

Mr. W. Frazer

THE AUSTRALIAN Christian

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W. A. THOMPSON (retiring President, Vic.-Tas. Conf.) challenged thought on . . .

"Heritage and Destiny"

Has the past year shown any progress along the lines of the aims of our fathers? Have we gone forward at all on the lines of our heritage? Have we progressed at all towards our destiny?

During this Conference year I have been privileged to visit a large number of our churches. This has been a wonderful experience for me, and one I have appreciated very much.

On these visits I have been most interested to note the variations in the patterns of the worship services of our churches.

I believe that is a good thing! After all, for many years we have been saying: "In essentials unity, In non-essentials liberty, In all things charity." It is good to see this liberty being practised in the forms of worship. Even though some of the differences are very great, they are not basic, and so do not matter.

In speaking to the churches I have been endeavoring to bring before our people the aim of unity — the very core of our heritage.

As I have said many times during the year, and as has been said by many men before me, Churches of Christ were born out of a protest against sectarian division and intolerance in the churches of their day, and they aimed towards the unity of the churches. Today, members of other churches, over the past 50 years in particular, have turned to the theme of unity, and are working for it with earnestness and zeal.

Are we keeping pace with the prevailing mood? I wonder if we are, and suggest that we need to beware of denominationalism and intolerance as unhealthy forms of traditionalism.



W. A. Thompson,
Retiring President, Vic.-Tas. Conf.

Despite our protestations and bold claims of liberty in non-essentials, and charity in all things, so many things have tended to become essential simply because we have practised them for so long. We must remember that Thomas Campbell spoke of "our brethren of all denominations." To

lack in charity towards them would be to fail in our witness. Remember Alexander Campbell's words in his famous Lunenburg letter: "Who is a Christian? Everyone that believes in his heart that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the Son of God; repents of his sins, and obeys him in all things according to his measure of knowledge of his will." On the subject of immersion, in the same letter he said for himself and most of his followers: "There is no occasion for making immersion, on a profession of faith, absolutely essential to a Christian — though it may be greatly essential to his sanctification and comfort. My right hand and my right eye are greatly essential to my usefulness and happiness but not to my life; and as I could not be a perfect man without them, so I cannot be a perfect Christian without a right understanding and a cordial reception of immersion in its true Scriptural meaning and design. But he that infers that none are Christians but the immersed, as greatly errs as he who affirms that none are alive but those of clear and full vision."

Christ Our Only Asset

I know we believe in the baptism of believers by immersion — we are keen about it and must continue to be so — but concerning those who do not understand it as we do, and are not concerned as we are, let us remember many are just as committed to Christ as we are. Let us respect their integrity and call them our brethren — for they are just that.

Now, please don't misunderstand me — I have not suggested that we give away our position on baptism — what I have said is that the man who does not, and cannot, see it our way should not be put "beyond the pale." Don't let us be so dogmatic that we legislate other Christians out of Christianity! They are serving the same Christ as we are serving. He is our only asset.

An honest, free and progressive investigation of the Scriptures was advocated years ago, in a statement made in 1869 by Isaac Errett, Editor of the Christian Standard.

He emphasised the Disciples' attitude of freedom towards the investigation of the Scriptures, and freedom of religious discussion, which seemed to be threatened from within, and he wrote: "It is fatal to assume that we have certainly learned all that the Bible teaches. This has been the silly and baneful conceit of all that have gone before us. Must every man be branded with heresy or apostasy whose ripe investigations lead him out of our ruts? Must free investigation be smothered by a timid conservatism or a pre-

sumptuous bigotry, that takes alarm at every step of progress? Errors may sometimes be thrust upon us, but free and kind discussion will soon correct them. There is not a hundredth part of the danger from an occasional outcropping of error as the result of free thought and free speech, as there is in Roman Catholic oppression. An attempt to preserve union on such conditions not only renders it worthless by the sacrifice of liberty, but will defeat its own purpose, and compel in time, new revolutionary movements."

I believe that to push on towards that unity we must remember and practise that liberty and that charity so often quoted.

The divisions in Christendom should be a great burden upon our consciences, and even though there is a long way to go to reach unity — probably many, many years — there is already great agreement among most Christians on the essentials of Christian belief, allowing for some differences of emphasis or interpretation. There is even more complete agreement on Christian morals. And diverse modes of worship cannot now be considered as justifying the perpetuation of our divisions. We are largely one in our loyalty to Jesus Christ.

When we come down to grass roots, isn't a main cause of division our loyalty to a denomination — the one to which a person belongs? We justify our exclusiveness as being derived from our loyalty to God. No doubt we are sincere in this, but it brings us to an impasse which prevents us reaching unity.

We need to consider more carefully whether the two loyalties are really identical.

When we examine the grounds of our loyalty to our own particular church, I think you will agree that we are forced to recognise that our sentiment is influenced by many factors which are not essentially religious. Sometimes it is mere familiarity or custom that makes us suspicious of a different tradition!

The accidents of history are perpetuated because we have accepted them.

Barriers of class, of color, of language, of culture, become woven into our religious outlook, and become real obstacles to unity.

We are not consciously hypocrites, not really, but we deceive ourselves by our very sincerity.

Our leaders, I believe, are recognising the large part these non-theological factors play in the disunity of Christians, and we are hearing more about them as they are brought into the open.

But the rank and file members — you and me — we, too, must become aware of our unconscious

prejudices masquerading as religious loyalty.

Bearing that in mind — Where do we go? What do we do?

Urgency for Unity

First of all, what is the main aim of the Church? For what does it exist?

Surely it is evangelism — nothing more nor less than that those who do not know Christ may come to know him! And for this cause we should be harnessing every man and woman professing a Christian faith.

We need to watch ourselves in this realm of Christian witness. We so often loudly lament the chilling apathy of our times, but the truth is that this is a day of opportunity, unrivalled opportunity, if only we would seize it.

Because this world is so appallingly divided, it must be given an unmistakable demonstration of the power of Christ to give unity.

Far too much effort is being wasted on maintaining a set-up that caters for the religious tastes and preferences of the small church-going minority. There is far too little drastic re-ordering of our resources and ways to try to get to grips with a generation in which the great mass is wholly alienated from the Church and its gospel.

The need of the world is so great, so urgent, that a united front is imperative! We need to be zealous in study, open in mind, constant in prayer, urgent and obedient in action, that we may be fit to be used in this task of evangelising the world.

To contribute to this end as a body, we Churches of Christ must get our own house in order.

Our fathers had their differences as we well know, but they got on together well enough to give us our heritage.

Cannot we do likewise, and prove to the Christian community at large that, as we can exist happily with our differences, so could the various Christian faiths exist happily together in a bond of union?

Then we would be nearer that so urgently needed common platform from which the man in the street might be reached. And all the while as individuals we would be truly living our faith, and be missionaries in the true sense of the word.

For, if nothing else, just that is our true heritage, and as expressed by Winfred Garrison, "Our destiny will be determined by our decisions in respect to the issues presented by the Ecumenical Movement, and these decisions will depend greatly upon our willingness and ability to use the best of our heritage from the past in the interest of the present and the future."

Quips and Quotes

Heard During Vic.-Tas. Conference.

"I'm sure there's a Doctorate waiting for the man who can give us a better word than 'antipaedobaptism.' At grammar school, I had the feeling that 'paedobaptist' had something to do with footwashing!" —Principal D. M. Himbury (Baptist), at the Ministers' Session.

"The only time I feel justified in being incomprehensible is in committee. Then both sides agree with me, and I finally get what I want." —Principal Himbury.

"In only six out of the last 15 years have we won more by faith and baptism than by transfer of membership. Increasingly our people are on the move. . . . In Victoria, we claim 13,000 members, as against 36,000 who claim (by census) to belong to us. This means that, with 97 as the average size of our churches, we could have 234 more churches, each of 97 members. But one-eighth of our total membership is lost each year." —G. K. M. Moyes, at Ministers' and Secretaries' Tea.

Bruce McIntosh, Chairman of the Literature Dept., commenting on some letters received: "There are some comments which, if we took them seriously, would force us to destroy ourselves. . . . A letter from a well-known personality who lives in Queensland carried the advice on the back of the envelope — 'Eat More Peanuts!'"

"Though I'm an old man, I'm still Young!" (and he sounded it, too!). —Charles Young, now in his 15th year as Hospital Chaplain.

"Will Clay's name has belied his nature. Clay is malleable, but Mr. Clay has never been clay in anyone's hands!" —W. W. Saunders, in referring to the retirement of W. H. Clay, M.B.E., as Director of the Dept. of Social Service.

G. S. Brown, replying to a speaker who had said, "The Govt. has a little sense" — "The Govt. has a little sense — true! Very little at times!"

In the course of a cleverly humorous speech, F. J. Funston pointed out that, following the average drawing of Tattersall's Consultation, it would take thirty-two pages of the Melbourne Sun to print the names of all the losers!

E. L. Williams, in answering a query re the presentation of our witness at New Delhi W.C.C. Assembly: "I was there. I said it. The witness has been made."

Then there was the expression on the Incoming President's face when, called temporarily to the chair in a tense moment, he heard a Conference officer near him absent-mindedly — but loudly — vote the wrong way!

Victorian-Tasmanian churches share in . . .

Ninety-Seventh Annual Conference

Conference meetings this year concluded the experimental two-year cycle introduced in 1961. The Department of Home Missions and Evangelism, the Overseas Mission Dept., the Dept. of Christian Education, the Advisory Dept., the Church Men's Society and the College of the Bible Committee, all of whom reported to Conference in 1961, were not asked to submit a report this year, but the first three Depts. named shared in the conduct of the two closing Conference rallies. All other Depts. presented reports and had members duly elected for the next two years.

Now that the two-year experiment has been concluded, the pattern of Conference will again be submitted to the Commission on Conference for review and careful assessment of the values, or otherwise, of the changes made.

The improvement in attendance at business sessions (noted last year) was again most marked. As was expected, with the issue of World Council of Churches affiliation a lively one, Lygon-st. chapel was packed, with an overflow in the lecture hall, for the Saturday night meeting at which it was discussed. But the Thursday and Friday night meetings were also well attended, and overall attendance at business sessions must have been the highest for many years. Debate flowed freely on most issues, and despite the fact that, with the deletion of the usual address by the Incoming President, more time was allowed for business, extensions of time had to be called for on both Friday and Saturday nights.

The President (W. A. Thompson) proved himself a most capable chairman of debate, at all times courteous, and, when necessary, courageous. Throughout his term of office, he showed himself deeply concerned for the on-going of the churches, and this was again evident in his conduct of all sessions.

A new feature of this year's Conference was the inclusion in the Sunday afternoon Conference Sermon Session of an Induction Service for the Incoming President. This was effectively conducted by W. A. Thompson. The formal induction and prayer of dedication was followed by a response from the Incoming President (C. G. Taylor), who then presented the President's Bible to Mr. Thompson, expressing appreciation of his leadership.

Another interesting new feature was the brief service on the Thursday

night, marking recognition of and welcome to a church affiliating with Conference. The first church to be welcomed in this way was that of Highbury-rd., Burwood, and to its chosen representative the President extended the right hand of fellowship, followed by the congregational singing of a welcome verse and the President's prayer seeking blessing on the church.



C. G. Taylor, B.A.,
Incoming President, Vic.-Tas. Conf.

G. K. M. Moyes (Ascot Vale - Newmarket), one of our younger ministers, not only showed himself thoroughly prepared but also sanely provocative in his message on **A Critical Look at Membership Conservation**, given following the Ministers' and Secretaries' Tea on the opening night of Conference.

The only guest preacher from outside Churches of Christ this year was Principal D. M. Himbury (Baptist), who delighted the ministers at their Thursday afternoon session with a searching and frequently humorous discussion of **The Gathered Community in the Modern World**. Especially arresting were his observations on the dangers of individualism, democracy and conformism in the life of the Church. "The gospel is always committed to persons in fellowship," he said, and later added, "Conformism is one of the evils of the modern Church, as it is of the modern world.

We ought to be producing non-conformists."

Reference to the message of the other three speakers (W. A. Thompson, G. R. Stirling and R. S. A. McLean) is found elsewhere in this issue. All served the Conference well.

The secretarial team — W. W. Saunders (Conf. Sec.), G. H. Gilmour (Asst.-Sec.) and R. R. Boak (Minute Sec.), with the help of Miss Kay Taylor (office staff) — worked most efficiently throughout Conference in arranging the many necessary details.

It is estimated that there were approximately 2,000 at the Conference Sermon Session in the Melbourne Town Hall. The offering received totalled £201, and this will go to the Preachers' Provident Fund.

In the debate on the motion that Conference should withdraw forthwith from affiliation with the World Council of Churches, the President alternated speakers for and against the motion. After spirited discussion, the motion was put and lost on the voices, with the result that Conference remains in affiliation with the World Council.

Preparation of meals was in the excellent hands of Mrs. Lowrey and her Catering Committee (Wednesday and Thurs. evening) and Lygon-st. ladies (C.O.B. Old Boys' Tea).

Sonny Graham, first Aboriginal full-time minister in our churches, was given a warm welcome as he presented a cheque for £200, given by his own people at Fitzroy and Mooropna.

Mrs. R. V. Amos (Retiring Pres., C.W.F.) presented the Conference Treasurer (G. K. Scambler) with a cheque for £1,686/10/6 from the women of the churches. This amount is to be divided between Home Missions (50%), Overseas Missions (40%) and the Federal College of the Bible (10%).

Singing of the Churches of Christ Choral Society (Valentine Wolf, Conductor) was a valuable contribution to the Sunday afternoon and Monday night rallies, as were the solos of E. Willis (Monday). Appreciated help at organ and piano was given by Mrs. Haigh, Misses Winnie Lee, Vera Louey and J. Willis, and Walter Brown, C. J. Robinson and Frank W. Inchley.

E. W. Taylor (rep., Tas. Dist. Conf.) replied to the welcome given to Tasmanian and country delegates, as well as new ministers to the State. At the Monday night rally he also

expressed warm appreciation for all B. J. Combridge's H.M. leadership had meant to himself and Tasmania.

Seven outgoing missionaries were introduced to the gathering on the Monday night — Dr. and Mrs. Coulter and Sister Heather Middlemiss (N.Z.), Dr. and Mrs. R. Williams and Mr. and Mrs. R. Veal (Vic.). Dr. Coulter replied to the special welcome given to the N.Z. delegates.

Very helpful co-operation was again given by the Lygon-st. officers — notably the secretary, A. W. Johnson, and H. F. Swain. Young men of the College served as ushers at Lygon-st. meetings (B. Ricketts, Chief Usher) and C.M.S. at the Town Hall and Baptist Church rallies (F. Richards, Chief Usher). Others who gave appreciated help before or during Conference included Ron Oldfield (photographic work on handbook cover), Resolutions Committee, Press Committee, C.W.F. (flowers), returning officers (L. E. Stevens, B. Dowsett, J. Paver), amplifying help (G. K. Scambler, K. Gluyas).

The motion that Conference record its appreciation of W. H. Clay, M.B.E., now retired as Director of the Social Service Dept. after 36 years' service, was carried in a way expressive of the warm regard in which he is deservedly held by the brotherhood.

Large attendances were features of the enjoyable ministers' outing and C.O.B. Old Boys' Tea.

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Report Highlights

The Executive Report showed that total church membership at 31/12/61 was 14,232, an increase of 213. B.S. enrolment for the same date was 14,668 (loss of 256), with 2,384 teachers (gain, 70). Additions to church membership from schools were 504.

A statement on Brotherhood Centre finance indicated total commitments through the 3-year Operation Seventy campaign had been £57,108 (including £1,000 each from the Campbell Edwards Trust and the Christian Building Trust). Total collections at the end of the 3-year period are £48,434 (87½% of amount promised). At Dec. 31, 1961, £29,400 was owing on the building, and it is suggested that consideration be given to a further financial appeal in order to release the total income (net) to Conference Executive for promotional work. All available space in the building is now being used, and records show that it accommodated more than 500 meetings during the year.

Discussion on the Broadcasting Committee led to a motion endorsing the stand taken by Conference Executive representatives, and, in the light of the impasse which has developed, Conference decided not to continue

negotiations with the Evangelical Fellowship for a Conference broadcast session.

Conference accepted an amendment of the trust deed concerning the Christian Building Trust. The Trust's report showed that funds currently total £1,175/16/5. Twenty-six churches have taken advantage of the Personal Accident Insurance scheme for ministers, the total amount of cover being £30,000.

Federal Home Missions reported that an annual income of £1,500 is provided by approx. one-half of our churches throughout the Commonwealth.

In presenting to General Conference the report of the Christian Women's Fellowship, Mesd. R. V. Amos and V. C. Stafford noted that the women had been able to present to the Christian Education Dept. over £1,000 towards Monbulk Camp Refurnishing Fund. A balance of just over £600 now remains to be paid on Ludbrook House. During the year, £14,595 was raised for brotherhood and local work. Woman to Woman Evangelism has been launched.

The Properties Dept. report referred to unprecedented activity re the building of chapels, halls and manse in the past two years, and the regrettable fact that, for the first time in many years, it was found impossible to grant all applications for loans. There must be a rise in giving to the work of the Dept. — at present representing only 2/3 per annum per church member. Conference Executive was thanked for releasing Miss F. Haines to become first full-time Sec.

Literature Week and New Members' Manual were activities stressed in the Literature Dept's report. It is hoped to widen the range of the Pamphlet Club.

Many phases of activity were covered in the report of the Dept. of Social Service. During the past two years, our Vic.-Tas. churches have contributed £8,173 to Inter-Church Aid. An Inter-Church Committee on Peace was formed in 1961. Special appreciation was expressed for gifts totalling £32,000, received from T. R. and R. P. Morris for projects connected with the Will H. Clay Nursing Home and the Emmaus Rest Homes. The recent death of Mrs. E. Nance-Kivell, Matron at Emmaus, meant the loss of a valued worker. One-third of our members are in C.F.A. On future projects, discussion showed that members were keenly interested in the plan for providing hostels for young men and women who need to reside near the city.

Discussion on the Aborigines Mission Dept. report showed the brotherhood's appreciation of the appointment of Sonny Graham, and speakers indicated that already his own people in areas adjacent to Moorooopna (where several have recently made decision

for Christ) are hoping to secure his help. T. O. Turriff (Dept. chairman) announced that the Federal Secretary of the Aborigines Mission Board, J. Keith Robinson, who had contemplated retirement, will continue as part-time secretary, with members of the Board attending to the kind of deputation work Mr. Robinson did so effectively.

The Dept for the Promotion of Christian Union told a story of co-operation — with other States, in the outreach of some towards closer fellowship with the Baptists; with all churches in the fellowship of the W.C.C. and in the work of Inter-Church Aid; and with every move to advance the study and application of the Restoration Movement plea. The Churches of Christ University Association has promised £100 per annum in support of a chaplain at the Monash University. Our Australian giving to W.C.C. works out at only 1.2d. per member per year; in Victoria, it is 10d. per member per year to Vic. Council, Australian Council and Geneva.

G. R. STIRLING'S Conference Sermon

The Gospel to Christians

The Church can become so preoccupied with preaching the gospel to the outsider, that Christians may very well become insulated against its message for them. Many Christians are living half lives, because the power and radiance that they recommend to others as the result of accepting the gospel, they do not receive themselves. If the gospel of Christ is powerful enough to lift a drunk out of the gutter, it ought to be powerful enough to save the Christian from his fears and prejudices and worries and crankiness. Christians have become used to hearing the gospel thrust at the outsider, and they have become used to sitting on the sidelines while preachers hammer sinners. Often they fail to realise that "The wages of sin is death, and the gift of God is eternal life" is not only aimed at drunks and dead-beats and wife-beaters, but is relevant to them, and their families.

The fact is that the great New Testament passages which express the heart of the gospel were not first addressed to outsiders, but to insiders. Most of them are found in the Epistles, and they were first written to Christians. In fact, if Christians have no experience of the power and relevance of the gospel, they cannot commend it to others.

What the New Testament calls salvation and eternal life are certainly free gifts of a God of love to any who will come to him. But they

are continuing gifts by God of himself to those who abide in his presence by faith daily. Salvation is not confined to the first act of decision, not to the moment of appearance before the Great Assize. It is a continuing experience of the reality of the living Christ. The cross is not only a word to sinners under sentence of death that their sentence has been paid; but it is evidence to the Christian that the Great God of the Universe is on his side, and that living in faith in the power of a loving God, a day at a time, he will not be let down.

R. S. A. McLean (Fed. Overseas Mission Sec.) tells Monday night rally . . .

"You Are Praying"

"You are praying. You are giving. You are sending," he told his congregation, as he reviewed the contribution made to Missions, and urged them to do even more. "We must share both our material possessions and our spiritual faith. We cannot corner our faith in our own little souls."

He then went on to show how the main features of brotherhood work as we know them are carried on in our Missions.

Social Service is of vital importance. In India, three Homes care for over 290 boys and girls. On our three Mission fields we have five hospitals. On the Mission fields, we speak out on social issues.

As for Christian Education, this is an integral part of our programme on all fields. In India, we teach 1,800 at the primary level, about 1,600 of whom come from Hindu homes. They are taught not only secular things, but the things of the Lord.

Literature is an important aspect of our work, tracts having been printed in India and widely distributed. It has been said that the Communists spent £500,000,000 in a year for literature in Africa and Asia. We dare not fail here.

In addition, our Mission churches are carrying on their own Home Missions. Pastors Hiwale (Indapur) and Bhosle (Bombay) will be coming to Federal Conference, able to tell of the kind of H.M. work they are doing.

Is mission a permanent part of the Church or is it something carried out spasmodically? Our churches need expectant evangelism, that has behind it a spirit of triumph and adventure, a full awareness of the value of every individual before God and an unwavering obedience to God, and, through it all, as our motive, the glory of Christ.

Resolutions

Liquor Traffic:

In view of the acknowledged ill-effects of intoxicating liquor on the road toll, physical and mental health, homes and marriages, and industrial efficiency, production and safety, and the increasing problem of alcoholism, this Conference expresses deep concern at the constant increase in facilities for the consumption of liquor. Conference is convinced that there is a need for a reduction in the availability of liquor, there being abundant evidence that increased facilities lead to increased consumption, with a corresponding increase in ill-effects. Conference urges the Government, in the best interests of the State, to make more strict control, rather than liberalising of liquor laws, its policy. Conference also urges all church members to refuse to compromise in any way with liquor and the liquor traffic.

Governmental Aid for Denominational Schools:

This Conference, believing that the State Education System should be maintained, and that the removal of education from governmental control and service to that of religious denominations would result in serious sectarian divisions to the detriment of all sections of community life, re-affirms its opposition to grants for denominational schools and strongly urges both State and Federal Governments to resist any attempt by sectional interests to secure such grants.

War:

This Conference expresses its concern that, while there is universal recognition of its perils, the arms race continues, especially with nuclear weapons.

Conference re-affirms its unswerving belief that war is contrary to the mind and spirit of Christ, and does not solve problems but creates them.

Conference urges the Federal Government to do all in its power to lessen international tensions and achieve disarmament.

Conference notes with interest and commends for consideration of its members the principle of non-violence as a means of creating an enlightened and effective public conscience.

Automation:

This Conference notes the remarkable changes being made in industry by automation, especially in U.S.A., and views with concern the possibilities of grave social consequences when Australia becomes more fully involved.

Conference therefore requests the relevant Federal and State Ministers to keep the situation under continuous observation and to initiate measures which will minimise these consequences.

Immigration Policy:

This Conference re-affirms its belief that all forms of racial discrimination are contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ, and it calls upon our Federal Government to give a lead by announcing the end of what is commonly known as the White Australia policy. Conference believes that our nation can absorb some migrants from non-European countries — as well as European — without creating undue social or economic problems.

Gambling:

Conference re-affirms its conviction that gambling is detrimental to the best interest of the community and calls upon members of Churches of Christ to refrain from participating in any of its forms.

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Election of Officers

President: C. G. Taylor, B.A. (Doncaster). **Past President:** W. A. Thompson (Boronia). **President-Elect:** A. R. Haskell (North Williamstown). **Secretary:** W. W. Saunders (Caulfield). **Assistant Secretary:** G. H. Gilmour (Blackburn). **Treasurer:** G. K. Scambler (Blackburn).

Conference Executive: The above Conference Officers and one representative of and from each Department and Auxiliary of Conference; also A. W. Gilbertson and K. G. Mundy (Tasmania).

Aborigines Mission Department: S. F. Davey, C. S. Dewberry, A. R. Mudge, D. R. Nicholls, T. O. Turriff, W. A. Wigney; plus two appointed by C.W.F., one appointed by and from Tasmanian District Conference, and two co-opted.

Christian Union Department: K. P. Balson, H. A. G. Clark, D. B. McIntosh, R. P. Morris, J. G. Shaw, C. L. Smith, C. G. Taylor, W. A. Thompson, E. L. Williams, S. H. Wilson.

Literature Department: R. V. Amos, G. W. Barnett, K. W. Barton, K. J. Clinton, A. R. Haskell, D. B. McIntosh, G. K. M. Moyes; plus four (4) co-opted.

Social Service Department: E. L. Allsop, R. V. Amos, W. T. Atkin, G. S. Brown, F. P. Chipperfield, F. M. Combridge, F. Funston, G. K. M. Moyes, W. W. Saunders, R. A. Strongman; plus four (4) appointed by Social Service Committee of C.W.F., one appointed by and from Tasmanian District Conference, four (4) co-opted.

Nominations Committee: N. Cheal, A. W. Cleland, G. H. Gilmour, J. Holloway, W. A. Thompson; and one (1) appointed by and from each Department of Conference.

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Vic.-Tas. Women in Conference

The Vic.-Tas. Women's 76th Annual Conference was held on Wed., April 11, 1962, at Lygon-st. chapel (10.30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.), with an overall attendance of approximately 1,150 people.

MORNING SESSION.

After the invocation by the President, Mrs. R. V. Amos, a general welcome was extended to interstate, country and city ladies. Business of the day was announced and apologies received. Mrs. I. Dickson (Moreland) led in devotions and Mrs. Qualfe sang beautifully, "O Jesus, I have promised."

The report from the Executive was received as printed.

This year, the Missionary section of our work was featured — members of Prayer, Missionary, Bible Women's Fund, Aboriginal and Federal College of the Bible Committees presented their reports in dialogue form. Superintendents of the following Committees spoke to their reports in person — Isolated Sisters, Temperance, Dorcas, Social Service, Catering, Home Visitation and Hospital. It was agreed to place on record the sterling service rendered in various ways by the late Mrs. Nance-Kivell. We were led in prayer by Mrs. B. Ferguson, remembering the families and loved ones of those called Home during the past year.

In the afternoon, Mrs. Flanders, Supt. of the Evening Fellowship Committee, brought a greeting and Bible reading. Mrs. V. Morrison (President-Elect) welcomed all visitors — Mrs. D. Wood (Inter-Church Council), Mrs. A. Cohn (World Day of Prayer), Lieut. Col. Southwell (Salvation Army), Mesd. A. E. Smith and Woodall (Vic. Baptist Women's Assoc.), Mrs. E. Denton and Miss Hilda Fisher (Methodist Women's Home Mission League). Tasmanian, interstate and country churches were represented as under: Launceston and Hobart, South Australia, Ararat, Ballarat, Bendigo, Colac, Castlemaine, Drumcondra, Belmont, Latrobe-terr., Echuca, Horsham, Hamilton, Kaniva, Maryborough, Portland, Queenscliff, Red Hill, Shepparton, The Patch, Warracknabeal, Warrnambool and Wonga Park. Miss Dixon (Sec., C.W.F. Federal Conf., Tas.) brought greetings from the President, Mrs.

Holt. Mrs. Gilbertson (Tas.) responded on behalf of all visitors and hopes we will all "come to Federal Conference, Hobart, next October."

The President welcomed new Fellowships — Hurstbridge, East Bentleigh, and Evening Fellowships in Morwell, Kaniva and Montrose. Mrs. Newham (Sec.) read greetings received from Mrs. Greig (St. Arnaud), Mrs. Mawdsley (Traveller's Aid), Mrs. Stevens (Church of England Mothers' Union), Women's Federal Conference, Tasmania, N.S.W., W.A., Associated Queensland, S.A., Department of Social Service and Conference Executive. Telegrams came from Mrs. Fisher (Carnarvon), Mrs. Spiker and Mrs. Beale (New Guinea). W. A. Thompson (Vic.-Tas. Pres.) brought greetings and best wishes for C.W.F. in the coming year, that its spirit will be "the essence of true Christian service."

The Treasurer's Report was ably presented by Mrs. Gillespie, specially mentioning the hope that the final payment may be made on Ludbrook House this year. Soloist, Miss Frances Cowper, delighted us with two very lovely songs. Mrs. Heard, on furlough from India, brought us a wonderful message, full of information regarding our sisters in India and their needs, material and spiritual. She also brought a greeting from our Indian sisters.

Mrs. Turner submitted the report of the Ludbrook House Committee, expressing thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Heard and Mr. and Mrs. Berry for their services regarding garden, etc. Thanks also to Mrs. Williams (sec., Ludbrook House), together with Mrs. Jones, for looking after and preparing it for our missionaries. An amount of £785 (further gifts still coming in) was received for Ludbrook House in the Golden Bag offering.

District reports were received from Miss Dixon (Tas.), Mrs. Reidy (Eastern District), Mrs. Brough (Gippsland), Mrs. Cemm (South Bayside), Mrs. Andrews (Central and Northern and Sunraysia).

General Business: Mrs. Amos directed thoughts to Woman to Woman Evangelism, of which we have heard much during the year. The first series of meetings, under the direction of Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. Newham, will be held with North Essendon church, Mon., May 7, to Sun., May 13. Please spend time in prayer on Sunday, May 6, between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., for these women. Executive will be pleased to receive enquiries from any who would like further information.

EVENING PROGRAMME:

Evening session commenced with a different "innovation" — a "Sing-along" led by Mrs. Taylor, with Mrs. Smith at the piano. Mrs. Amos welcomed all present, especially mentioning guest speaker, R. J. Marshall, his secretary, Miss Wright, members of the Queensberry-st. Choir and the President-Elect of General Conference, C. G. Taylor. The choir brought two lovely numbers, "The Lord's my Shepherd" (Crimond), and "Whispering Hope" (words in Chinese) — these were greatly appreciated.

Introduction of officers for year 1962-3 was made by the President, Mrs. Amos. Treas., Mrs. I. Gillespie; Asst.-Sec., Mrs. B. Sterling; Sec., Mrs. R. N. Rankine; Junior Vice-Pres., Mrs. W. Newham; President-Elect, Mrs. M. C. Morrison, and President, Mrs. V. C. Stafford. Mrs. Stafford ably responded, recognising the responsibilities and challenge for the coming year. She also expressed the ladies' appreciation and affection to retiring President, Mrs. Amos, during her presidential year. A presentation was made of a copy of the New English Bible, suitably inscribed, together with floral tribute. Mrs. Stafford received some lovely flowers from her friends of Cheltenham church.

C. G. Taylor led in a dedicatory prayer.

The Evening Fellowship report and welcome to new groups were brought by Mrs. Flanders, together with a very handsome amount of £112/12/- for Ludbrook House. Congratulations and thanks go to the Evening Fellowship.

Appreciation: Please look at page 29 in the handbook:—"The Conference year has been an exciting one, demanding much time of the Executive. I would like to record a word of thanks to each one, and especially to the Secretary, Mrs. W. Newham, who has been my 'right-hand,' both spiritually and physically. It is good to work with such a handmaid of the Lord. After serving one year as Asst.-Sec. and three years as Sec., Mrs. Newham relinquishes this office, only to accept other responsibilities that our Master has given her." This was carried unanimously.

Presentation to the Department of Christian Education: A cheque for £984/18/7 (money still coming in) was presented to L. A. Trezise towards the re-furnishing of Monbulk — a very fine response by the women of C.W.F. to the appeal made during February and March. Mr. Trezise responded on behalf of the Department.

(cont. ft. col. 1, page 247.)

Note: Departmental appointments are for two years. Those elected at the 1961 Conference for the Dept. of Home Missions and Evangelism, Overseas Mission Dept., Advisory Dept. and Dept. of Christian Education continue to serve until 1963 Conference.

Baptist — Churches of Christ Ministers

E. P. C. Hollard.

An interesting experiment in goodwill was recently completed in S.A. with a joint camp between ministers of Churches of Christ and the Baptist Church. This was part of the original set of ideas propounded by the Joint Committee of 14 from the two Communions.

The approaches in N.S.W. have been watched with keen interest, and whilst the brethren there have been ready to issue a statement of doctrinal positions we have felt in S.A. that the time is not ripe for such a move. Now this became evident as the camp continued. In this State our Baptist brethren have some problems (freely acknowledged by them, and easy of discussion with them) which they desire to iron out before proceeding. Such problems which they have we do not suffer, and for us to push too hard would simply be to accentuate their position, and do them an injustice.

In view of this, our Fraternal took the initiative, issued the invitation and then two groups of preachers moved into action with a programme. It was all that could be desired, and more. With the exception of about 3, every one of our ministers attended. The Baptist brethren had about 25 attending. This made a healthy group of men, and friendships began to develop at once. Lots of barriers went down and the men held free and friendly discussion on a number of questions.

The programme possibly could be considered as skirting the main issue of unity, but, as stated, there are problems to be solved by some of the brethren before unity as such can ever be determined.

Chairmen were S. H. Price (B) and K. J. Patterson (CC), and both were genial hosts. John Chivell (CC) set the ball rolling with a paper on our position regarding *The Church: Its Identity and Significance*. It was an excellent statement, and, as far as discernible, endorsed by every man present. John Hughes (B) followed with emphasis upon *Why Does it Exist, and What is it Called to Do?* Discussion groups followed, and reports and further discussions took place. This was the only place in which doctrinal matters showed through.

The Church's Mission was a general theme in which the Home Mission Secretaries shared the work of evangelism as undertaken by both groups. Those involved were J. Wallace (B) and E. P. C. Hollard (CC). An open forum followed this one, and proved useful.

The next theme to be developed was Saving and Salvaging Society, and here David Merriman (B) gave an outstanding paper on confronting men in their situations with their need of Christ. The particular emphasis was upon labor. This was followed by Cec. Watson (CC), whose forte was Industrial chaplaincy. So the programme went, with R. H. Sercombe (CC), L. Carr (B), A. R. Jones (CC) and others sharing.

As suggested, world-shattering decisions did not come forth, but we broke the barriers of other things. Plans have not been finalised as to where we go from here, but several recommendations to the Joint Committee involve areas of practical application.

News of Christian Guest Home

(VIC.)

as written by one of the guests,
R. W. Payne, a retired minister
of Churches of Christ.

The Matron of the Christian Guest Home, Mrs. E. A. Gall, missed the pre-Christmas celebrations by reason of very serious illness. The staff therefore decided to compensate her in some measure by a special birthday tea.

This was held on Feb. 3. It was a surprise move, and Matron was greatly impressed by the very nicely arranged and decorated tables.

Presentation of a copy of a modern translation of the New Testament and a large bouquet of flowers was made by Mesdames Sinclair and Barrett. Miss Scott led the company in a short devotional service, Miss Lynch reading Scripture and Miss Smith leading in prayer.

Matron was greatly moved by the loyalty of the staff and guests.

On Saturdays Feb. 24 and March 31 birthday parties were held, when, at specially arranged teas, guests whose birthdays occurred during the two months were honored. Matron, in her usual splendid manner, gave a brief resume of each one, referring to their contribution to the happy family life at the "Home." Matron pointed out that by means of monthly birthday teas for those who were passing the milestones of life, a more home-like atmosphere would be maintained. The women of the church at Bentleigh, convened by Mrs. N. Carter, have accepted the responsibility of providing cakes for each party.

Sister J. Goudle has given some of the guests an outing in her station wagon. It is her intention to continue these outings until all guests have participated. This, too, adds to the family life of guests.

Musings

A Conference President's Week.

SUN., APRIL 15. — In accordance with the long-standing tradition that the Incoming President of the Victorian-Tasmanian Conference should preach at Lygon-st. on Conference Sunday morning, I received a warm welcome there this morning, reviving many happy memories. But the most moving moment of the day for me was when I stood in the Melbourne Town Hall this afternoon while the retiring President inducted me to office. One interesting, unplanned feature of the afternoon was that, besides myself, there were three other former Western Australians on the platform — G. R. Stirling (guest preacher), W. W. Saunders (Conf. Sec.) and R. Hilford. To make the coincidence all the more remarkable — all four of us had connections with Fremantle church!

MON., APRIL 16. — One of Melbourne's glorious autumn days, on which I would have loved to share with fifty other ministers in their annual outing. However, the Conference report had to be written — though I broke away from it in time to attend the C.O.B. Old Boys' Tea before the Conference rally.

TUES., APRIL 17. — More Australian Christian work this morning, and then off to represent the brotherhood at the funeral service for a loved friend, Bob Gumley, Treasurer of the Federal Board of Christian Education. His sudden death at 47 has robbed us of one who, in Stanton Wilson's words at the service, was "every inch a Christian gentleman." Bob was also Men's Fellowship secretary at Brighton, and Mr. Wilson told us how his last request to him as minister had been for a list of the widows of the church, so that he could be ready to help when needed. There are many who will not easily forget the quality of Bob's living and giving. At night, I appreciated the youth programme for the last meeting of Conference; informative, challenging and well presented.

WED., APRIL 18. — This has been a hectic day, getting the A.C. finalised for press two days earlier than usual because of Easter.

THURS., APRIL 19. — A day of weekend preparation and other tasks of the ministry — then the H.M. Committee meeting at night. A grand band of fellow-workers, these!

FRI., APRIL 20. — It was a pleasure to conduct my first service as Conference President at my own church this Good Friday morning.

SAT., APRIL 21. — Preparing for Easter Day — surely a day to make a man humbly but thrillingly glad to be the preacher of such a gospel.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

Roger Connor, Robin Cohen, Swanston-st., Melbourne, Vic.
 Dorothy Aldersley, Ken. Haskell, North Williamstown, Vic.
 Gregory Watson, Camp Hill, Qld.
 Margaret and Philip Saunders, Goolwa, S.A.
 Helen and Anne Medlow, Warrawong, N.S.W.

Membership

Miss Peyton, Swanston-st., Melbourne, Vic.
 Mr. and Mrs. A. Ponting, Baptist Church to Kingaroy, Qld.
 Mr. and Mrs. K. Smith, from Hamilton; Mr. and Mrs. M. Ripper, from St. Kilda; Mrs. Beddoe, from Mt. Evelyn; D. Rodrigueax, from Balwyn to Burwood East, Vic.
 I. Sagers, from Subiaco; K. Mack, from Applecross to Dalkeith Road, W.A.

QUEENSLAND

Camp Hill (K. J. Harvey). — Young teenager baptised, Apr. 1. Four men attended Design for Development camp at Caloundra, weekend Mar. 30. Boys' and Girls' Clubs held first church parade, Apr. 8, with members of Girls' Club taking part in service. Over 30 boys and girls attended; overall attendance of 75. Clubs continue to progress encouragingly. More new members attending each week. C.Y.F. report good meetings, with best attendance 45. Av. attendances for Mar.: a.m., 84; p.m., 48. Attendances affected greatly in last few weeks by prevailing virus. Sis. Stevens spent short time in hospital, but is now attending services again.

East Ipswich - Leichhardt (R. Acland). — Good attendances at both centres; increase at p.m. service, E. Ipswich. Annual meeting, Mar. 24, elected A. Pieper, E. Reeve, A. Boettcher (elders); D. H. Risson, sec.; C. Coward, treas. Talent scheme for Building Fund to be launched. Fund

for new church building now £3,286. Pre-wedding social tendered to Jeanette Creswell and Bernie Meier. Delegates attended Annual Conference in Brisbane. Three bus loads attended combined services in Brisbane City Hall, 8th. C. Perkins (Warwick) p.m. speaker, 8th. New Hammond spinet organ installed in chapel. Service on 15th broadcast over local station. Vacation B.S. planned for Leichhardt during school holidays.

Maryborough - Baddow (D. G. Nelson). — In absence of minister on holidays, several brethren shared in leading Sunday and midweek meetings. All services well attended. On 15th, 4 Y.P. were received into fellowship after baptism. Social evening conducted on 13th by C.W.F. in aid of Aborigines Missions. On display was complete set of new clothing for Aboriginal lad they support. Baddow B.S. social, 14th. C.Y.F. attendances average 40 weekly. Bar B.Q. and motor trip have been enjoyed. Sis. Deighton, jnr., Evans, Popp, snr., recovering after hospitalisation.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dalkeith-rd. (C. G. Flood). — Recent evening service attended by Parliamentary candidates; sermon dealt with Christian way of voting. B.S. staff attended teacher training afternoon addressed by C. G. Flood and J. E. Gough. Two new members received by transfer. After-church fellowship held recently. Men visited steel rolling mills at Kwinana with Cottesloe C.M.S. Mrs. Stone out of hospital. Basketball training commenced. Rivervale church demolishing Claremont buildings for re-erection. Autumn Fellowship, for over 70's, had inaugural meeting, with afternoon tea at manse. Graham Alden has been busy with church signs and notice boards.

North Perth. — C.W.F. cottage meeting held at Mrs. Humphrey's home, Apr. 11. C.Y.F. had "daze school", 14th. Mrs. L. Dearden fractured ankle. Miss V. Small has returned to S.A. after spending working holiday in W.A. At annual business meeting, following were elected deacons: L. J. Michael, G. York, M. Dean, A. Summer, L. Brigatti, S. Van Der Wal, L. Dearden. Attendance at communion services encouraging. Owing to ill health, D. Mildrum has resigned as church sec.; he has been in hospital for some time. Number of visitors welcomed, including Mrs. Hemmings and family (Tas.).

NEW SOUTH WALES

Hornsby. — B.S. anniversary, Mar. 18 and 20; guest speakers K. Larcombe and L. Thomas. Monthly after-church fellowship conducted by Mr. Bartholomew, Apr. 8. At recent State Conference, A. Bell (Dept. Christian Education) and J. Ferry (Boys' Home) reappointed to Conference Committees. At C.W.F. Conference, Mrs. Bartholomew (Ashwood House), Mrs. Dallinger and Mrs. McDonald (Social Service) reappointed to C.W.F. Committees. Other recent speakers have been Messrs. Bartholomew, Beswell, Cole, Dallinger, Ellerby, Fennell, Hayward.

Warrawong (A. A. McRoberts, B.A.). — Church enjoyed fellowship with R. Veal and family on recent visit to district. C.W.F. held profitable continental luncheon for B.&F.B.S., with Mrs. Fewchuk (Sydney) presenting message. B.S. anniversary, 15th; speakers were Roy Gray (Wollongong) and A. McRoberts. Speaker at recent a.m. service, J. McGoram (New Tribes Mission). Two Y.P. baptised and received into fellowship.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Fullarton (J. E. Webb, interim). — Fine display of goods for Harvest Thanksgiving, Mar. 18; goods shared between Colebrook Home and Mission fields. Church entertained Mr. and Mrs. Fink, staff and children of Colebrook Home to tea; children presented item at evening service. Mrs. Suttle elected pres. of Ladies' Guild. Food parcels sent to India, New Hebrides, and New Guinea. Miss Johns, Mr. Wright and Mr. Parker meeting with church again after illness. Increased attendances at all meetings; 27 at prayer meeting recently.

Maylands (D. G. Hammer). — Stewardship campaign held under leadership of K. Patterson. Balaklava C.W.F. welcomed at luncheon and afternoon meeting. E. Heard spoke, a.m., Mar. 25. Special youth service, with youth choir taking part; also fellowship tea. Miss Jessie Trout (U.S.A.) gave interesting talk on The Church Around the World. Y.P. annual camp, Longwood. All services well attended; two baptisms.

Victor Harbour (G. Lord). — Harvest Festival well attended. C.Y.F. got away to a good start under leadership of minister. Several car loads attended Milang mission.

Goolwa (R. W. Saunders). — Harvest Thanksgiving, Apr. 8. Large attendances. Twin children of minister baptised; C.Y.F. assisted in service. All goods from Harvest Thanksgiving forwarded to Youth Hostel, Adelaide. R. W. Saunders and W. J. Bugar attended men's camp, Longwood. All depts. of church keen.

Grote-st., Adelaide (L. E. Jones, B.A., B.D.). — Choral Assoc. presented Stainer's *The Crucifixion* in chapel, Apr. 13. Y.P. sporting groups entertained on 14th at home of Mr. and Mrs. Blackey. Services 15th, addressed by C. P. Hughes and E. P. C. Hollard. R. Manning recovering from surgery. Church sympathises with Mr. Bagshaw and family in passing of Mrs. Bagshaw.

VICTORIA

Drumcondra (R. A. Banks). — Church annual meeting, Mar. 28; all officers and deaconesses re-elected. Good reports from auxiliaries and youth groups. Av. communicants, 92. Fellowship tea enjoyed by all prior to general meeting. Purchase of blocks, Church-st., North Geelong, now finalised. In near future, church meeting at Melbourne-rd., Drumcondra, will be moving to new site, which is nearer to majority of homes of members and B.S. scholars. B. Webster gave illustrated address on "The Antarctic" at C.M.S. meeting. Mrs. Jones, Matron of "Glastonbury," spoke of work among children at Home to meeting of C.W.E.F., and received donation toward work. Mrs. Forbes (Melb.) guest speaker at Apr. meeting of W.M.B. Congratulations expressed and gift presented to Mr. and Mrs. A. Barnes on occasion of golden wedding. Farewell presentations and words of appreciation for their years of Christian service to Drumcondra church made from church, B.S., and all auxiliaries to Mrs. D. Crossfield, Clarrie Crossfield and Miss Merle Hall, leaving to reside in Melbourne. Presentation made at prayer meeting, 11th, to Thelma Roberts, leaving Geelong after completing training at Bethany Babies' Home.

Malvern (G. J. Crossman). — Av. for March, 67 a.m., 41 p.m. Many visitors. Soloists have been Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Ferguson, Miss M. Potts, Miss F. Cowper, Will Newham. F. Illingworth and wife have returned from trip to Far East. E. L. Williams spoke to C.M.S. on *Impressions of New Delhi*. Many members attended Conference gatherings. C.W.F. making great progress and having excellent meetings. Enjoyable meeting held at home of Mrs. Lane.

Tootgarook (H. A. Hunt). — B.S. picnic held at Balmarring. Annual business meeting held; elected were: deacons, W. Morrison, J. Tillie, B.

Cochaud, S. Wilson, H. Burris (sec.), W. Fordham (treas.); deaconesses, Mesd. Lang, Watt, Magilton. All auxiliaries submitted reports. C.E. has been formed and goodly number attend. Ladies attended World Day of Prayer, also C.W.F. Conference. Church wishes Les. Baker speedy recovery after accident. Mrs. Cameron in Melbourne hospital.

Carnegie (A. R. Lloyd). — Services, Apr. 1, well attended. Y.P.F. held after-church song services. Mrs. Bates showed slides of her trip to British Isles. Mrs. Forsyth (after long illness) had fellowship with church. Church engaging in zone visitation. Soloist, 8th, Mrs. Maddern. P.B.P. held song service after church. Ladies attended Emmaus Home for meeting. Sympathy goes to relatives of Mrs. Nicholson, Miss Pepper, Mrs. Luke, Mrs. Nelson. V. Longthorp addressed B.S. and spoke, a.m., 15th. Mr. Galbraith, Matron Button, Mrs. Huggan, Elizabeth Bishop in hospital.

East Burwood (H. J. Patterson, M.A. - R. Lawton). — Annual meeting revealed healthy state of church and auxiliaries. Deacons elected; R. Warmbrunn, H. Weedon, E. Lewis, N. Wickham, G. Beard, A. Illingworth, L. Withers. B.S. anniversary held, Apr. 1 and 8. Guest speakers, V. Longthorp and D. H. Smith. Meetings well attended by parents. School singing much appreciated. 20 Y.P. attended "jinx night," 13th. Six welcomed into fellowship, 15th; 76 present. Tennis club enjoying large gatherings. Cricket club celebrated with premiership tea at conclusion of grand final day at end of first season in comp. Church welcomes Mr. Warmbrunn back after sickness.

Northcote (A. B. Withers). — C.Y.F. held successful camp at Salvation Army camp, Parkdale, Apr. 6-8 and took active part in gospel service on 8th, providing Y.P. choir. After p.m. service, 15th, presentation made to Gaye Graterex and Paul Kelly prior to marriage. Cricket club annual presentation night, 4th.

Swan Hill (D. G. Beanland). — During minister's absence at State Conference, Apr. 15, services conducted by D. Symnes and J. A. Storey (U.F.M.). Members of United Men's Brotherhood held church parade in chapel, 8th. Saturday night fellowship in home of Mr. and Mrs. Symnes took form of favorite record evening. 65 attended monthly C.W.F. social on 11th, when several items raised £13/10/- in penny votes. Church choir formed under leadership of Mrs. Symnes and Mrs. Hall. Dorothy Radford and Ray Lock honored prior to marriage.

tian Advocate reprint from *The Australian Christian* of his article on responsive worship last year.)



THE GLORY OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP (G. Edwin Osborn). — Christian Theological Seminary Press, 35/6 (36/2).

This book is a welcome contribution from the Churches of Christ (Disciples) tradition to the study of worship in the light of recent examinations of early Christian worship. The author is professor of worship and preaching at the Graduate Seminary, Phillips University; he is editor of *Christian Worship: A Service Book*, and has represented the Disciples on ecumenical commissions on worship.

The book contains an excellent treatment of the real objective and subjective elements in public worship, and includes a stimulating and provocative survey of the changing pattern of Disciple worship, in which the plea is made, in common with other works on worship, that the offering precede communion, and that communion climax the service. The theological grounds for this are given.

This book is intended to be the theological basis of *Christian Worship: A Service Book*, and chap. 4 (*Worship Is Theologically Grounded*) outlines the theology behind the four acts of worship that the editorial committee of the service book delineated on the basis of five norms (psychological, doctrinal, historical, liturgical, theological). So worship is expressed in deliberate and ordered "Acts," and the various parts of the service make up these "Acts" in the following manner: reverence (call to worship; hymn of praise; invocatory prayer; congregational response); fellowship (Scripture; pastoral prayer; hymn of affirmation); dedication (offering; offertory prayer; hymn of dedication); renewal (sermon; communion; hymn of praise; benediction).

In the final chapter, *Worship Is Sacramental*, the author reaches his highest note, maintaining that "Worship is the continuing redemptive engagement of God with his believing people." Australian ministers and churches would benefit enormously from a serious study of this excellent work.—D. B. McIntosh.

(The reviewer wishes gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of a complimentary copy of this book from the author himself for review, following Prof. Osborn's reading of Chris-

(continued ft. of previous col.)

Ministries of Our Women

W.C.W.F. PRAYER FOR APRIL

For the children of the world, especially the under-privileged, that much may be done for their relief, and opportunities given for them to learn of the Saviour. Pray that want and privation may be overcome.

Interstate News

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The President-Elect, Mrs. Fax, presided at the April Conference meeting. There were 213 present, 173 of whom were delegates. Mrs. Smetherham (Maylands, W.A.) brought a greeting, and Miss F. Kennedy (late New Hebrides) and Miss M. Verco (Bordertown) were also present.

Torrensville C.W.F. conducted devotions, with Mesd. Pearce, Taylor, Young and Maddison taking part.

There was a considerable amount of business handled at this meeting. It was decided to support the W.C.W.F.'s Literacy Programme for the island of Haiti, in the Caribbean Sea, using funds already held. In future, February Conference meetings will be held on the second Thursday instead of the first, in order to avoid school holidays which have affected attendances. Mrs. W. B. Wharton will convene the Cake Stall at the Temperance Alliance Fair on July 27. This is an "annual" for Churches of Christ. It was decided that a donation of £5 be made annually to the British and Foreign Bible Society. It was agreed that appreciation of the very fine exhibits under the name of Women's Conference on National Flower Day, during the Festival of Arts, be recorded in the minutes, and that a letter be sent to Mrs. R. F. Norman, Flower Committee Convener.

Reports were received from Home Missions, Social Service, Christian Education, National Council of Women, and also the Obituary Report. The Social Service Department requires clothing — especially for babies and children — for both the Welfare Centre and the Shop. Mrs. Woodroffe can supply groups with cut-out garments ready for sewing. An appeal was made for badge sellers for Morialta Homes on May 18. We hope to "man" two street stands. The National Council of Women desires to send several tons of used school books and novels to South Africa, where they are almost unobtainable, and it was requested that these be brought to the May meeting. Any text books (excepting history) in the English language will be acceptable.

Miss F. Kennedy spoke briefly to the meeting about our New Hebridean Mission. For 13½ years Miss Kennedy labored in this field, and her heart still yearns over these people, many of

whom she has seen own Jesus as Saviour.

Promise for the month: Matthew 28: 20, "Lo, I am with you, always, even unto the end of the world."
—Barbara Fitzgerald, asst.-sec.

Eightieth Anniversary

OWEN, S.A.

The opening of the church at Dalkey in January, 1882, was the commencement of the work in the Owen District. The 80th anniversary was celebrated on Sunday, March 25, when a large number of present and former members gathered to mark the occasion.

In 1881, 30 members met in the home of D. Hammond, of Dalkey, and at about the same time 13 members met in the home of D. Finlayson, of Owen. Later in that same year, the two groups met and decided to erect a building at Gorey's Corner, about 1½ miles from the township of Owen. This was the commencement of the Dalkey church. This work flourished for some years, but at about the turn of the century the membership had dropped greatly and, in 1904, it was decided to move to Owen. When the church was opened in Owen in 1906, the Dalkey church closed.

Attending Sunday's afternoon service was 87-year-old Mrs. T. A. Freebairn, of Alma, who joined at Dalkey in 1890, transferred to Alma church in 1898 and transferred back to Owen in 1913. Mrs. Freebairn is not only the oldest member today, but has also the longest continuous membership.

Also among the older present members of Owen, and present at the services, was Miss Fanny McLachlan, who transferred from Alma. Miss McLachlan is a daughter of James McLachlan, one of the foundation members of Alma, who helped with the preaching at the commencement of the Dalkey church.

Merv. Lawrie, a member at Owen until he left for Glen Iris to train for the ministry, and now the minister at Kadina, presided at the communion service, which was attended by 120. M. Williams, now of Naracoorte, was the preacher, and others taking part in the service were J. D. Harkness, H. B. Freebairn, J. A. Marshman and K. Wray.

C. S. Badcock was chairman of the afternoon programme, which included reminiscences by Robert Harkness (Naracoorte, elder son of John Harkness, a foundation member), J. B. Baker (Flinders Park, and a former minister of the circuit), and M. Lawrie (Kadina).

M. A. Coombs, also a former minister of the circuit and now producer/director of Christian Television Asso-

ciation, S.A., was the speaker at the evening service, which was attended by about 200. Assisting was the combined Owen-Long Plains choir, conducted by L. W. Marshman (Owen).

Visitors at the celebrations included some from Adelaide, Naracoorte, K1 Ki, Whyalla and Keith, and greetings were received from Church of England and Methodist churches. W. Tregloan (Whyalla) brought personal greetings as president of the Northern District Conference.

About 350 meals were served by the ladies of the Owen-Long Plains Circuit, with some assistance from ladies of other churches in Owen, at dinner and evening meal.

Organist for the day was Mrs. C. Flynn, formerly Miss Joyce Marshman.
—C. S. Badcock.

★

Here and There

The Ceylon government's quiet but persistent campaign to keep missionary influence to a minimum in this young nation is bolstered by a new ruling recently enacted here. Under the ruling a new missionary coming into the country is granted a visa only if he replaces a missionary who has left the island within the previous twelve months. In practice, this means that no new missionary is granted an entry visa until the person he is replacing has left the country. The ruling replaces an earlier one which fixed the number of missionaries permitted to work in the country at any one time at the same figure as in 1939. The new ruling, by setting the total at the 1961 level — a considerably lower figure — cuts the number sharply. At present there are 12 Methodist missionaries in Ceylon, 5 Baptist, 9 Anglican, 3 United Church (U.S.A.), 6 Salvation Army, plus a number from the Assemblies of God and Jehovah's Witnesses. The Roman Catholic Church has the largest number of foreign workers — an estimated 700 persons. The total Christian population of Ceylon is about 760,000, of whom about 600,000 are Roman Catholic. Total population is 10,000,000.—E.P.S.

A new kind of club or youth centre, described as a "Teenagers' Rendezvous," has been established in the West End of Edinburgh by five churches in the area — four Church of Scotland congregations and one Episcopal church. The club is called The Cephas (Rock). Young people from the five congregations helped clean and decorate the premises, formerly a furniture store in the basement of St. George's West Church.

BIRTH

HARRIS (Spry). — Eunice and Ron thankfully announce the birth of a daughter, Susan Gay. Sister for Janet, Gregory and Colin.

RUBY WEDDING

HALL-SCAIFE. — Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hall, 3 Tivey-pde., Balwyn, announce, with pleasure, the 40th anniversary of their wedding, celebrated at North Richmond Church of Christ, April 29, 1922, by the late J. E. Allan.

DEATHS

GOLDSWORTHY. — On April 12, at Kaniva Hospital, Mary Joyce, dearly loved wife of Lindsay, loving mother of Lynley, Faye and Ruth. "The Lord is my shepherd."

MANNING. — On April 12, at a private hospital, Ethel May, dearly beloved wife of the late James Manning, 61 Cremorne-st., Unley, S.A., loving mother of Keith, Hazel and Lorna, dearly loved sister of Elsie Bowey.

SMITH. — On April 2, Rose Ellen, dearly loved wife of Alfred, loving mother of Kathleen and Harry Oakes, loving gran. of Alan and Russell. "Our loved one at rest."

IN MEMORIAM

BURTT. — In ever loving memory of our beloved husband and father, Fred T. Burtt, called Home April 25, 1957. Lovingly remembered by his wife and family, Devonport, Tas., Blackwood, S.A., and Strathalbyn, S.A. "At peace with God."

EDWARDS. — In loving memory of our beloved parents, who were called Home, mother, April 23, 1960, father, Aug. 26, 1959. "Treasured memories." — Shirley and Ned Martin and family.

INVITATION to . . .**HOMECOMING DAY**

of the
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on
SUNDAY, MAY 6, 1962

11 a.m.: Communion Service:
Speaker: K. A. Jones.

3 p.m.: "Were You In This?"
2 choirs, etc.

7 p.m.: Gospel Service:
Speaker: F. Rees.

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COMING EVENTS

ESSENDON (Vic.) BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY, May 6 and 13. 6th: 3 p.m., L. Brooker; 7 p.m., Dr. E. R. Killmister. 13th: 3 p.m., B. F. Goldsteen; 7 p.m., V. Quayle. Conductor, R. Tippet.

CAULFIELD (Bambra-rd.) Vic., 42nd HOMECOMING SERVICES, Sunday, April 29. Guest speakers: 11 a.m., C. G. Taylor, B.A.; 3 p.m., A. E. White, B.A.; 7 p.m., R. C. Dixon. Special musical items by Malvern Salvation Army Citadel Band. Special invitation to meet old and new friends.

MORELAND CHURCH (Vic.) 53rd ANNIVERSARY and HOMECOMING, May 6. 10 a.m., G. A. Grainger; 3 p.m., P.S.A., with West Moreland Baptist Choir. Speaker: N. C. Hawthorn; 4.45 p.m., Fellowship Tea and illustrated talk on New Zealand by G. Harman; 7 p.m., A. B. Withers. All welcome; hospitality provided. Sec.: Alan Jenkins, 55 Cumberland-rd., Pascoe Vale, 35 6483.

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Fifty Years Ago

From "The Australian Christian",

April 25, 1912.

Editor: F. G. Dunn.

From Queensland Conference Report. — Preachers' furnished residences were urgently needed. At Gympie and Rosewood there were unfurnished preachers' residences, but at Tannymorel there was a furnished preacher's residence, and its size was 12 ft. by 10 ft. It cost about £25 to construct, and the brethren at Tannymorel deserved a hearty clap . . . Tannymorel and Albion, both new churches, were heartily admitted to the Conference . . . A. W. Jinks (State Evangelist) stated that he had visited 23 towns and districts, and had travelled more than 8,000 miles.

Western Australian Conference Jottings. — Beautiful weather prevailed throughout a most successful Conference, marked by optimism, enthusiasm and reasonableness throughout . . . G. Fitzgerald comes to us from the College of the Bible, and while still studying goes over the weekend to the Bunbury church. He is the capable forerunner of the many students from the College of the Bible who are coming to W.A. . . . The President (W. B. Blakemore) said he had never seen a preacher more loved by his people than is Bro. H. P. Manning by the people in his circuit . . . The statistical table showed 17 churches with a membership of 1346, an increase of 95 members.

Conference Summing-Up. — The Conferences are over, and the brethren have returned to their homes. The Federal Conference in Melbourne was, of course, the chief attraction. So far as Home Missions are concerned, this organisation has up to the present done but little, leaving this work to the individual States. It may be that in time the evangelistic work in the weaker States, in border towns, in the territories of Northern Australia and Papua, or in the Federal Capital, will receive practical attention and funds be forthcoming for aggressive work on a scale commensurate with the importance of the plea we urge and the people represented . . . Total Australian membership is 20,234, with 920 in the New Hebrides and 3,500 in New Zealand.

Changes at Footscray, Vic. — It is almost twelve months since our old building passed from our hands, being purchased by a local business man for the purpose of building shops on the block. Our meetings have since been held in the Masonic Hall. Our new building is nearing completion, the chapel and Sunday School being built on the American principle, and from the outside, presents a rather picturesque appearance.

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OBITUARY

Doreen Malvern Holmes.

On her way to the Customs Dept., Melbourne, where she worked, our sister took ill and passed quickly into the keeping of her Lord on March 23. Doreen, known generally to her friends as "Dot," accepted Christ as her Saviour in 1919 and continued faithful through the years. She was one of many who came under the influence of Mrs. R. P. Clark, and who still maintained the link of friendship and sisterhood forged in those days. Throughout the writer's ministry at Malvern, Vic., she rarely, if ever, missed a church business meeting and often voiced her opinion, which was always wise. She lost her mother in early girlhood and her father, a sister and four brothers pre-deceased her. She was deeply attached to her brother, Kenneth, who passed away suddenly a few years ago. However, she maintained a cheerful and bright disposition. At the funeral service, J. Holloway, who had known the family at Malvern over many years, spoke of her life. A large gathering of friends and relatives, and many from the Customs Dept., attended the service. For a number of years Miss Holmes had had the oversight of a staff of girls to whom she was an ever ready friend and counsellor. W. G. Crossman (Malvern minister) also assisted at the service, and at the graveside in the Old Cheltenham Cemetery. Deepest sympathy is offered to her relatives and to the one surviving member of her immediate family, Mrs. Palin. —W. J. Thomson.

OPEN FORUM

THE BETRAYAL

I like Mrs. Genat's article on the front page of *The Australian Christian* of April 10, offering, as it does, a dramatic and sympathetic presentation of a controversial theme.

Nevertheless, the picture becomes blurred somewhat when verse 6, chapter 12, John's Gospel, is taken into account. This verse reads: "He (Judas) was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein." The New English version reads: "He was a thief: he used to pilfer the money put into the common purse, which was in his charge." —Joseph Plummer, Brighton, Vic.

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