Reuben Boxhall, Les. Moore, Joint Secretaries.

Correspondence to: 3 Whelan-crescent, West Hobart, Tas.

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## "When Soars the Soul" Concludes

For the past five years we have given space to devotional comments and prayer, based on the daily readings suggested in the Book of Family Worship.

Appreciative comments by readers have led us to maintain this feature longer than we would otherwise have done. However, the 1962 edition of the Book of Family Worship represents a changeover to readings selected by the International Bible Reading Association, which publishes several books to help readers of the passages. They are Focus (daily passages printed in full from modern translations), Notes on Bible Readings and Daily Bible Studies. These books are published half-yearly and consist of 128 pages. Each may be obtained through the Austral for 6/- per annum.

To avoid unnecessary duplication, we have decided to discontinue both When Soars the Soul and Notes on the Readings. New features will be included in our 1962 issues.



ROSS M. WILLIS (in the U.S.A. "Christian") says . . .

# GO OVER TO BETHLEHEM

The most forthright statement in Luke's account of the Christmas story is a sentence of adventure and wonder uttered by common shepherds who stood in amazement and fright midst flocks of sheep on the cool, barren hills of Palestine.

The birth of Jesus had taken place only moments before. Then, with a sudden impact, the coming of the Christ was made known to the shepherds. Dumbfounded and frightened, they huddled together as they heard the glorious news: "... for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2: 11).

For a few suspenseful moments the shepherds stood in hushed wonder. Then, regaining their composure, they turned to one another and made this immortal and forthright proposal: "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us" (Luke 2: 15b).

Think about this for a moment. Here was a band of shepherds so possessed with the announcement of the birth of the Christ they wanted to go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that had happened. So inspired were their imaginations, so bolstered their hopes, nothing would do save to leave the routine tasks of daily existence and go over to Bethlehem to see and experience for themselves.

What a plea! What a challenge to mankind of the twentieth century. It is the plea and challenge to depart from everyday activity; to leave the dull, ordinary, humdrum existence and go over to Bethlehem to see and experience this thing that happened on the first Christmas.

True, the physical act of going over to Bethlehem is outside the realm of possibility for most of us. But the challenge remains. In this season of the year every Christian should use the magic carpet of spiritual awareness to go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened.

Certainly, a spiritual journey to Bethlehem in this season of the year would again impress us with the profound

## Simplicity

of the original occasion we seek to commemorate at Christmas time.

The simplicity of the birth of Christ is something we need stamped upon our hearts, for there are many indications that this simplicity may be lost in the maze of events that surround its coming.

The advent of Christmas often complicates our lives. During this season we become so exhausted with the terrific pressures involved it may take us weeks to recover. These facts are testimony that the simplicity of that original Christmas no longer remains a vital part of its commemoration. This event at Bethlehem has been submerged under a landslide of toys, gifts, wrapping paper and greeting cards.

Go over to Bethlehem and see a common stable in the dark of night illuminated only by several flickering lamps. Witness a cattle trough filled with straw, in which a newborn baby lies. Notice that on one side of it stands a carpenter, while close by rests his wife. Surrounding them are poor shepherds fresh from the fields, and cattle that know the barn only as shelter for the night. This is no lavish setting denoting luxury and wealth. This is simplicity in its crudest form.

This simplicity we need to capture. It is an exceedingly important aspect of the Christmas story we must grasp. It cannot be found in department store crowds or traffic jams. Neither can it be bought. It must be developed. Until we recognise this simplicity we will never understand the true meaning of Christmas.

Then, too, a spiritual journey to Bethlehem in this season will help us recognise the complete

of devotion, shepherds left their fields and fell before Jesus on bended knee. In motherly devotion Mary witnessed all these things and kept them in her heart, pondering them. What steadfast devotion Joseph must have held for Jesus, not only on the night of his birth, but all through his life.

When Jesus wanted a personal term in which to speak about a God who possessed such a devoted love that it caused him to give himself eternally to his people, Jesus chose the term "Father." Certainly the devotion of Jesus' earthly father must have had some influence in his selection of a term that would convey the devotion of his Heavenly Father.

Here is the challenge to us. See how those who gathered about the Christ were devoted to him, not partially, not with reservation, but completely and whole heartedly. Go over to Bethlehem and see the devotion to Christ that existed there and allow that same devotion to become active in your life.

And a spiritual journey to Bethlehem in this season of the year will cause us to realise, as never before, the

## Presence of Christ

in the event. For Christ was the centre of the first Christmas.

When we fail to go to Bethlehem, meaningless things take the place of Christ at Christmas time. Parties become a substitute for worship. We give from a sense of duty, not from a sense of love. Friendship, brotherhood and charity are only seasonal germs which, like influenza bugs, get into our system and infect us for a day or a week at the most.

When we never go over to Bethlehem the true meanings of Christmas are replaced by selfish desires and personal lusts. The season ends, and along with the oversized shirts, the undersized socks and the distasteful neckties, we exchange the tremendous ideals and principles of Christmas for our typical way of life.

Just go over to Bethlehem. Allow yourself to view this great event as the shepherds saw it and see how those former ideals you once held diminish in size. Stand in that stable on the first Christmas night and notice where the centre of attention lies. Not on the gifts of the wise men. Not on desired objects that could be gained from their exchange. Not on prominence or personal prestige by associating with those who gathered there. Notice how, like a

(continued ft. col. 1, page 788)



## Devotion

that was part of the first Christmas. No receptive human being could sincerely journey to Bethlehem of Judea and view the original Christmas event without sensing the overwhelming devotion present.

Out of devotion and love wise men brought gifts. Out



## WORLD COUNCIL ASSEMBLY ISSUES . . .

## Letter To Member Churches

One of the most urgent tasks facing Christians today is that of working together for peace with justice and freedom among nations and between races.

The Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches underscored this conviction in a message addressed to the hundreds of thousands of local congregations of its 198 member Churches around the globe.

The message, adopted at the conclusion of the 18-day Assembly, Nov. 18-Dec. 6, was drafted by a 14-member committee headed by Dr. Kathleen M. Bliss, general secretary of the Board of Education of the Church of England.

Calling upon Christians to unite "so that the causes of much contemporary misery may be rooted out," the 577 delegates stressed that "we have to take our stand against injustice caused to any race, or to any man on account of his race."

The Assembly also affirmed that all Christians must go forward in the cause of unity between "every member of the Christian family, of Eastern and Western tradition, ancient churches and younger churches, men and women, young and old, of every race and nation."

The message was one of several statements which the delegates addressed to the churches. They were drafted during long hours spent in studying some of the thorniest problems facing the Church and the world today. They were then discussed by the entire Assembly before being commended to the churches for further study and action.

(continued from page 787)

magnetic force, this Jesus of Nazareth, who lies in the manger, reaches out and draws unto him the personal attention of all who surround him. He is the very reason they have come together!

One cannot go over to Bethlehem and escape the fact that Christ is the centre of Christmas. His presence gave meaning to the event. The need for every Christian is to see with clarity and understanding that Christ was the dominant figure in the first Christmas experience. We need a spiritual journey to Bethlehem so that Christ can be the centre of our Christmas experience.

On this day the call to men and women everywhere is for us to say with the shepherds: "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing which has happened, which the Lord has made known unto us."

Three of the most important statements dealt with Christian responsibility in the areas of unity, witness and service, sub-themes under the general Assembly theme, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

The 8,000-word document on unity declared that the present impasse in "intercommunion differences" among member denominations demands an all-out effort to break through to fresh understandings of unity, especially as it is expressed at the Lord's Table.

Noting the rising tide of impatience among young people and others regarding the impasse, the statement said the Churches are pressed to re-examine "all possible next steps that might be discovered, at any and all levels of their denominational life."

"Wherever existing convictions allow for more direct progress towards intercommunion between Churches, it should be made without waiting for consensus and common action in the ecumenical movement as a whole," it said.

**"Cells" of Christians Urged**

After taking a sharp look at present attempts to win the unchurched, the statement on witness suggested that small Christian "cell" groups may succeed in many areas where conventional church programmes are proving to be completely irrelevant.

Creation of such "cells" should prove especially effective in many urbanised or industrialised areas of the West, the Assembly said. In such areas, many people do not understand traditional presentations of the gospel, or feel uncomfortable in conventional church settings.

As a possible solution to this problem, it was suggested that local churches establish small "cells" of salesgirls and typists, industrial workers, technicians, and educators, who will try to be "the people of God in their own particular context."

While noting the "obvious danger of fragmentation," the statement contended that such new forms of Christian fellowship may help the ordained ministry to rediscover its function "as a travelling apostolate and as a focus of unity."

The far-sighted witness statement looked forward to the day when pastors of different confessions would function as a team, and when church buildings would become centres for these "cell" groups, thereby exhibiting that all Christians belong to One Lord, "in whom all human categories and classes are made one."

The statement on service deplored the habit of thinking of persons as potential victims or potential destroyers in nuclear war, because such sentiment reduces sensitivity to human value.

"Such sensitivity is blunted by calous use of abstract speculation concerning the millions who will die or survive in nuclear war, and by calculations concerning the percentage of all persons in future generations who will suffer from genetic distortions as a result of nuclear tests," it stressed.

"Churches should keep reminding nations and governments of the long-term effects upon human life of preoccupation with nuclear armaments and the prospects of nuclear war," it added.

The statement further condemned governments which have resorted to mass terrorism to preserve their power. There is no greater desecration of the human in men than to intimidate and torture them in order to force them to obey the political authorities against their consciences," it said.

"Where a Church co-operates with a State to force men's conscience or to establish or preserve systems of oppression it is guilty of a great betrayal," it warned.

**Solidarity with Discrimination Fighter**

Calling upon the Churches to identify themselves with oppressed races in their struggle to achieve justice, the statement added: "The Church has to put its own house in order. It must not be a segregated society. No one should be denied the right of worship, membership, service and full participation in the activities of any Church because of race."

The Assembly also expressed its solidarity with all those who serve and suffer to eliminate race or color discrimination or segregation, especially in South Africa.

"Christians everywhere are involved in the struggle," the Assembly said in a message to Christians in South Africa. "May all who thus serve, and all who suffer, be strengthened."

"We pray that as the peoples of Africa move into their new day, the Church of Christ will play an ever-increasing creative role in promoting understanding, justice, faith, hope and love," it said.

It also endorsed a declaration made last year at Johannesburg by a W.C.C.-sponsored consultation of the Council's eight member Churches in that country. The declaration said in part: "No one who believes in Jesus Christ



may be excluded from any church on the grounds of his color or race."

Member Churches were also called upon "to do all in their power to resist every form of anti-semitism." The Assembly noted that "situations continue to exist in which Jews are subject to discrimination and even persecution."

Still another action of the Assembly was to put in more explicit terms the basis that has been part of its constitution ever since the ecumenical movement was organized in 1948.

### New Basis Adopted

A resounding vote of 383 to 36, with seven abstentions, supported the proposal to replace the original basis, which simply said that the W.C.C. "is a fellowship of Churches which accept our Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour."

The revised formulation declares: "The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of Churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

In another action, the Assembly reiterated an invitation to non-member Churches to join the World Council, providing they were willing to accept its basis for membership. It asked for further contacts with non-member Churches to dispel misunderstandings, to discuss theological issues and to further "participation in such activities as may appear to be mutually desirable."

### Nehru Addresses Assembly

One of the highlights of the Assembly came when Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India delivered a 20-minute address at a plenary session on the day preceding the conclusion of the 18-day Assembly.

The Prime Minister commended delegates for bringing religious insights to bear on current international problems, and advised them to contribute toward peace by encouraging their people and governments to follow "the friendly approach" instead of aggravating "the war psychosis."

"The cold war is mainly the use of language in word or writing, which is annoying, infuriating, to the other party," he said. "If we seek peace, we must adopt in some measure the ways of peace, a peaceful approach."

In the spirit of the Prime Minister's address, the Assembly appealed to all governments and peoples to "turn back from the road towards war into the paths of peace" by renouncing the threat of force.

"This calls for an end to the war of nerves, to pressures on small countries, to the rattling of bombs," the 650-word appeal declared. "It is not possible to follow at the same time policies of menace and of mutual disarmament."

In other actions, the Assembly

— pledged its "prayers and support" for the Acting Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency U Thant of Burma, "as he proceeds to fulfil the responsibilities of his office under the (U.N.) Charter."

— directed the W.C.C.'s Division of Studies to arrange for a consultation in an ecumenical setting between pacifists and non-pacifists.

— authorised the Department of Church and Society to undertake three highly complex social studies, including one which will partially deal with the Christian criticism of both the Western and Communist conceptions of the nature of freedom in relation to responsibility.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Contributed by V. C. Stafford, Director and Editor, Federal Board of Christian Education.

### NEW TEACHING MATERIALS.

The new teaching helps prepared by the Federal Board of Christian Education are now on the way to schools. They consist of seven teacher manuals and eight pupil publications for seven grades, together with teaching pictures for four grades.

A printed guide, *The Church Must Teach*, has been sent to all preachers, superintendents, secretaries and teachers. It shows, in unit titles, the subjects for 15 teaching years, from Kindergarten to Youth. A chart indicates the spread of these units over six major areas: God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, the Church, personal relations, wider relations. It has been provided to help workers to know the scope of Austral Graded materials. It should help teachers and workers grasp the significance of teaching and how the work of each teacher is integrated in a comprehensive teaching programme based on the Bible. It sets out the principles of Austral Graded Lessons. The Bible is the indispensable book for the Christian teacher. It is the standard for the

doctrines that are to be taught and used in Christian education. Its message — what God is saying to us in his Word — is for men, women and children, to the end that they may become new persons in Christ.

The Bible is not just a book of the ancient past; it is a guide for living today. "Unless the Spirit bears witness to the Word in every generation and in every individual life, the Word does not come to life again, and it is impossible for us to know, to experience, and to live in the living Christ, the living Lord, the living Word."

As these materials go into service the Board gratefully acknowledges the assistance of curriculum conferences, lesson writers and the staff of the Austral Printing Co.

### YOUTH MEET PLANNED FOR 1963.

The first national youth convention for young people of our churches will be held in Adelaide, Jan. 8-15, 1963. Various committees are at work on transport, programme and other arrangements. The convention theme, Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and

the Life, will run through daily Bible studies, group discussions, and evening rallies. Large auditoriums in Adelaide have been booked for these meetings. The evenings are planned as inspirational gatherings with special speakers, youth choir and varied forms of witness. A Sunday afternoon outdoor rally is planned for Elder Park. G. R. Stirling (Canberra) will be one of the special speakers and it is hoped that Alan A. Brash, general secretary of the National Council of Churches in New Zealand, and associate secretary of the East Asian Christian Conference, will be available to lead Bible studies and address a public meeting on the missionary situation in the Austral-Asian area.

Publicity material will shortly be available in all States, so that our young people can commence planning for the event. It is hoped that many hundreds from every State will plan now to attend. Churches and youth groups could begin plans for financial assistance to help their ablest young people to attend.

(continued on page 790)



**BELFAST, 1962.**

The World Council of Christian Education and Sunday School Association, with headquarters in New York and London, will hold a World Institute and its World Assembly meetings in Belfast, June-July, 1962. This will be the Third World Institute. The first was held in Toronto, in 1950, and the second in Tokyo, 1958. A preparatory study guide written by Dr. Randolph Crump Miller has been printed and distributed in many countries.

The Institute programme will have three themes:

1. The theological basis of the message and the mission of the Church;
2. The educational task of the Church in today's world;

### 3. The total educational mission of the local church.

The first of these will be a plenary presentation to the entire Institute. The two others will have in view these three aspects: (a) the inner life of the Church; (b) the outreach of the Church to the community; (c) the global strategy of the Church.

In planning the programme provision is being made for worship, Bible study in small groups, demonstrations of teaching methods, and an exhibit of indigenous religious art.

The schedule of meetings is as follows:

June 30 to July 7, Seminar for theological school leaders on **Training Ministers for Their Teaching Task.**

July 5-7, Children's work consultation.

July 7-8, Leaders' preparation for the Institute.

July 9-20, World Institute on Christian Education.

July 20, 21, World Educational Services Committee.

July 23, Board of Managers.

July 24, 25, W.C.C.E.S.S.A. Quadrennial Assembly.

It is expected that about 300 Christian education leaders from 40 or 50 countries will be at the Institute. Australia hopes to be represented by Prof. Roland Busch, Alan L. Hewitt, Dr. Clifford J. Wright, Keith Pearson, Miss Joan Ash, David Barnsdall and Vivian C. Stafford. The last-named was appointed Recording Secretary at the Japan meetings. These persons have been accredited as representatives of the Australian Council of Christian Education.

# NEW AUSTRAL GRADED LESSONS

Two of our brethren, holding responsible positions in the field of education in Australia, have written concerning the new teaching materials prepared by the Federal Board of Christian Education.

**D. J. A. Verco, M.A., Dip.E.,** Assistant Director General of the Department of Education in N.S.W., says:

Have you, as a Bible School teacher, ever had the feeling that the lessons you teach come rather haphazardly from the more familiar passages of the Bible? Have you wondered whether a child, when he has passed through the several grades of the school, has had some stories told him to the point of boredom, and others barely touched upon?

The new Austral Graded Lessons have a very good answer to this feeling. It is contained in the folder, **The Church Must Teach** — one of the features of the series. This folder contains a chart which every teacher, as well as every superintendent, will do well to study. It shows just how each separate lesson fits into an overall plan. The overall plan is one which ensures that at each age level each child receives appropriate teaching about six major areas: (1) the nature and ways of God; (2) the life, message and work of Jesus; (3) the Bible; (4) the Church; (5) personal relations; (6) our wider responsibilities as Christians. Although it may need a little time to study and fully understand, every teacher will be rewarded by doing so and should, as a result, bring to his teaching a deeper understanding of the aim of each separate lesson.

As one having much to do with the training of teachers, I would like to stress the importance of knowing

clearly what you aim to do in each lesson. In this respect Austral Graded Lessons continue to give help by carefully stated purposes at the beginning of each lesson. They are now described as "Desired Outcomes of This Session."

Could I take this opportunity of urging teachers not to skip over this section when reading their own handbook, but to ponder it carefully; a lot that is irrelevant and beside the point can be eliminated from many teachers' lessons if they remember always what this lesson is designed to achieve.

Handsome new covers and improved printing styles combine to make both teachers' and children's books more attractive in this new series. Much thought has gone into the material presented, and the already commendable variety of activities suggested for pupils has been extended. As before, the emphasis for the teacher is upon adequate preparation of each lesson beforehand. Austral Graded Lessons are especially helpful in reminding the teacher of materials that need to be on hand, of the need for teachers to be familiar with the material in the pupils' workbooks, and of the care required in planning an opening for each lesson and a climax in which the aim of the lesson is brought right into focus.

Altogether, the new lesson books are a credit to their editor and writers, and are a production of which the brotherhood can be proud. Schools should consider themselves fortunate to be able to obtain such a wealth of valuable material at what is still a most reasonable price.

**C. L. Fitzgerald, B.A., Dip.Ed.,** formerly a high school teacher, and now holding a responsible position in con-

nection with Colombo Plan students at Adelaide University, makes the following comments:

Parliament House in Adelaide was built in two stages and each has its foundation stone. The first is headed, "The Promise," the second, "The Fulfilment." During Federal Conference in Perth, 1960, we heard the plea of the Federal Board of Christian Education for funds with which to improve and expand its list of publications. We heard the promise that these publications would be first class in every way; in front of me I have evidence of "The Fulfilment" in the form of a set of the new Austral Graded Lessons. They are good, in every way.

The new covers are most attractively designed and in good quality paper — interesting to look at and pleasing to handle. Illustrations are varied, with humor recognised. Photographs, maps, sketches and diagrams are all used to advantage. As books, they are worth owning and caring for.

The lesson material — both teachers' and pupils' — of the previous series was very good, and in some cases, no great improvements are immediately observable. This is not faint praise, but is a further commendation on the high standard already reached in these lessons. There is an evident sincerity of purpose in the approach to a great variety of subjects. After reading and learning Bible and other stories, our young people are led to think critically and creatively about life in general and their own Christian life in particular. The life of each of our Bible School scholars has within it a promise. These graded lessons could well help bring that promise to an informed, and rich, and dedicated fulfilment.





**Theme for the Week:**  
**"IN THE BEGINNING"**

**Sunday, December 31**

Philippians 4: 4-13.

**Thought Text:** "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (v. 7).

What a benediction these words make for the close of one year and the facing of another! It is interesting to note that the word translated "keep" is a military word meaning "keep guard," or "garrison." As Scott says, "The image is that of an armed escort, protecting the traveller from all possible danger."

Paul's words are not the glib writing of a man basking in life's sunshine. He was in prison, and he had proved for himself how real was the peace of God, even there. In the same way, our Lord, facing the cross, could say, "My peace I give unto you" (Jn. 14: 27).

Fill our souls with thy peace, our minds with thy thoughts, our whole life with thee, O thou whose every gift passes understanding. Amen.

**Monday, January 1**

Genesis 1: 1-8.

**Thought Text:** "The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (v. 2).

The early part of this verse paints a desolate picture — "the earth without form and void, and darkness upon the face of the deep." But there was more than darkness; there was the hovering, brooding, moving Spirit of God. In that creative Presence lay the hope of the world that was to be.

Inevitably, we are carrying over into 1962 many of the old year's fears. The world isn't suddenly changed by the turning of a calendar. But let us remember that, as W. R. Bowie puts it, "the brooding Spirit has not vanished from our universe." Indeed, for Christians he is the indwelling Spirit, able still to bring light out of darkness.

Lead us forward, O God, to the new beginnings thy Spirit can achieve,

# WHEN SOARS the SOUL

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

working through lives surrendered to thee. Amen.

**Tuesday, January 2**

Genesis 1: 9-13.

**Thought Text:** "God saw that it was good" (v. 10).

"The earth with its store of wonders untold" wins from mankind still the same verdict; it is indeed a "good earth." There are broad vistas of breath-taking beauty; even in the tiniest particles of creation our super-sensitive microscopes reveal a dazzling wonder of perfection. One of the joys of this holiday season is to learn again that the God we worship is a "God of beauty."

But what have men done as stewards of all this loveliness? Remember the stark horror of Belsen, or consider Hong Kong's street and gutter dwellers. Think of the scars left by man's bombs; the deeper scars left on human minds and bodies by hunger, homelessness, hopelessness.

Father, help us to do something with our lives to bring beauty and hope in the place of ugliness and despair. Amen.

**Wednesday, January 3**

Genesis 1: 14-19.

**Thought Text:** "To divide the day from the night" (v. 14).

Hebrew faith knew better than to think of sun and moon as gods to be worshipped; it dared to see them as instruments in the hands of a merciful Creator, giving man day-time for labor, night-time for rest.

Time and space have become two of the key-words of our generation. The writer of this chapter knew in the long-ago that God is in control of both — as surely as he knew that, in the merciful division of night from day, God was adjusting every man's burden to his powers of endurance. When Jesus said to his disciples, "Come ye apart and rest awhile," he was showing the same Divine concern. Our times are in his hands.

Give us, O God, the wisdom to make the most of our time for thee, and never needlessly to overstrain our strength. Amen.

**Thursday, January 4**

Genesis 1: 20-23.

**Thought Text:** "God created . . . every winged bird according to its kind" (v. 21).

This is being written to the background of birds' early morning singing. High in the branches of near-by trees are the nests, which have been the object of so much fluttering con-

cern in recent weeks. What a dull morning it would be without the song of those birds, or the sight of the fledglings learning to fly!

Those tiny, frantically fluttering wings make us think of some of our own efforts, and, by contrast, of the God who long ago said to his people, "I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to myself" (Ex. 19: 4). They that wait upon the Lord shall themselves "mount up with wings as eagles" (Is. 40: 31).

Strengthen our faith so that it soars to new heights with thee, O Lord. Amen.

**Friday, January 5**

Genesis 1: 24-2: 3.

**Thought Text:** "God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good" (v. 31).

Life would be poor indeed without those moments when something of the wonder of creation breaks in upon us — the grandeur of a mountain view, the glory of a sunset sky, the beauty in a common flower or the glow in a good man's face.

Thank God for the times when we can cry with the Psalmist, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handiwork," or rejoice with Paul about "the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Truly, every good and perfect gift comes from God.

Heavenly Father, we thank thee for the beauty of the world that thou hast made, and for all in it that speaks to us of thee. Amen.

**Saturday, January 6**

Genesis 2: 4-9, 15-17.

**Thought Text:** "The Lord God planted a garden" (v. 8).

From the broad sweep of creation, God turns to a tiny spot on earth and makes it a garden for man's first home. How true the picture is to all we later learn of God — Creator and yet Father, with such an intimate concern for men that his own Son could say, "The very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matt. 10: 30).

Paul grasped the truth that this creative Father is at work in the hearts of those who trust him. He reminded the Corinthians that in Christian work "it is not the gardeners with their planting and watering who count, but God, who makes it grow . . . You are God's garden" (1 Cor. 3: 7, 9; N.E.B.).

May the lives of thy people everywhere, O Lord, be made gardens wherein the fruit of the Spirit grow. Amen.



# HERE AND THERE

There will be no issue of *The Australian Christian* for the next two weeks, owing to the holiday period. First issue for 1962, devoted to the work of our Aborigines Missions, will be dated Tues., Jan. 9, 1962.

On Dec. 3, the ninth anniversary of the commencement of his ministry with the church at Balwyn, Vic., J. E. Brooke announced to the church his acceptance of a call to Ringwood, Vic., as from March, 1962.

E. S. Sanders has been released from his ministry to the church at Murray Bridge, S.A., at the request of the Victorian Temperance Alliance, to succeed W. W. Saunders in the position of General Secretary. Mr. Sanders will take up his new duties on Jan. 29, 1962. H. Cave (Queens-town, S.A.) has accepted a call to minister at Murray Bridge for a term of three years, commencing Feb. 1, 1962.

Victorian church members are requested to book the period from Wednesday, April 11 to Tuesday, April 17, 1962, for the Annual Conference, and to plan now to participate. The C.W.F. Conference will be held on the Wednesday, and business sessions on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, in the Lygon-st. chapel. G. R. Stirling, of Canberra, will preach the Conference Sermon in the Melbourne Town Hall on the Sunday afternoon. Inspirational Departmental rallies will be conducted on the Monday and Tuesday in Collins-st. Baptist Church.

The ministry of J. E. Webb concluded at Clovelly Park, S.A., on Nov. 23, when 184 attended the evening service and 8 were baptised. After the service Mr. and Mrs. Webb were honored with a farewell at which Dr. Steward (elder) presided. Helen Holard (Young People), Mrs. Steward (C.W.F.) and Mr. Western (church) spoke and made presentations and Mrs. Kruger and church secretary spoke briefly, and several others accepted opportunity to express appreciation to guests of honor. The church has been greatly blessed during Mr. and Mrs. Webb's ministry and is very grateful to God for the leadership and faithful preaching. 22 decisions over the past month climaxed a happy and fruitful time of service together for the Master.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Lang will be sorry to know both are hospitalised. Mr. Lang is in Ward 1, Caulfield Hospital, Vic., and Mrs. Lang is in Alfred Hospital, Prahran, Vic.

In reporting his recent visit to America, the Editor of *The New Zealand Christian* (Dr. A. L. Haddon) told his readers of his experience at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, where his main assignment was to address the evening banquet of the Interseminary Conference. Just before he was called on to speak it was announced that a lady would sing "The Cock-eyed Optimist," from South Pacific!

H. M. Long, called to the ministry with Epping Church of Christ, N.S.W., was given an official welcome on Dec. 1, and despite the inclement weather there was a very good gathering. W. H. B. Palmer (Conf. Pres.), in his address of welcome gave Mr. Long's history as Home Mission Secretary-Organiser. E. H. Parker (Congregational) extended greetings from the local Ministers' Fraternal. On behalf of the ladies, Mrs. F. Kimpton welcomed Mrs. Long. The senior elder, I. Torode, welcomed and extended the right hand of fellowship to both Mr. and Mrs. Long. Mr. Long responded, thanking the members for their welcome. All present then adjourned to the school hall where refreshments were served by the ladies. On Sat., Dec. 2, Mr. and Mrs. Long held an "at home," welcoming members of the church.

The Editor is still receiving church news reports, advertisements, etc., addressed to 524-530 Elizabeth-st., Melbourne, although these premises were vacated middle September. The G.P.O. requests that we again acquaint correspondents and subscribers with The Austral address, which is 119-125 Hawke-st., West Melbourne, C.3. Incorrect addressing results in delayed delivery.

At a social evening on Nov. 24, the church at Mile End, S.A., farewelled Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Jackel at the conclusion of a very helpful ministry. Presentations were made by the elder, F. Lewis (on behalf of the church), Miss R. Smith (Y.P.) and Miss Norman (ladies). Both Mr. and Mrs. Jackel suitably responded. They are now with the church at York-st., Ballarat, Vic.

The church at Shepparton (Vic.) reports keen interest in the Leighton Ford Crusade in that city. Members of the church assisted in many ways during the 3-day Crusade, and the minister (T. A. Fergusson) was in charge of the B. & F. B. S. stall. Decisions on the 3 nights were: 369, 76 and 165.

## NOTES FROM THE READINGS

as suggested for

### Sunday, Dec. 31

#### PSALM 72.

This prayer for a king's righteous and prosperous reign has often been given a Messianic interpretation.

"The mountains shall bring peace" (v. 3). — "The point of these words is that it is upon the mountains around Jerusalem that messengers appear (Is. 52: 7)" (Oesterley).

"from the river unto the ends of the earth" (v. 8). — "From sea to sea" meant, for those who lived in Palestine, from the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean; east to west; and this particular phrase meant "from the Euphrates to some indefinite part beyond Egypt, north to south" (Oesterley).

"Seba" (v. 10). — "Uncertain, but probably northwest Ethiopia, between the White Nile and the Blue Nile, in the modern Anglo-Egyptian Sudan" (McCullough).

"a handful of corn" (v. 16). — "May there be abundance of grain in the land" (R.S.V.).

#### 1 TIMOTHY 6.

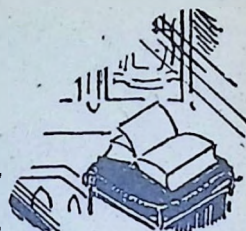
Paul follows advice to Christian slaves with further words concerning sound teaching, and the harm done by love of money. He challenges Timothy to face all that is involved in fighting the good fight of faith, and guarding his commission to the end.

"partakers of the benefit" (v. 2). — "Those who benefit by their service" (R.S.V.). "Those in service to Christian masters or employers are not to presume upon the fact of Christian brotherhood; rather let them serve all the more diligently because the master who receives the benefits of their service is a believer and beloved" (Lowstuter).

"doting about questions" (v. 4). — "He has a morbid craving for controversy" (R.S.V.).

"pierced themselves through" (v. 10). — "Spiked themselves on many thorny griefs" (N.E.B.).

"witnessed a good confession" (v. 13). — Note Matt. 27: 11; Luke 23: 3, though "the good confession before Pilate was not so much what Jesus said; it was what he did. He remained loyal in word and deed" (Gealy).





# NEW CHAPEL, WUDINNA, S.A.

On Saturday, Oct. 8, at 3.30 p.m., C. E. Curtis (S.A. Conf. Pres.) declared open the new Wudinna chapel, which cost £1,300.

Approximately 80 people, comprising local members, members from other Eyre's Peninsula churches, and local residents crowded the chapel to join in a short thanksgiving service and hear greetings from the council chairman, ministers from the local Anglican and Lutheran churches and representatives of other C. of C. churches on E.P. Many greetings were sent from past members, also one from Monseigneur Coffee, of the local R.C. church.

Mr. Curtis conducted the service and brought greetings from the S.A. brotherhood.

After the service, afternoon tea was served by the ladies. During the afternoon a trading table, conducted by the ladies, netted about £40.

The building is of a steel frame, covered with deep 6 asbestos outside and lined with flat asbestos. The floor is concrete. The outside measurements are 40 ft. x 20 ft., plus a small front porch. The main hall is 30 ft. x 20 ft. and seats about 60 people. It has an open baptistery.

On Sunday, at 11 a.m., the chapel was again crowded for the dedication and communion service.

Dinner was provided in the supper-room of Wudinna and Districts Memorial Hall.

Methodist and Anglican members attended the afternoon service, held at 3.30 p.m. C. E. Curtis conducted both services.

Organist for all services was Mrs. I. Schmelskoff, of Pt. Lincoln. Visitors came from Tumby Bay, Pt. Lincoln, Whyalla, Adelaide and Ardrossan.

The Church of Christ began at Wudinna in the early 1930's, under the missionary efforts of the late F. Hollams.

With the decline of the church at Barmera, the building was shifted from there and re-erected at Wudinna about 1932.

During the ministry of H. Norris, the second minister, membership of the circuit rose to approximately 70, with 7 meeting places, many of which were in homes. Succeeding ministers were H. Fitch and M. T. Lawrie.

During the war years the circuit was without a minister. Due to the absence of a minister and the exit of many families because of an economic levelling out process of a newly-developed rural area which was at

first over-rated, the circuit ceased to operate.

K. Dixon was engaged for the work in 1948, and was followed in 1951 by M. Roberts. Under these ministers attempts were made to re-start the circuit.

By 1954 members numbered about 20, with a promising Sunday School. Then families moving from the district almost halved the membership.

There has been no resident minister since early 1954, and members have continued against difficulties to maintain a witness to our plea.

Monthly visits by ministers from Adelaide, organised by E. P. C. Holland, and later by A. R. Jones, as well as assistance from other Eyre's Peninsula churches, have greatly helped and encouraged members.

It became an uneconomic proposition to repair and maintain the old chapel, and two years ago twelve members were faced with the question of closing down or rebuilding in a progressive town of many modern buildings.

The opening of the new chapel was the climax of weeks of hard work by A. Van Wunen (bricklayer) and F. McGuire (carpenter), with voluntary labor from members.

During the week prior to the opening, men from Tumby Bay, Mt. Hill and Pt. Lincoln churches travelled to Wudinna to help with the building. G. Parker (Tumby Bay), president of E.P. Conference, worked most of the week with local men.

A. McGuire, A. Scholz and I. Schmelskoff worked right on through the

Friday night until 10 a.m. Saturday morning, with B. Addison and N. Simpson working in an all-out effort to finish the building for the opening at 3.30 p.m.

While twelve members is a small congregation, there are in addition sixteen children.

The churches of the Eyre's Peninsula Conference have offered the Wudinna church the opportunity to have the Conference at Wudinna in June, 1962.

This should be a great experience for such a small group, which has accepted, and is looking forward to it.

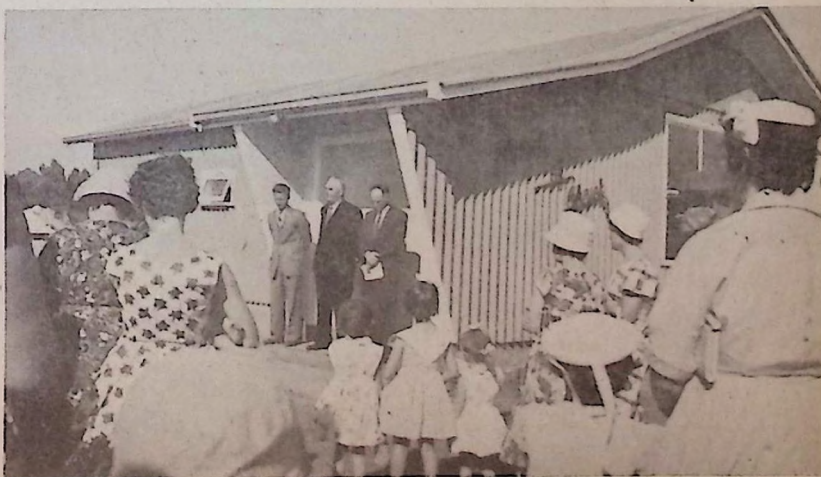
The Eyre's Peninsula churches have also offered to help more with speakers. It appears that this church will be blessed, by being drawn closer to her sister churches in future.

Wudinna Church of Christ is the furthest West in S.A. and the closest Church of Christ to it is 120 miles away.—N. L. Simpson.



The London Missionary Society has announced that in 1962 it will turn over all its activities in the Australian territory of Papua, New Guinea, to its 60,000 Papuan adherents. It said the new Papuan Church will eventually take over all the Society's churches, schools, hospitals, teacher training centres, and nursing and infant clinics in the area.

G. Whiting, a former Youth Director in S.A., who has been in U.S.A. for further studies, will commence a ministry at Hartwell, Vic., in October, 1962. K. J. Clinton (C.O.B. lecturer) will serve the church in an interim ministry from Feb. 25.



Official Opening, Wudinna chapel, S.A.





Notes supplied by R. S. A. McLean.

### Snippets from New Guinea

#### LAND ROVER ARRIVES, BOGIA.

The Church Men's Societies have decided to provide a Land Rover for New Guinea as their project for this year. With funds advanced by the Federal Board, this vehicle has now been purchased. Mr. Beale reports on its arrival at Bogia.

"The Land Rover has arrived at Bogia and I have collected it and used it to carry supplies to the Government launch, so that they could take them round to the Ramu for us. I am going to try to get it to Tung this week. It will have to be a job of hauling in places, as all the road is not cut; it will stimulate the natives if we make the attempt. I ordered a tarpaulin for the vehicle, as we have no building for it, and it will need covering when it is out in the bush."

#### DR. STANHOPE IN MADANG.

As a relieving doctor was needed in the Madang Government Hospital, consent was given for Dr. Stanhope to occupy this position for a period of three months. During this time, work on our own hospital buildings at Bunapas will continue, and we look forward to the day when Dr. Stanhope will be able to commence work in our own area.

#### NEW MISSIONARIES FOR ASAU.

Our next Mission station in New Guinea will be established at Asau,

situated on the Ramu River between Bunapas and Chungribu. Our new missionaries for this field are Mr. and Mrs. David Hammer, jr. Mr. Hammer graduated from the Woolwich Bible College this year. He has had some experience in building and will be able to assist in the erection of the hospital and other buildings. The Hammers will be supported by the Rockdale church, and they will spend a fortnight at Rockdale prior to leaving for the Mission field.

#### TUNG SCHOOL.

The aim of the Mission schools is not only to provide secular education, but to teach boys and girls the way of Christ. Miss Draney writes concerning spiritual progress made by some of the children at Tung.

"Fifty youngsters have now passed through this school, with 27 children attending each day. What of the others? Quite a few came from the surrounding villages in the early days of the school, and due to distance and food problems were taken away from the school by their parents. Others came from Roman Catholic villages and the priest got onto these children, and so filled them with fear of things that would happen to them if they continued coming to this school that the children left. The parents of these children desired their children to come to school, but they were also paralysed with fear,

and so we lost the children. These youngsters are now wandering around doing nothing in their village. What a challenge these youngsters and these Roman Catholic villages present to us, for they, too, are children of God, and can be won for him if you and I are faithful.

Let us now have a look at one of the families, which has four youngsters coming to school. Dori is the oldest, and is one of the brightest in the school. Pugambik comes next, and she is the black sheep of the family, for the others are all bright and keen to learn, but, alas, not Pugambik. Hulimu is younger than Pugambik, but is much brighter, neater, cleaner and keener. Then comes Korem, who started school this year, and she is another bright, happy child. They come from the largest family in the village, and from the dirtiest home. There is often a shortage of food in this family, and the youngsters know what it means to get in and help with household tasks.

When the Mission first arrived, Dori more often than not was running around without any clothing, and more than once was caught stealing. Several times he was forced to come to school, and sometimes he ran away into the bush when he received punishment for doing something wrong in school. Although he still fights and tells lies and says some nasty things about other people, he is a changed lad. God has wrought this change, and you have helped with your prayers and your support. Dori still has a long way to go, but he loves learning about God and his Bible, although at times he goes off to the bush instead of coming to the Sunday meetings. Once he stood up against the others and said that he was staying in the village to go to Endeavor."

## *A Vow for the Christmas Season*

I will remember that at Bethlehem "the Son of God was homeless, And all men are at home."

I will remember the home at Nazareth, and the disciplines of love by which even the Son of God learned his manhood.

I will remember how he set the home at the heart of his kingdom for the learning of the new life.

I will ask myself about my own home, whether we are reaching out in it to this new life. Are we learning to ask of God together so that we may receive; to forgive one another that together we may be forgiven; to find the joy of seeking the good of all instead of only our own good? Is your home regularly offered to God for his purposes?

I will remember the homeless at home and abroad. How am I to be their helper?

## *It Takes Time!*

Character takes time to mature and Christian character takes time to grow into a likeness of Christ. It used to take six weeks to cross the Atlantic. Now it takes but as many hours. Yet for the seed to grow into "the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear," it takes as long as ever it did. And for a baby to grow to manhood it takes as long today as it did in our Lord's day. You just can't hurry God's processes. Our children may seem to grow into teenagers all too soon, but for their maturing into responsible men and women, and for their revealing the evidences of Christian discipleship, we must wait and pray, and let good influences, like the sun and shower on the seed, have

their effect. Our task is to sow the seed and make sure that our own personal influence is good . . . and then not to hurry the process, but wait patiently upon God.

Carlyle, talking one day to Bishop Wilberforce, said, "Bishop, have you a creed?" "Yes," replied the Bishop, "I have a creed, and the older I grow, the firmer it becomes; there is only one thing that staggers me." "What is that?" asked Carlyle. "It is the slow progress," said the Bishop, "that that creed seems to make in the world." Carlyle remained silent for a moment, and then said slowly and seriously, "Ah, but if you have a creed you can afford to wait." And if we have a creed we can afford to wait, for we know that before ever we set to work God had been at work, and when we have done all we can he will still continue his work . . . and that which he commences he always completes and perfects.—C. J. Pike.





# INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

## Discipleship

H. Davis, D. Elliott, D. Heucker, Mr. and Mrs. Huckle, T. Kitto, C. Rodda, P. Rosevear, Clovelly Park, S.A.

Miss K. Smith, K. Hardwick, B. Wisby, Higheroft, Tas.

Mrs. L. Quarrell, Kellevie, Tas.  
Dorothy and Heather Radford, Naracoorte, S.A.

Neil Wiltshire, Fullarton, S.A.

Heather Yeaman, Hornsby, N.S.W.

Mrs. M. Spoehr, Lenswood, S.A.

Heather and Graeme Edwards, Belmont, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Mitchell, Mrs. S. McBride, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Faulkner, Barry Gowans, Frank Toner, Dawson-st., Ballarat, Vic.

W. Van-Gelder, Northcote, Vic.

Janet Johnston, Philip Baker, Hartwell, Vic.

Annette Wilkerson, Julie Boyd, Roslyn Cordingley, Collingwood, Vic.

Paul and Margaret Kingston, Springvale, Vic.

David Hill, Box Hill, Vic.

Carol Sherwood, Warragul, Vic.

Mrs. Stevens, Oakleigh, Vic.

Nell Lehmann, Dalton Gordon, Maree Strain, Garnet Bowen, Caulfield, Vic.

Mrs. A. Burley, Footscray, Vic.

D. Brisbane, Peter and Christine Knight, P. Nicholson, Shepparton, Vic.

R. Morris, J. Quayle, S. Foster, P. Riley, Gilgandra, N.S.W.

B. Harris, B. Doubkin, Kalamunda, W.A.

A. Sinfeld, Beverly Hills, N.S.W.

## Membership

Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams, Hampstead Gardens to Naracoorte, S.A.  
Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, Croydon, S.A. to Fullarton, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Manning, Fullarton to North Adelaide, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Anchen, Oakleigh to Caulfield, Vic.

## Marriage

Norma Byard to Lyle Taylor, Warragul, Vic.

Jan Hohmuth to Rod. Blackmore, Oakleigh, Vic.

Bonnie Rogers to Bruce Marriott, Unley, S.A.

## Fallen Asleep

Mrs. J. A. Wilkie, Mrs. G. Beaton, Dawson-st., Ballarat, Vic.

Miss Trathen, Hartwell, Vic.

Mrs. F. Clark, Box Hill, Vic.

## TASMANIA

Tasman Peninsula (E. K. Morrison). — Nubeena: Combined with Highcroft for Southern District Convention and gospel meetings of mission. Baptismal service held Nov. 26, when 4 followed their Lord. C.M.S. studied Power From On High. Higheroft: Southern District Convention, Nov. 4-5. N.T. Christianity mission held 7th-19th. Church appreciated help from Nubeena. Messages and visitation by Noel Reese (Ulverstone) proved helpful. Chain of Witness grew to 125. Girl made the good confession during mission, and 2 lads following week. Presentation made to missionary on 19th, after meeting concluded. Kellevie: Local preachers conducted extra services whilst minister engaged in mission at Highcroft. Large number attended Southern District Convention. Circuit News: Combined meeting of circuit C.E. societies held at Eaglehawk Neck, 24th; 42 attended. Role play on bringing parents of B.S. children to church. Supper brought enjoyable evening to close.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Kalamunda (A. Hutson). — Two lads made confession. Special baptismal service at South Perth, afternoon, Dec. 3, when large group of Kalamunda folk attended. H. Fitch performed ceremony. South Perth ladies entertained folk to afternoon tea. Church school won attendance shield again. Promotion Sunday and school Christmas party held. Prayer meeting and school in recess for holiday period. Film, *The Promise*, was screened at p.m. service. Men's United Fellowship held social and family Christmas evening. Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Wortlehook (Inglewood)

rendered duets at this function. Several members still ill.

## QUEENSLAND

East Ipswich, Leichhardt (R. Acland). — C.Y.F. closing night was dinner and social evening, attended by 30. B.S. made gifts of £30 to Mission in India, £15 to Carnarvon Mission, £10 to New Hebrides, £7/6/- to New Guinea, besides personal Christmas parcel to "supported orphan" at Carnarvon. Christian sympathy extended to Sls. Don Risson and Mr. Norwood in Home call of loved ones. H.M. offering over £100.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

Taree. — R. Greenhalgh (Youth Director) visitor to district at invitation of Taree Friendly Youth Council, Nov. 25. Mr. Greenhalgh had busy day on 26th, speaking at Wingham a.m., conducting Teachers' Conference in afternoon at Taree, also conducting gospel service at night. His visit was appreciated. Church has distributed £710 to brotherhood and other Christian works, this being interest and income for year from estate left church by late Mrs. M. S. Saxby.

Hornsby. — Asquith and Hornsby held combined prayer meeting at Bingley Hall, Nov. 29, led by V. Dallinger. Harvest Festival, under auspices of B.S., held Dec. 3, with boys and staff of Dunmore House as guests for day. At conclusion a B.S. girl made her decision. C.W.F. held Christmas party at Bingley Hall, Dec. 6. Y.P. conducted gospel service, 10th, and contributed items; B. Roberts gave address. Other speakers have been Messrs. Bartholomew, Cust, Glazier, Laney, Wakeley.

Rockdale (C. J. Mackenzie). — Final meeting of C.W.F. held at manse, and luncheon served. Kinder. had Christmas party, Dec. 9. Senior school held well attended social, 8th. R. Beadle and R. Hawkins speakers, 10th.

Lidcombe (H. K. Christensen). — Successful anniversary services held by B.S. and church. Guest speakers were Mrs. Freckleton and Mr. Anderson for B.S., and A. Baker for church anniversary. Anniversary tea catered for by Ladies' Fellowship, followed by rally at which guest speaker was H.M. Long. Annual business meeting elected: elders, W. Armstrong, snr., J. Ferris R. King, E. Walker; deacons: W. Armstrong, jnr., K. Bates, N. Duncon, S. Smith. Presentation made to



Bob Davidson, first year student at Woolwich, who has been helping with work during year. Junior Boys' Club held bottle drive, which added £17 to their fund for new uniforms. C.E. changed meeting from Sunday afternoon to Tuesday evening, resulting in better attendances and much varied programme. B.S. and junior clubs combined to present annual Christmas tree service. Building was packed and large number of gifts brought in for distribution to Missions and Children's Homes. Members and friends have been restored to health after recent illness.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Cheltenham (H. Cave).** — Services well supported. C.W.F. addressed by asst. sec., Good Neighbour Council. B.S. picnic, Longwood, well attended. Gymnasium Club, under V. Berry, gave demonstration to parents and friends.

**Flinders Park (J. B. Baker).** — Cabin Boys break-up night great success. Each boy made Christmas candle and gave it to his parents. Attendances for year have been excellent. Kinder, Christmas tree well attended and one of best held for many years. New Activities Hall great asset for all auxiliary activities. Mrs. C. Brand organised supper for officers and elders, which was pleasant surprise and greatly appreciated.

**Ascot Park (R. H. Sercombe).** — Interchange of speakers morning, Dec. 10; Mr. Cooke (Baptist) was preacher. Gospel service well attended, being occasion of parade of G.L.B. Girls assisted in service and awards for year's work were presented by Mrs. Wenham, representing State Commissioner.

**Fullarton (J. C. Cunningham).** — B.S. anniversary held. Speakers were W. Bartlett, K. Horne, A. Morris, J. Cunningham. All auxiliaries holding Christmas parties. C.W.E.F. entertained elderly folk of district, together with guests at Christian Rest Home. Men assisted Prisoners' Aid with food gifts. C.Y.F. visited Colebrook Aborigines Home. Mr. Wright still in hospital.

**Naracoorte (M. D. Williams).** — Two Y.P. have been baptised, and a married woman made good confession. Large attendance at B.S. picnic held at Caves Reserve, Nov. 25. C.M.S. entertained church members at annual social, Dec. 1. Youth groups from other churches attended C.Y.F. meeting, Nov. 24. During happy social evening films were screened and games played.

**Berri (R. W. Saunders).** — C.M.S. visited Bordertown weekend, Dec. 9. Upper Murray Conference held well attended youth night, Nov. 24. Speakers were Messrs. Curtis and Clark.

Guild installed sink and cupboards for kitchen. C.W.E.F. painted kinder. hall and hung new curtains.

**Lenswood (A. J. Ingham).** — Church is receiving much through ministry. Another one has followed her Lord in baptism after making her decision at Blinco Crusade. B.S. social, Dec. 8, when gift offering of £8/5/- was donated to Morialta Children's Home. H.M. offering over £39. Women's Auxiliary donated over 6 doz. articles for hospital Christmas gifts.

**Mt. Gambier (R. V. Holmes).** — Mr. and Mrs. R. Chamberlain (New Guinea) visited and gave news from their work and showed interesting slides. Piano Fund garden party held at Fimmell home was great success.

**North Adelaide (B. W. Manning).** — C. Verco welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Manning by transfer on Dec. 3. Miss Lorna Downs, just returned from Scotland, was welcomed back to position as organist. Church appreciates all who have helped during her absence. Meetings growing in attendance and interest.

**Unley (C. H. J. Wright, B.A.).** — R. Chamberlain, on furlough from New Guinea, p.m. speaker, Dec. 3. After the service members gathered in hall, where Mr. Chamberlain explained missionary work in New Guinea, and screened films. Minister is visiting our Mission stations in India, following his attendance at New Delhi Conference.

## VICTORIA

**Prahran (G. S. Brown).** — Baptist services, Nov. 12 and 26. B.S. 2nd kinder held Christmas parties, 25th. Exterior of school repaired and painting nearing completion. Church regrets resignation of minister. Ladies attended C.W.F. birthday at Oakleigh.

**Mitcham (K. Bowes, M.A.).** — Members attended Leighton Ford Crusade, and B.S. scholar made decision. Annual business meeting held, preceded by church tea. Retiring officers re-elected, plus P. Wright (elder), G. Ogden (deacon), Mrs. Wright (deaconess), D. Beasy (B.S. supt.). Bus load attended C.M.S. Christmas service at Music Bowl, Dec. 3. On 8th, Y.W.F. and C.M.S. entertained church at social. 71 communed, Dec. 10.

**North Williamstown (R. C. Bust).** — C.M.S. assisted in visitation of Mount Royal Home. K.S.P. entertained older members of church at Christmas evening, Dec. 8. Annual prizegiving for school, afternoon, Dec. 10. A. Haskell and F. T. Morgan speakers, 10th, during minister's sickness. Senior and Junior Good Companions combined for Christmas evening, also made presentation to Junior leader, Miss L. Bryant.

Under 8 section of school had Christmas party around decorated tree in Williamstown Gardens. W.M.B. luncheon at home of Mrs. Milne, 12th. Good Companions shared in evening service, 3rd. Board for Bible readings placed in chapel.

**Redcliffs (S. K. Bannon).** — C.W.A.F. held street stall and made £40. Visiting speakers have been I. J. Chivell and K. Pitt, jnr. D. Brook (missionary from Japan) screened color pictures at prayer meeting. C.W.F. groups held combined Christmas party. C.Y.F. held barbecue at home of Mr. and Mrs. Pitt. Mr. Lang in Caulfield Convalescent Hospital; making satisfactory progress.

**Footscray (A. E. Hurren).** — K.S.P. led morning service, Dec. 3. All auxiliaries paraded and presented thank-offering of £381, p.m. service. Lady was baptised. W.M.B. and C.W.A.F. held final meeting, 5th, when presentation was made to Mr. and Mrs. Hurren. C.M.S. held film night for final meeting, 6th. President and leaders exchanged with Sunshine, a.m. 10th. J. and V. Donaldson (Malvern) provided musical items, p.m. service, when two confessed Christ. Explorer club held final meeting 11th. Glen Gribbon received cup for highest marks for year. Large amount of food parcels packed and given to Ruth Roberts to take back to India.

★

## Book Review

**LOVE'S QUESTIONS (John Pritchard).** S. John Bacon Publishing Co. (Pty.) Ltd. — 48 pp. Price, 6/6 (6/11 posted). Available Austral.

This latest publication in The Bed-side Series features a new writer in the place of the late John Deane, but again includes a delightful series of photographs from Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Dudgeon.

The booklet is made up of helpful meditations on our Lord's questions in John's Gospel, and the eleven devotional studies maintain the standard set by earlier publications in this delightfully produced series.

**THE SHEPHERD OF BETHLEHEM (Gordon Powell).** Peter Davies 32 pp. Price, 7/6 (8/2 posted). Available Austral.

This sturdy little book, attractively printed, and colorfully illustrated by John Robinson, is a companion piece to Mr. Powell's 1960 Christmas publication, *The Innkeeper of Bethlehem*.

The well known Sydney Presbyterian minister again succeeds in making the well loved story live through the eyes of one of those involved in the great event. Like its predecessor, the book makes an attractive small Christmas gift.



**BIRTHS**

**KIMBER (Kerrison).** — On Dec. 10, at Airlie, Ivanhoe, Vic., to Patti and Charles, a daughter — Tanya Rosalie. Sister for Nigel. Both well.

**WATSON (March).** — On Nov. 25, at Queen Victoria Hospital, Melbourne, to Lorraine and Ken, a son — Craig Arthur. Both well.

**STAFFORD (nee Leng).** — To Marie-Louise and Laurie, Mildura, Vic., a daughter — Lisa Jane, born Dec. 9.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**COOK.** — In loving memory of our father and mother — James Cook, passed on Dec., 1938, and Bessie, June, 1959.

— Ever remembered by their loving family.

**SANDERS.** — Treasured memories of Eric, called Home from this life, Dec. 28, 1960. "We loved him well but Jesus loved him best."

— Loving father, mother and brother Geoff.

**ENGAGEMENT**

**CORDY - POLACSEK.** — Mr. and Mrs. R. Cordy, Sunshine, Vic., are happy to announce the engagement of their eldest daughter, Judith Jennifer, to Gottfried (Fred.) C. H. Polacsek, at present of Lippstadt, Western Germany, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Polacsek, of Melbourne, on 11/11/61.

**SILVER WEDDING**

**PFEIFER - HARRISON.** — Mr. and Mrs. A. H. C. Pfeifer announce, with pleasure and gratitude to God, the 25th anniversary of their wedding, celebrated at Enfield, Jan. 1, 1937, by W. Harrison. Present address, 23 Warley-rd., East Malvern, Vic. 211-6473.

**THANKS**

Joan and Ted Sanders and family wish to thank all their friends for the Christmas Greetings they have received and to extend to all, good wishes for a very happy Christmas. The cost of returning Christmas cards this year we have forwarded to the Christmas Bowl of Remembrance Appeal.

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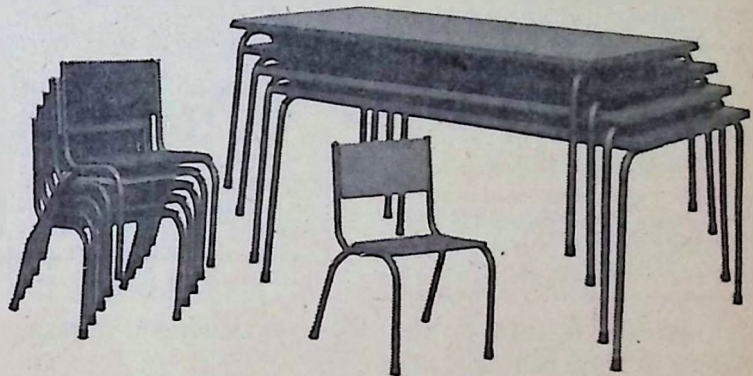
**APPROACHING MARRIAGE**

**LANAWAY - HANK.** — The marriage of Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. Lanaway, of 48 Cluden-st., Brighton, Vic., to Kenneth, eldest son of Mrs. Hank and the late Mr. W. M. Hank, of 3 Boundary-st., South Melbourne, will be celebrated at Church of Christ, Wilson-st., Brighton, Vic., on Dec. 30, at 4.30 p.m.

**RUBY WEDDING**

Mr. and Mrs. C. P. HUGHES announce, with humble gratitude to God, the 40th anniversary of their wedding, celebrated at Prospect Church of Christ, S.A., on Dec. 14, 1921, by the late E. J. Paternoster.

The growing popularity of television in Japan and the decrease in radio listening has influenced the Pacific Broadcasting Association to plan for television evangelism. According to the Yomiuri newspaper, there are 7,346,483 television sets registered in Japan. In many areas there are more T.V. sets than radios. Plans are being made by the P.B.A. to enter this field within a year, as funds are available. With commercial communication systems already working on long-range plans for international transmission via earth satellites, Christian radio and television interests in Asia are challenged to use this spectacular scientific prospect.

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**"The Saviour Comes!"**

(A Hymn for Dec. - No. 149, Dec. 31)

The Church of Scotland controversy on the use of Scriptural paraphrases provides an altogether too tangled and unprofitable skein to unravel at all fully. In 1687, one Boyd was recommended "to be at the pains to translate Scriptural Songs in meter" and a year later "Master John Adamson and Mr. Thomas Crauford" were to revise his labors, but no real action was taken. Next appear in 1696 instructions to revise the Scriptural Songs of Patrick Simson and in 1708 "maturely to consider the same" — coupled with a recommendation to purchase copies for private use "seeing there are so many lying on the author's hand."

By 1741, a committee was appointed to make or collect the necessary translations, but all sorts of delaying tactics did not prevent the use of the completed work being (within 40 years!) "allowed where the minister finds it for edification." With exemplary Scottish caution, the matter has rested there since 1781!

Two widely used Scottish Paraphrases are "O God of Bethel, by whose hand thy people still are led" and "Twas on that night when doomed to know" — for each of which, rest assured, there is adequate Scriptural basis or it would never have appeared amongst the paraphrases!

Three of the original 45 versions are "said to have been" by William Robertson — who, in turn, is "said to have been" a London minister before going to a Scottish charge. The best-known of the three originally opened with, "How few receive with cordial faith the tidings which we bring!" and is based on Isaiah 53 ("Who hath believed our report?") The version is generally "pruned" to the better-known form of our No. 149, "The Saviour comes! no outward pomp bespeaks his presence nigh," and the thoughts of a number of verses of the short prophetic chapter are readily recognisable.—F.J.F.

★

**U.S. Church  
Membership Grows**

Church and synagogue membership in America reached a record high of 114,449,217 in 1960. This figure has just been released. This increase, as shown in the new Yearbook of American Churches, amounts to 2,222,312 members, or 1.9 per cent over the 1959 figures. These figures are based on official reports from 239 religious

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bodies in 50 States and the district of Columbia.

Last year 63.6 per cent of an estimated national population of about 180,000,000 belonged to a church or synagogue. Total Protestant gain in membership in 227 bodies was 63,668, - 635, or a gain of 1.8 per cent over the 1959 membership. Overall statistics show that the proportion of church membership to the total population of the nation, has almost doubled in the first 60 years of this century — from 36 per cent in 1900 to 63.6 per cent in 1960.

Jewish membership fell off 133,000 for a 1960 total of 5,367,000. The Eastern Orthodox churches reported 2,698,663 members — a decrease of 108,949 from 1959. An explanation for these decreases has not been made available at this time.

The new membership figures indicate that 90 per cent of all Protestant membership in America is found in 22 denominational groups or church families. Of all the Protestant churches, the Methodist Church has the largest membership, with over 10,000, - 000. The Southern Baptists are second with 9,731,591 members.

There are 34 denominations in the National Council of Churches. For the first time, these 34 bodies show a total membership of more than 40 million members. This means that about 63 per cent of all Protestants in the nation are within the Churches who are members of the National Council.

These Protestant Church membership increases are not as large as they should be. However, in these days of tension and crisis among nations and peoples, we should be grateful in America that there is an increase, and that the churches are growing faster than the increase in population. — Jesse M. Bader, General Secretary World Convention of Churches of Christ (Disciples).

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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J. R. Wesley (secretary, Manning church), 6 Marsh-ave., Manning, W.A.

F. Stone (minister, Warracknabeal, Brim, Minyip), 60 Jamouneau-st., Warracknabeal, Vic. Phone W'beal 640.

J. Way, B.Sc. (minister, Kaniva church), Commercial-st., Kaniva, Vic. Phone 94.

K. J. Hank (minister, Ararat church), 373 Barkly-st., Ararat, Vic. Phone 21844.

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