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GUEST EDITORIAL . . .

"The Nurture of Faith by the Use of Books"

R. V. Longthorp,
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I well remember seeing a small notice in the window of one of those tiny, single-fronted, secondhand book-shops, which read, "Good Christian Books for Sale." That shop, alas, has long since been shouldered out of existence to make way for progress in the shape of concrete and chrome. But the memory of that notice remains and it poses an interesting question: what are "good Christian books"? and especially, what is the value of them?

On the shelves of that shop you had a wide choice of books whose reputation as "good Christian books" was secure. All the great names were there, *Pilgrim's Progress*, William Law's *Serious Call*, the *Imitation* by Thomas à Kempis, Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*, *Sermons* by F. W. Robertson — and hosts of others.

These are obviously examples of "good Christian books," and there are many persons whose faith is grateful for their friendship. But when we know that faith is as big as life itself and that it feeds on all of life's myriad experiences, almost any book which bears the marks of life can be relevant to the growing faith. In a recent magazine article, Samuel Miller invites us to ponder over the many ways in which a book may help nurture faith.

Books, he says, help us to interpret life, because life is forever in need of interpretation. "Its mysteries need to be articulated, to be put into poetry, dramas, theology — and only then do we begin to see what they are. When anything happens, it is only the beginning of what it ultimately becomes; someone must take the raw material, shape it imaginatively with insight, develop its potential significance, reveal its intention — then, in the fulness of time, we know what really happened.



"This is what Augustine did for the fourth century, Nietzsche and Dostoevski for the nineteenth, and Faulkner and Camus for the twentieth. They took the whole bloc of perplexing human experience with its thousand-and-one conflicting strands and made sense of it. They embodied in a scheme of words, in a literary vision, the meaning of being human under the conditions of their times.

There simply is no other basis for faith than this. The avoidance of it by seeking some kind of faith that does not have to stand on this earth now and in this present world, but hangs from some kind of sky hook, is sheer deceit, a superstitious appeal to magic."

Then, in the second place it is in the province of books to encourage our reflective ability. We must expect a book to be bigger, deeper, higher, greater than we are.

"It should tease me out of my habit, push me beyond the safe limits, force me to rethink my opinions, and bring me face to face with things I never thought before. It should induce currents of aliveness in areas quite dead or dormant or dull. A book should provide a resurrection from death into life, if it is really worth its salt."

Further, our faith is nurtured by those books which teach us the way of integrity — for this is the way of Christ. "Books, that is, which will not side-step the tragic, repress the ugly, exclude the contradictions of our mortal lot or the shame of our human embarrassment. Books which will not dare to offer us solutions without going through the anguish of asking the questions; books which would not save us without the cross. Such books will not tantalise us with easy lessons on prayer, or how to find God or your money back." Pitilessly, they make us see who we are and they "tear open the immemorial scandal of our humanity." Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* will do this for us; so will *Hamlet*; so does Kierkegaard.

Then, lastly, books nurture faith because through them we are helped to see life. Jesus never promised us "religion"; his promise was "life," and faith and abundant life strengthen each other. People who say that they never read any other book than the Bible, and need no other book, do not give the Bible credit for its own nature, for the Bible is a book about "life" — it is bursting with life. Consequently, the Bible will always speak most vividly to those who are most keenly aware of life in all its many points of experience.

To endure agony with Faust or to suffer patent injustice with Hardy's *Tess D'Urbervilles*; to be thrust to the wall with Lear and to face crisis with Eliot's *A Beckett* — all this makes us sensitive to the Bible's judgment that life needs to be redeemed. And it is the man who is aware of his own need and the needs of all of life, who will cry with Job for the God who redeems, and joyfully realise him in the Word made flesh.

"Without great books, life would still be life and God still surprise us with his mercy, but the way would be stonier and the way-marks not so plain."

What a Christian Looks for in General Literature

We use the word "literature" in two general ways. We say, for instance, "There is plenty of literature on that subject," and mean that some information on that subject is available in printed form. Now it seems that what a Christian or anyone else looks for in this is, just precisely, information. It can be added, of course, that the Church has always taught that it is a Christian duty to develop one's talents, and information is the basis (but only the basis) of intellectual development. Again, the Church in modern times has taught that it is a Christian duty to direct one's religion to all aspects of life, including social life and politics, and to do this effectively one must be informed on current events. It can be said, then, that it is a Christian's duty to read, seriously, literature of the informative kind.

But we use the word "literature" in another way, such as when we say, "That book is great literature"; here we have in mind a creative work of quality. It implies imagination on the part of the author, although the book might be based on fact, as in the case of a history like Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, a biography like Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, or a historical novel, such as Sholokhov's *And Quiet Flows the Don*.

What are the essential features of a work, say a novel, which make it "literature"? We would expect an author whose novel can be classed as literature to be in complete command of his language, to be able to turn a phrase and to convey his thoughts lucidly.

We would expect a story to hold our interest and a plot to keep us in suspense, we might expect the setting or backdrop to the section to be evocative — but we could have all these things and not have "literature." The novel to be literature must give us more than these things — it must, to use the words of George Bernard Shaw, "illuminate life." By this Shaw meant that a work of art must give us more understanding of, and greater insight into, the universe; the people who live in it, their relationship with each other and their relationship with God, the gods, the life-force, or anything, whatever it may be termed, beyond man.

The great novelist does this by creating characters in such a compelling way that we attach ourselves to them, emotionally and intellectually, so that we live their lives. In doing so we are made more aware of human behaviour and attitudes,

human weaknesses and strengths, hopes and fears, despairs and joys.

Now it sometimes happens that the novelist, particularly the contemporary novelist, introduces us to the more sordid aspects of life. What should a Christian look for in this? The unsavory superficial details, or the forces at work underlying human actions which make their lives sordid?

A novelist is great, not only because he can write superb prose, but because he can convey something about the human condition, either the transitory particular human condition of a given place or period, or the inherent universal human condition. The great novelist lays bare the soul of man.

Now two things emerge from this. When we see and understand the lives of the created imaginary characters, we get further insight into human beings as they are in the real world. The novel, as Graham Greene has suggested, is the devil's advocate against all those forces which would dam the spring of human sympathy.

But as all human beings are to some extent cast in the same mould, when we get this added insight into others we also get a fresh view of ourselves.

A great novel can tell us more about our neighbors and ourselves than a dozen books on psychology.

To a Christian these things are of great importance, for a fundamental teaching of Jesus is to love one's neighbor, and this is more possible if we understand our neighbor. Again, Christianity embraces the Greek injunction, "Know thyself," and to know one's self is first to see one's self. Assisting us to understand our neighbors and ourselves is assisting us in our Christian life. A Christian still, therefore, looks for these things in general literature.

Now it is inevitable that a work will reflect the author's own attitude to life. It so happens that because most of the great writers have received their nourishment from the Western Christian tradition (or the earlier ones from either the Judaic or Greek traditions which have moulded the Western Christian tradition), most of them present a view of life that, if

not entirely Christian, is not aggressively opposed to it. But there are exceptions. In such a case, what should the attitude of a Christian be?

Surely any faith or belief cannot survive without its challenges, and our personal views and attitudes lose their depth and vitality without continuing self scrutiny. It's good for our soul as well as our intellectual life to be stimulated to think and reflect, and a view opposed to our own will compel us to do just that.

One final point — what we have said about the novel applies in some degree to the history and biography, but the trouble with the novel in particular is that its quality varies from the superb to the very bad. By far the majority of them, whatever else they might give us, will not provide that illumination of life that was mentioned earlier. But what a Christian looks for in these doesn't concern us here, for the question posed was "What does a Christian look for in General Literature?" Only the best novels are "literature." This might suggest, however, that it is also a Christian's duty to be selective in his reading.

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Recommended Books for Literature Week

MAY 20-27.

Interpreting the Parables (A. M. Hunter), S.C.M., 10/9; Growing up in Christ (Frances Wilkinson), S.C.M., 10/9; Take and Read (E. H. Robertson), S.C.M., 10/9; The People of God (Donald G. Miller), S.C.M., 10/9; Christian Deviations (Horton Davies), S.C.M. Paperback, 6/3; A Diary of Private Prayer (John Baillie), O.U.P. Paperback, 6/-; The Meaning of Prayer (H. E. Fosdick), Fontana, 4/-; The Glory of Christian Worship (G. Edwin Osborn), Christian Theological Seminary Press, 35/6; The Liturgical Movement and the Local Church (Alfred R. Shands), S.C.M., 10/9; Your God is Too Small (J. B. Phillips), Wyvern, 3/2; Science and Christian Belief (C. A. Coulson), Fontana, 3/9; The Christian Faith (David H. C. Read), Teach Yourself, 9/-; Introducing the Christian Faith (A. M. Ramsay), S.C.M. Paperback, 4/4; An Introduction to the Bible (Laymen's Commentary), S.C.M., 7/9; The Recovery of Confidence (E. H. Robertson), S.C.M., 10/9; No Night There (H. L. Perkins), Australian Council of Churches, 5/-.

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THE ASSIMILATION OF LITERATURE

K. J. Clinton.

A man working in industry recently said that he spent his times of relaxation in doing something with his hands or watching T.V. He spent a short time reading the newspaper, but could not settle down for the evening to read a book. What has a "Literature Week" got to say to such a man? Literature Week is not designed to provide rare delicacies for the intellectual giants, because they can choose their own. It is not designed to make every Christian a theologian, because that would be an impossible task! It is designed, however, to help ordinary Christians become better and more vital Christians, to enrich and deepen their devotional life so that they can make an effective witness to the outsider. These two ideas can be seen in our current usage of the word "assimilate." We assimilate our food; that is, we appropriate it as nourishment. The food we eat is used by the body in renewing itself in growth and in refuelling itself. Paul refers to the "milk of the Word." Again, we assimilate migrants into our community; that is, we seek to help migrants get orientated to our culture and built into our society.

Some people may think that "literature" is a high sounding word synonymous with the musty classics. We are simply using the word to mean the communication of ideas and information by means of the printed page.

The Nourishment of Our Spiritual Life

THE QUIET TIME.

A daily "Quiet Time" of prayer and Bible reading can help a Christian grow spiritually. Its absence may be one reason why many people who join the fellowship of the Church do not continue in it.

THE BIBLE.

In a recent article in *The Australian Christian*, John Huxtable suggested a way of Bible study. Various

GROUP STUDIES

The Life and Structure of the Local Congregation, published for the National Conference of the Australian Churches, 5/-; *Laymen are Ministers* (C. H. Wright), Methodist Federal Board of Education, 6/-; *God's People in This World* (F. W. R. Nichol), National Conference of Churches, 3/6; *The Uniting Church of Australia* (A. H. Wood), Methodist Publishing House, 3/6; *The Evangelistic Task of the Australian Churches in their World Setting* (Prof. Colin Williams), National Conference of the Australian Churches, 3/6.

translations can be profitably used as familiar phrases tend to blunt their thrust. The New English Bible N.T., the R.S.V. Bible and Phillips' New Testament are very helpful, besides translations by Knox, Williams, Moffatt and Weymouth, to mention only a few.

BIBLE HELPS.

Many people say that many parts of the Scriptures are hard to understand. There are various Bible reading schemes which provide notes on set readings. The Scripture Union has notes for Juniors and Intermediates, besides more advanced notes and Bible study notes. The International Bible Reading Association has notes on the daily readings listed in the *Book of Family Worship*. The Bible Reading Fellowship also has notes on daily Bible readings.

FAMILY WORSHIP.

As well as the suggested Scripture readings for the year, the *Book of Family Worship* supplies prayers for each day of the week. This may be used in family worship, or for private devotions. Do you have family worship in your home? Have you ever seriously considered it? You ought to consider it, you know. R. McKenzie, in *Provocative Pamphlet No. 67, The Family Altar*, discusses this matter.

PRAYER.

William Barclay's *The Plain Man's Book of Prayers* gives suggested prayers for a month, with an appropriate meditation. John Baillie has an excellent book called *A Diary of Private Prayer*, and Leslie Weatherhead's *A Private House of Prayer* would enrich your prayer time. Of course, we are not dependent upon other men's prayers, but who among us does not feel from time to time the need of fresh expression and new insights into this intimate converse with God?

COMMENTARIES.

Commentaries on particular books of the Bible can give a deeper, richer understanding of them. The S.C.M. Torch series, the I.V.F. Tyndale series, William Barclay's *Daily Bible Study* series and the new paperback *Layman's Bible Commentaries* are all very valuable and readable. Especially would I recommend the *Introduction to the Bible* in the Layman's series. It has five main sections: (1) What is the Bible? (2) The History of the People of God. (3) The Message of the Bible. (4) How we

got our Bible. (5) How to study the Bible. *The Plain Man Looks at the Bible*, by William Neil, and *How the Bible Came to Us*, by H. G. G. Herklotz, are paperbacks which give interesting background.

The Development of Our Understanding

KNOW OUR POSITION.

We should not only have a reason for our own personal faith in Christ, but we should be able to give an intelligent reason for our association with Churches of Christ. There is no excuse for anyone failing to read *The Fool of God*, a novel based upon the life of Alexander Campbell, by Louis Cochran. *What Churches of Christ Stand For*, by William Robinson and *A Biblical Approach to Unity* by Principal E. L. Williams, should be read in every church home. Many of the problems we face within our brotherhood would disappear if we grasped the principles of the Restoration Movement enunciated by Principal Williams in his book, so soundly based on the Scriptures and our true witness and tradition.

READ PAPERBACKS.

In this day of relatively cheap paperbacks, there is no valid reason why we should not set ourselves the aim of reading at least three or four books in a year. Look at last year's recommended list (and incidentally, the bookrooms in each State advise that they have ample stocks which they got in last year). This indicates that not too many people bought these books last year. Did your church arrange a bookstall? Did you buy a book? Why not decide now to set yourself a reading aim for the rest of the year, and go to the bookroom this week?

JOIN THE PAMPHLET CLUB.

Another helpful way of being informed is the *Provocative Pamphlet Club*. For an annual subscription of 10/-, twelve pamphlets on a variety of subjects related to Christian faith and church life are posted to members each year. Individual copies can be obtained from the Literature Department at 1/- a copy. Some recent titles have been, *God and Caesar*, *Christian Education Today*, *The Second Advent*, *Churches of Christ in Western India*, *Bridge Building - Industrial Chaplaincy*.

Stewardship of time and talents should challenge you to begin a planned reading programme of Christian literature today to nourish your spiritual life and to develop your understanding.

N. WATSON, Qld. Conf. Sec. reports on . . .

— Qld's 79th Annual Conference —

Highlights of Queensland's 79th Annual Conference, Apr. 4-8, 1962, in Brisbane, were the United Communion Service at the City Hall on Sunday, 8th, attended by 1,300, and the Conference Sermon Session on the afternoon of that same date, also at City Hall, attended by 900. Previously, there was no United Communion Service, and our best effort as regards the Conference Sermon Session was to fill the Ann-st. chapel to capacity with approximately 300. Two years ago, E. P. C. Holland (S.A. Home Mission Organiser, guest speaker to Conference) challenged us to think big and to act big in relation to our Conference planning. Taking up this challenge, the Conference Executive this year decided to venture out in faith and booked the City Hall for the Sunday services. Churches co-operated wonderfully well, as is evident from the attendances, and it was a thrilling experience to participate in the worship of those two services, which were addressed by R. N. Gilmore, B.A., the guest speaker of Conference, who has since commenced his ministry with the church at Townsville.

Generally speaking, the whole pattern of this year's Conference was different. Instead of combining business sessions and an inspirational rally on each of the different nights, two nights were devoted wholly to business, and two other nights were set aside for combined rallies. The overall period of Conference was shortened by one night. The new arrangement was so completely satisfactory that Conference resolved that next year's Conference follow a similar pattern.

The Conference theme was — **One Fellowship in Christ**. The guest speaker and the leaders of the devotional periods — L. G. Read (Ann-st.), F. Lievesley (C.S.S.M.), D. Norling (Chinchilla) and R. Holt (West Moreton Circuit) — contributed much to the spiritual tone of the Conference with their messages dealing with various aspects of the Conference theme.

Greetings were received from the Federal Conference Executive, Federal Conference Committee in Tasmania, Federal College of the Bible Board of Management, faculty and students, Conferences in Victoria - Tasmania, Western Australia and New South Wales, Mr. and Mrs. F. Beale (New Guinea), and Mr. and Mrs. V. T. Parker (Taree, N.S.W.).

Conference Officers elected were: President, J. H. McCormick; Senior

Vice-President, A. J. Sheriff; Vice-President, R. Acland; Secretary, N. Watson; Associate Secretary, Mrs. E. W. Potter; Treasurer, B. E. Scott. Mrs. W. J. Finger was re-elected as President of the Women's Conference for the second year.

A half-hour rally conducted by the Women's Conference prior to the combined **Missionary Rally** on Thurs., Apr. 5, was devoted to the presentation of a tableau presenting the story of the resurrection. This was a fine contribution to the spiritual tone of the Conference, as was also a drama presented during the combined **Social Service and Youth Rally** on the Saturday night. This drama, entitled **Inasmuch**, portrayed the assimilation of a migrant family into the life of the Church.

The worship of the two Sunday services was appreciably led by a combined choir in three special anthems.

Two other new features introduced into this year's Conference were the **President's Tea**, which took the form of the President's Session on the Thursday evening, and a **Men's Breakfast Session**, organised by the Department of Men's Work on the Saturday morning. The response at both of these sessions was gratifying.

In the opening message dealing with the Conference theme, R. N. Gilmore directed the thoughts of Conference to **The Basis of Fellowship**. He said — "Fellowship is more than a smile and a handshake all round — the very meaning of the word requires that we think of sharing, partaking, participating. The basis of Christian fellowship lies in what God has done. He, the lovely, loved us, the unlovely — this alone is the basis of our fellowship. But all that God has done is of no avail until we accept that he has done it for us personally; then, on that basis — God's action and our response — we have true Christian fellowship." This message was given at the combined **Missionary Rally** on the Thursday night.

Prior to the combined **Missionary Rally**, the special appeal relating to Queensland's project — the **Hermann Memorial Hospital** at Chungribu, New Guinea — was officially launched by J. H. McCormick on behalf of Conference. In the appeal our Queensland churches are being asked to contribute £500 for the establishment of the hospital on the New Guinea Mission Field to honor the life-work of the late Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Hermann, who devoted their lives to the service of Christ mainly through the work of

Overseas Missions on the Queensland Committee, and in practical ways which were not made public. Although the appeal date was fixed for Sunday, Apr. 29, a good proportion of the total amount required had been received prior to the conclusion of the Conference.

Speaking at the **Men's Breakfast Session on The Demand of Fellowship**, Mr. Gilmore said: "Few of us are prepared to pay the full price of fellowship. Self offering, suffering, no reputation, the cross — all this was the cost of fellowship to Jesus, and we can expect it for no bargain rate. Fellowship demands that we fellowship — forgetful of self, each esteeming other better than himself. For real fellowship we must reach the level where 'I' has no place in our vocabulary, and where we think not of our own interests, but always of the interests of others."

The **Practice of Fellowship** was the title of Mr. Gilmore's message at the combined **Social Service and Youth Rally** on the Saturday night. He said, "We live under constant demand and in constant danger. The constant demand is that we express our fellowship in humble service of others; the constant danger that our fellowship becomes a matter of words only. We must constantly compare our practice with our words."

Addressing the combined communion service on the subject **The Bond of Fellowship**, Mr. Gilmore said, "At once strong and fragile, the bond of fellowship is such that it can be broken by a single act or word of a single man, yet it can stand the strain and stress of all circumstances. The thrust of personal ambition and prestige can destroy a fellowship, but the strong cords are as Paul reminds the Philippians — 'consolation in Christ, comfort of love, fellowship in the Spirit and human compassion and pity'."

The title of the Conference Sermon was **The Flame of Fellowship**. Mr. Gilmore said, "It is easy to see our planet as the blighted planet — the blight and darkness of race discrimination, violence, war, gambling, the drink traffic is all heavy upon our world. We must never forget, however, that this is also the visited planet — visited by the One who said, 'I am the Light of the World' and also 'Ye are the light of the world.' Having kindled ourselves at Calvary's eternal flame we become the Master's light beams to take the flame of fellowship into the benighted spots of this world."

Conference dealt with over forty resolutions. It was resolved that greetings be sent to Queensland students at the Federal College of the Bible, Glen Iris, and Woolwich Bible College. It is to be recommended to the Federal Literature Committee that they reprint the book entitled *On the Rock*. Conference approved the establishment of a Bible College in Brisbane as soon as practicable, with the help and advice of the Federal College Board (see *Here and There* page).

It was further resolved that Federal Conference in Hobart be asked to approve of a Federal Appeal in order to raise finance to build a chapel for the Church of Christ at Townsville.

Conference commended the Director-General of Education for his announcement that there will be a

divinity subject in High Schools by 1964.

The Queensland State Government is to be asked to introduce legislation providing for the selling of tobacco to be licensed, and the advertising of tobacco and the sale of same to children under the age of 16 years to be prohibited.

In order to avoid embarrassing situations and to endeavor to make sure that only suitable applicants are appointed to the Mission field, Conference decided to recommend to the Federal Overseas Mission Board that:

(a) all applications for appointment to the Mission field first be referred to the State Committee in the State in which the applicant resides, for their investigation and

report, before the matter is otherwise made public or a decision made by the Federal Board.

(b) all State Committees be asked to arrange for a personal interview of applicants residing in their respective States before they forward advice to the Federal Board.

It was decided that this year's Half-Yearly Conference be held at Roma, over the Queen's Birthday holiday weekend, June 2-4.

Conference recorded appreciation of the conscientious work and able leadership of S. Chalmers as President during the past year, and the efficient manner in which he presided over the Conference, also the contribution made by R. N. Gilmore, B.A., as guest speaker, along with other expressions of grateful appreciation.



Women of the New Hebrides

Mrs. P. McLean.

During the early part of my stay in the New Hebrides I was impressed by what I thought to be the easy-going way of life of the women. Their food seemed to grow easily enough, and there was a minimum of housework to be done. As time went by and I noticed that many of the older women looked thin and weary, I began to see more of their difficulties. In spite of the few possessions to be cared for, and the amount of food that grows on trees around them, I found that most of their food had to be carried long distances from gardens in the hills. Their work in the gardens and homes is carried out completely without labor-saving devices, and even the wood for their fires had sometimes to be carried some distance on their heads. This carrying of food and wood was mostly done by the women. It is not unusual to meet women on the roads with baskets of yams on their heads perhaps 20 or 30 pounds in weight, but that would be a light load compared with the next — a very large bunch of bananas that most of us would have difficulty in even lifting off the ground. The people of the New Hebrides, as in every other place, love a kai-kai (feast) and how hard the women work for one! Almost every family takes its own native pudding to such occasions. The women go up to their gardens the previous day gathering food, and they also

return with long and heavy plantain leaves that are used to wrap the food for cooking. Towards evening they grate up many yams and taros. When this has been wrapped and put to cook in hot stones, they will catch fowls and prepare them for cooking. Coconuts have to be grated to squeeze out the fluid, when making coconut cream to cover the vegetable puddings. By the time the work is finished there is little time left for sleeping.

Laundry and bathroom facilities are a far-cry from the conveniences we enjoy. Rain water is caught in forty-four gallon drums or in a few cases there are galvanised iron tanks, or wells have been dug and plastered with lime or cement. On Aoba there is little water during the dry season, and procuring water even for two or three months can be a real problem. At such times bodies are washed in the sea and clothes have to be taken various places where there is a little spring water available.

Women help when work is to be done for cash crops. When a man decides to cut his copra or his cocoa, he often has many friends to come and help him, but they must be fed for breakfast, dinner and tea, so here is something to keep the little woman occupied. She may help with the actual work of digging out the copra from the coconut or extracting the beans from the cocoa pod.

Gardens, too, need lots of attention in this tropical area. The jungle has to be kept back, and this is a con-

stant job during the wet season. With no fertilisers or soil improvers, a new garden has to be cleared every year or two.

In times of sickness there has been much suffering and loss of life, but this is changing. Those who live near our Mission hospitals are learning to take advantage of the help available, but many yet are slow to come for help, especially those who live longer distances from the medical centres. Our medical work has meant a lot of patient work in educating the people to come for help, as well as giving that help.

We are glad to say that some fruits have been seen from the schooling that most of our young people have been receiving during the last ten to fifteen years. At Ndui Ndui in the hospital work, the task of training nurses is becoming a little lighter now that the standard of education is being raised. We have also been very glad to have some of our girls, as well as the boys, helping to teach in the village schools. These girls, although they have not had any teacher-training, have been very faithful, and have done quite well in passing on the knowledge that they have gained. In our women's meetings, too, we have been glad to have a band of young women eager to share their knowledge of the Word by coming to help in the women's meetings further away from the Mission stations.

We are doing more for our New Hebridean brethren than ever before, but they are still very much in need of our help. They themselves have willingly given of their substances when they have heard of needy people, and when they heard of people on neighboring islands calling for help in the gospel, they did their best to send teachers to them. Let us take every opportunity to

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— Important Conference at Geneva —

At least once annually, the General Secretaries of the World Confessional Bodies come together for conference concerning matters of mutual interest. This year the meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on April 3 and 4. Geneva is very attractive because of the snow-covered mountains in view and the beautiful lake of which the Swiss are very proud.

The meeting was held in one of the conference rooms of the World Council of Churches. While the meeting, as heretofore, was not called by the Council or sponsored by it, yet it did furnish a room in which the two-day meeting was held. This was the third conference held by the representatives of these world organisations, like our own World Convention of Churches of Christ (Disciples).

Of the thirteen "World Confessional Bodies" all were represented except two — the Anglicans and the Salvation Army. The oldest of these world families of Christian faith is the Presbyterian World Alliance, organised in London in 1875. It is composed of 89 denominations of the Reformed Churches throughout the world, holding the Presbyterian order. Another large family is the Lutheran World Federation, organised in July 1, 1947, and composed of 62 Lutheran denominations in many areas of the world. The Baptist World Alliance was organised in 1905 and is made up of 90 different Baptist denominations in all parts of the world. Our own World Convention was organised in 1930, and represents churches and workers of our own communion in 36 countries of the world. The General Secretaries of these four religious bodies were present at Geneva.

Other representatives were present at Geneva from the Methodist World Council, International Congregational Council, World Conference of Pentecostal Churches, Friends (Quakers) World Committee for Consultation, Old Catholics, Ecumenical Patriarchate and Patriarchate of Moscow.

In addition to the representatives of the "Confessional Bodies," five members of the World Council were invited to be present. These were — William A. Visser 't Hooft, Lesslie Newbigin, Norman Goodall, Paul S. Minear and Leslie E. Cook.

The term "Confessional Bodies" has given concern to some of the Sec-

prepare them for effective Christian leadership. We do not know how long we have to do this. Doors are closing in other areas. Let us treat the matter as urgent in our prayerful and financial support.

Jesse M. Bader,
General Secretary, World Convention
of Churches of Christ (Disciples).

retaries and others. They have not been satisfied with it, hence at the very beginning of the conference this matter was discussed. When it was learned that this term, "Confessional Bodies," was used in the constitution of the World Council of Churches, Dr. Visser 't Hooft was requested to define the meaning of this term, which he did in the following as a working definition:

"We understand the term 'Confessional Bodies,' as used in the constitution of the World Council of Churches, to mean the organisations which represent families of churches. While each of these bodies has its own specific conception of the nature of the link that binds its member churches together and of its own role in the total ecumenical life of the churches, these bodies have this in common:

- (a) that their member churches share together not only the general tradition which is common to all Christian churches, but also specific traditions which have grown out of the spiritual crises in the history of the church;
- (b) that these bodies desire to render witness to specific convictions of doctrinal or ecclesiological character which they consider to be essential for the life of the whole Church of Christ."

One of the main reasons why the meeting of the "Confessional Bodies" was called at this time was to give consideration to a statement from the East Asia Christian Conference held at Bangalore in Nov. 1961. This statement was entitled, *The World Confessional Development and the Younger Churches*. Those who produced this document were quite critical of the "Confessional Bodies" in their feeling that these "Bodies" were hindering unity and union in local and regional areas. It became quite apparent in our meeting that much within this statement grew out of misinformation and the lack of the real facts in the situation. Almost all the "World Confessional Bodies" are fellowships. They are not administrative. This is true of our own World Convention. It has no missionaries and it administers no missionary or benevolent work anywhere in the world.

This Bangalore statement was brought to the World Council Assembly at New Delhi for its con-

sideration. The Assembly recommended:

"That the Central Committee (of the World Council) invite the World Confessional Bodies to join with it in a study of the relationship between the Council and these bodies; and also in a study of the relationship between these bodies and the Younger Churches, and report to the Central Committee. If it seems to it sufficiently urgent, the Central Committee might call a consultation on this subject."

The representatives of the World Confessional Bodies, feeling that the Bangalore statement was so important, desired to consider it as soon as possible after New Delhi. In doing so at Geneva, they have anticipated that the Central Committee of the World Council will call such a meeting. This has now been done, and a meeting has been called by the Central Committee to meet next February in Addis Ababa for a further consideration of the Bangalore statement.

One of the most interesting items of the two-day conference was the presence of a representative of the Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church. He is Monsignor Willebrant, secretary for Christian Unity of the Vatican Council which begins in Rome, October 11 of this year. He explained that three important subjects will be given unhurried consideration by the Council. These are — Truth, Unity and Peace. He explained that 3,000 Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church are expected to be present and that each Bishop will be accompanied by a theologian and a secretary.

It was quite a surprise when Monsignor Willebrant indicated that each "World Confessional Body" may be invited soon to send one or two observers. These observers will be invited to attend all the plenary sessions of the Council. A number present at Geneva indicated that they would give consideration to any invitation that may be sent to them.

I came away from Geneva feeling that each and every one of these World Confessional Bodies has been and is doing a great work. They mean much to the whole Ecumenical Movement which is on in the world at the present time. Almost all these Bodies were in existence long before the World Council of Churches was organised in 1948. They have done much to help create the ecumenical climate and to make possible the larger co-operation of churches in all lands of the world.

Hands Across the Tasman

New Zealand Newsletter

CHIEF CHAPLAIN.

Sq. Ldr. W. Harford of our Churches is now Senior Chaplain, R.N.Z.A.F. He will continue to serve as chaplain at Ohakea base as he undertakes his new duties. Mr. Harford served overseas in Fiji and on his return to New Zealand went to Whenuapai-Hobsonville (Auckland), prior to moving to Ohakea. He assists the churches at Palmerston North.

OVERSEAS VISITOR.

Miss Jessie Trout visited here on her way home to the U.S.A. after a period in India for the U.C.M.S. She had discussions with the Foreign Mission Council and Dept. of Christian Education whilst in Nelson. Along with Mr. Nyoni, at present studying in Wellington, Miss Trout spent time with the members of the General Executive at their March meeting.

MARK WENDELBORN RETURNS.

After a successful overseas study tour, the Director of the Dept. of Christian Education (M. Wendelborn, M.R.E.) was welcomed home on his return to N.Z., and a brotherhood welcome at Moorhouse-ave. chapel on March 18 was widely representative in character. The retiring Director of the Department, H. F. Gross, who returns to Australia in July, was speaker at the 11 a.m. service which was broadcast, with Mr. Wendelborn addressing the evening meeting.

WELL ON THE WAY.

The National Council of Churches Christmas Bowl Appeal for 1961 is well on the way to reaching its target of £N.Z.45,000. By March 20, £41,000 was in hand, over £10,000 more than at the same time last year.

ASIAN COUNCIL TO MEET HERE.

Church and Community, the paper of the N.C.C., announces that a consultation will be held in Christchurch from Nov. 27-30 under the auspices of the East Asia Christian Conference. The purpose of the meeting is to "bring together about 150 representatives of the churches to talk about their total mission both within New Zealand and beyond it." Dr. D. T. Niles, of Ceylon, and M. M. Thomas, of the Mar Thoma Church of India, will be amongst those present for this first meeting of its kind to be held here.

DEATH.

Peter Gamlen, until recently connected with the work of the Council for Christian Education in this country, died suddenly at the age of 41. He had a parish in the Petone area, Wellington.

MEN'S RETREAT.

The Wellington District Conference Committee is sponsoring a Men's Retreat to be held over the weekend of May 25 at Otaki — with the theme: A Man's Look at the Church.

AND FOR THE LADIES.

The annual inter-church School for Women in Auckland, conducted under the auspices of the N.C.C., again attracted a record attendance, with 500-600 women involved in the sessions.

TRUST ESTABLISHED.

The Christian Hospital Trust, Inc., established by a group of members of our churches, is now conducting a 30-bed private hospital in Auckland. It is anticipated that the hospital will offer a sphere of Christian service for members; will provide a Christian atmosphere for patients, and result in some financial benefits for the brotherhood in the years to come. K. Hope (Ashburton) has been appointed Manager-Secretary of the Trust in connection with this venture. Mr. Hope was previously Secretary-Treasurer of the Ashburton church and also Deputy Chairman of the Dept. of Christian Education.

DUNEDIN

was the venue for the Easter Conference, when some important items were considered. This was the last time that Conference will be held at this time of the year. In 1963 we move to November. While the first year of operations of the Dominion Activities Fund — co-ordinating the brotherhood committee appeals under one budget — resulted in record giving by the churches, it did not realise sufficient resources for the varied work of all the committees.

MISSIONARIES LEAVE FOR AUSTRALIA.

Dr. and Mrs. David Coulter and Ruth, with Sister Heather Middlemiss, have been in Australia, preparatory to going to the New Hebrides field. The good wishes of their N.Z. brethren go with them. A special service of recognition and commissioning was held at the Oamaru chapel, when the Otago District Conference Committee held their half-yearly meeting there in March.

THE MISSION TO LEPERS

as part of its Jubilee Year proposes to provide financial assistance for young men and women who will take a medical course and join its staff. The Mission also seeks to raise a special fund of £25,000 in N.Z. to meet a number of special urgent needs. —Bruce Burn.

QUESTING

A. E. White.

As a child I made my decision to follow Christ and was baptised. After a few years doubts came and the assurance of salvation was lost. How may this assurance be regained?

This is not an uncommon experience. We have only to recall the certainty of the disciples before the arrest of Jesus and the confusion and despair afterwards. If it could happen to them, it could happen to anyone. They saw the apparent defeat of all God's promises on Calvary. Our tests may seem mild by comparison, but we see the apparent defeat of the Christ in the lives of flat, unenthusiastic church members. This can be a severe enough test to cause a young disciple first to question the faith of others, and then to doubt his own.

But if times of doubt are common to most of us, this does not mean that they are not dangerous. Doubts can lead to desertion, by us as well as by the Twelve. I often think that doubts take hold of our lives because we want from the Christ more than he can give to anyone. Assurance of salvation, like its initial acceptance, is a matter of faith. No matter how convinced you were at any time, there was an area of your life which you had to surrender on trust. This is true of every Christian. Name any hero of the cross from Polycarp to John Bunyan, from Dr. Livingstone to Dr. Dooley, from John Wesley to Billy Graham; none of them had any more evidence than you and I have. They might have made more use of what they had than we do, but they all walked "by faith, and not by sight."

Suggestions: 1. Recognise the continuing place of faith in your life. 2. Be honest with your doubts. If they seem real, treat them as real. Bring them into the open. 3. Don't stop praying. If you can't do much more, tell God about your doubts. 4. Share your daily life with Christ. 5. Don't stop reading the Bible. Romans has a lot about faith and assurance. 6. Read a good biography of a Christian missionary. Most missionaries have won great victories over doubts. 7. Don't stay away from church. Faith is infectious, and the church is where you caught it. 8. Keep near to the needs of people; visit hospitals, children's homes, etc., and serve others where you are able.

Above all, keep seeking the Christ. I am positive you will find him again if you search for him. He is not far away.

Next week: Unified Promotion.

HERE AND THERE

Special material for the first three pages of this issue was supplied by the Federal Literature Dept. in preparation for Literature Week, May 20-27.

Morning service from Margaret-st., Launceston church, Tas., will be broadcast over Radio 7NT at 11 a.m., May 13.

A. E. White, B.A. (minister, Nth. Essendon, Vic.) may be heard in all States in the A.B.C. "Evening Meditation" programme, Mon., May 14 to Sat. May 19 inclusive.

Friends will be sorry to learn of the passing of Dr. L. Anderson, of Ingleburn, N.S.W., brother of Albert Anderson (former F.M. Fed. Sec.) and son-in-law of Mrs. Emerson (caretaker, Swanston-st. chapel, Melb.).

The church at Unley, S.A., announces that C. H. J. Wright, B.A., has accepted its invitation to serve a further three-year term of ministry.

On Apr. 1, Traralgon (Vic.) held its first Sunday morning service, led by H. Preston, with 21 present. After gathering in homes for afternoon meetings over past months, the group has commenced a church in this town, holding morning services at a local hall. After assisting a Union Sunday School in Newborough for many years, our brethren there have begun a Churches of Christ B.S. and have 16 pupils. Morning services continue there, with Morwell and Traralgon brethren assisting. There was one decision at Morwell on Apr. 8.

The church at Brighton Gardens, S.A., announces, with regret, the resignation of A. F. Cant as its first full-time minister, to be effective from Jan. 20, 1963. The church appreciates the service and sacrifice that Mr. and Mrs. Cant have made during their association with us. —G. S. Miller, sec.

At the North Western District (Vic.) Annual Conference of Churches of Christ at Warracknabeal on Anzac Day, Apr. 25, 1962, there were good attendances at all meetings. K. Hank (Ararat) was president for the day. At the evening meeting, he introduced the incoming president for 1963, C. Rogers (Warracknabeal). R. V. Amos was guest speaker for the afternoon and evening meetings on the theme, *The Church that God Meant for This Hour*. Guest speaker for the women's session was Mrs. R. V. Amos, who brought a stirring message on *Woman to Woman* evangelism. The incoming

women's president for 1963 is Mrs. H. Newell (Minyip). — Mrs. R. J. Rogers.

The new youth hall and chapel extensions at Bambra-rd., Caulfield, Vic., were officially opened on Sat., Apr. 15, by Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Tidd (associated with the church for many years from the kindergarten on, and still very actively engaged). A bouquet of flowers was presented to Miss Henderson, who represented active foundation members. A pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by the large gathering present. Attendances at the 42nd church anniversary on Apr. 29, were: morning, 255 (speaker, C. G. Taylor); afternoon, 195 (speaker, A. E. White, with items by Malvern Salvation Army Band); evening, 250 (speaker, R. C. Dixon, minister). 170 attended the fellowship tea. Items by the choir, led by J. Machin, were appreciated during the day. The Temple Day appeal raised £618 towards the Hall Fund.

Yarrowonga church, Vic., has received, with much regret, the announcement of its minister, D. Russell, that he will terminate his ministry there in July.

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Loss of the "Yanawai"

K. Ludgater.

Today at 2 a.m., the Yanawai, our beautiful inter-island steamer, was wrecked at Ndui Ndui! Anchoring there at 6 p.m. yesterday, Hosea, the captain, was forced by a nasty squall to try to move off just before but this was impossible, because the engines must be pre-heated for one hour before being started. The engines did eventually start, but the ship's propeller hit a rock close in to shore and waves finally lodged it between two rocks. Fortunately, no lives were lost but one man had a narrow escape. He was nearly crushed to death while trying to get ashore with a rope, when a huge wave caused the ship to lurch over towards him. Some of his crew members, however, pulled him up to safety as the ship smashed against a rock. It seems unlikely that this lovely ship will be refloated, but we hope she will. All the cargo for our Mission may have been lost or ruined. They have salvaged a lot so far, but most things are in poor condition.

North-Eastern and Riverina Districts Conference

The above Conference met at Albury, April 28. Churches represented were: Mooropna, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Yarrowonga and Albury.

The Albury ladies provided morning tea, and reunion over the cup provided a good start for the day. Mr. Todd (Wagga) led the morning devotions, *Things a Christian Needs*.

The president, D. Oldfield, welcomed delegates and visitors. Church reports showed additions in all centres, but many transfers. Arising from reports, discussion on prayer meetings made us realise how we depend on prayer to maintain the work. The reports showed highly satisfactory attendance at the Lord's Table — Yarrowonga 92%, most others in the 80%.

Some discussion arose regarding the permanent place of meeting, but Conference by a big majority showed a desire to rotate the meeting as at present. Although this means a long journey some years for Wagga and Shepparton, the fellowship was worth the journey.

Mr. Oldfield appealed for more helpers for Cheshunt Camp, and Mr. Winch stressed the need to maintain a combined interest, or there would be a danger of lost interest in the Conference generally.

Wangaratta was granted an extension of the loan money for twelve months. This church also reported a mission later this year.

Yarrowonga and Shepparton will both farewell preachers before next Conference.

Sonny Graham stressed the need for a Kindergarten at Mooropna, and Conference decided to donate £10 to the work. Before the day closed this amount had reached £30, thanks to generous hearts.

Mr. Graham was guest speaker for the day, and all enjoyed his addresses, also his musical items. A film, *Prior Claim*, was shown before the evening service, when the chapel was packed.

Mr. Snowden (Wagga) thanked all who helped to make the day a happy day of fellowship.

Albury ladies provided the necessary items; all brought their own food and had fellowship around the meal table. The travellers were provided with supper.

Conference goes to Wangaratta, 1963. —A. E. Combridge, Sec.

News of British Churches

The churches in Leicester, as part of a united Inner Mission, held a Retreat, with sessions throughout the day. Sessions were led by G. B. Waterton, district secretary, and addresses were given by Canon Lockley, of Leicester Cathedral, and John Francis, of Manchester. The Retreat was part of the preparation for a week of prayer and dedication held in Passion week.

The youth delegation to the Third Conference of Christian Youth, to be held in Leicester at the end of July, has been appointed. It numbers sixteen, and will be led by James Garrow, one of the Christian Education organisers. The delegation includes one of the younger ministers, several students and members drawn from various parts of the country.

One of the speakers at Musselburgh anniversary was a former Church of Scotland missionary in Rhodesia, W. W. Laird, who spoke of his association with Dr. Garfield Todd in Rhodesia. The Sunday preacher was W. G. Baker.

Arrangements are well in hand for the Annual Conference of the British churches. This will be held in Nottingham, at the beginning of August. One of the unusual features of the Conference will be a dramatic presentation, entitled *Call the Witnesses*. Music, drama, art and worship will make a challenging climax to the Conference. —G. J. Hammond.

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Churches' Census

Geraldton, W.A.

Geraldton, W.A., is a town with a shifting population. This prompted leaders of local churches to join in a venture to discover the religious affiliation of every person in this town of over ten thousand. Those participating were: Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian-Methodist (a combined church), Salvation Army and Church of Christ. After two meetings of the respective ministers, with the Anglican Rector as host, tasks were divided between the men. Cards and badges were printed and lay volunteers secured; numbers of these varied from more than sixty Roman Catholics to six Church of Christ. After the major work was completed, just before Easter, another meeting was held to divide the record cards to those concerned. With mixed marriages, duplicate cards were made, one for each denomination concerned.

Results, counted in families, show 1,380 Church of England, 860 Roman Catholic, 265 Methodist, 181 Presbyterian, 30 Salvation Army, 52 Churches of Christ, as well as numbers

from national churches and about 30 from various sects. Those participating agreed that the Combined Churches' Census was useful to all and a heartening experience of co-operation. —D. R. Oakes.

Queensland to Establish Bible College

The Queensland brethren took a tremendous forward step at the recent State Conference, when it was decided to establish a Bible College in Brisbane. In doing this we will seek the advice of the Federal College Board.

With the great increase in population expected in the next few years because of the discovery of oil, the development of the State's vast primary potential, and the establishment of new secondary industries, the establishment of a College is regarded as essential to help meet the greater challenge that will confront us as a people who plead for the restoration of New Testament Christianity.

We believe, also, that the College will eventually be a source of increased strength for the Australian brotherhood as a whole.

In accordance with their decision, the delegates at the Conference immediately elected a College Establishment Committee which consists of the following personnel: C. R. Burdeu (Chairman), J. H. McCormick, L. G. Read, H. J. Payne, S. Chalmers, Professor A. F. Wilson, J. Christensen, C. J. Connell, D. W. Mansell, Miss H. Trudgian and M. H. A. Pieper (Secretary).

This committee has already held its initial meeting and a number of preliminary decisions have been made.

It was unanimously decided to set a standard of education both in secular and Bible subjects which would be equal to that of our Colleges already established.

The matter of a Principal has also been considered and a move has already been made to secure the services of a highly qualified man.

It is envisaged, at this stage, that part of the existing Boys' Hostel at Annerley will be used for resident students, and that through the good grace of the Annerley church their buildings will be utilised for devotion and lecture periods.

The committee is fortunate to have among its members two men of high academic standing. C. J. Connell is the Registrar of the Queensland University, and Professor A. F. Wilson is Head of the Department of Geology at the Queensland University. Both are members at Albion and serve in the capacities of treasurer and elder respectively. —M. H. A. Pieper (Sec.).

Musings

A Conference President's Week.

SUN., APR. 29. — My day of Presidential duties certainly had a missionary flavor about it. Both morning and evening I was at churches whose ministers are former missionaries to India (Caulfield, with R. C. Dixon, and Cheltenham, with R. C. Bolduan), and in the afternoon I was one of the group which gathered at the Brotherhood Centre to meet some of our outgoing missionaries, and say farewell to those passing through to the Islands. Prior to the evening service at Cheltenham was the opening of that church's new £20,000 Ray Barnett Christian Education Centre, followed by a buffet tea in the magnificent new hall. It was a crowded but memorable day. When at last I arrived back home, the phone was ringing; that sounded like home these days!

MON., APR. 30. — Some more invitations came in today's mail. The curious thing is that so many church — and even Departmental — secretaries still forget the courtesy of a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

TUES., MAY 1. — During our Officers' Board meeting tonight there was an electricity failure for about ten minutes — not the first time I've known church officers and minister to be in the dark!

WED., MAY 2. — A day of visitation, plus really getting a start on a T.V. script on the theme, *If God Be God*. This is for the A.B.C., and I've noticed in recent years that the Commission has had many talks, both on radio and on T.V., on similar themes, which possibly indicates that no one has ever felt that any speaker could say the last word on such a subject. As a warning to myself, I've kept beside me the comment of R. J. McCracken concerning "the little men who know all the little answers but miss the large questions, who trot out slick solutions for every problem, and speak about God as if they were on nodding, casual terms with him."

THURS., MAY 3. — Much as yesterday, plus a morning on A.C. preparation in the Austral Office and an evening at home, typing out our local church weekly.

FRI., MAY 4. — I took time off from an all-day schedule at the Austral to pay a Presidential visit to the State C.W.F. Executive Council meeting at the Centre, where I was asked to give an inspirational message. In actual fact, the women themselves gave me the inspiration! They give such a splendid lead in so many ways in all our brotherhood work.

SAT., MAY 5. — From a wedding this afternoon to the State C.Y.F. tea and meeting tonight — a good way to end the week, among young people.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Marriage

Beverley Pevitt to Norman McDowell, Warrnambool, Vic.

Dorothy Radford to Ray Lock, Swan Hill, Vic.

Pat Martlew to Colin Guerin, Bordertown, S.A.

Barbara Kerr, Red Hill, Vic. to Robert Vaughan, Warragul, Vic.

Christine Haines to Brian Davison; Margaret Roberts to Keith Mc Carthy, Wattle Park, Vic.

Beverley Cheal to Ern. Jeffrey, Boronia, Vic.

Discipleship

Jeanette Ratten, Morwell, Vic.

Margaret Cockfield, Swan Hill, Vic.

Miss Leslie Warburton, Christine Clarke, Bordertown, S.A.

Murray Jackel, Wangaratta, Vic.

Dianne Eldridge, Dianne Hackett, A. Goldfinch, Naracoorte, S.A.

Murray Fopp, Trevor Bigwood, Ascot Park, S.A.

Louise Oliver, Rosemary Park, Carolyn Kimpton, Jennifer Stimson, Bruce and Graham Long, Epping, N.S.W.

Yvonne Williams, Kaniva, Vic.

Gwynne Phillips, Murray Bridge, S.A.

Trudy Hayes, Marjorie Hughes, Hazel Kelly, Don Ard, Marshall Kelly, Joe Kelly, Thomas Mowran, Ken Drummond, Susan Samson, Beverley Pickett, Betty Kelly, Ann Hayes, Kathleen Dodd, Betty Coplin, Carnarvon Mission, W.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Parnell, Rodney Parnell, Diane Reid, Heather Legge, Alison Clutterbuck, Ringwood, Vic.

Heather Neville, Sunshine, Vic.

H. Theobald, Wattle Park, Vic.

Pauline Kennedy, Queenstown, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Page, Neville and Beverley Sanders, Wayne and Robin Watson, Lynette Bacon, David Shields, Boronia, Vic.

Membership

Miss Bennett, from Brooklyn Park; Miss Heitzman, from Whyalla to Unley, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Middleton, Stirling-Aldgate to Naracoorte, S.A.

Mrs. K. Horder, Newcastle Baptist, to Launceston, Tas.

Mrs. Capper to Murray Bridge, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennett, Long Plains to Owen, S.A.

Mrs. T. Hall, Box Hill, to Wattle Park, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Brokensha from Hampstead Gardens; Graham and Dawn Norton from Linswood to Stirling East, S.A.

dedication; visits of Hobart brethren still appreciated.

QUEENSLAND

Bundaberg (W. J. Davidson). — New ministry appreciated. Purchase of car will assist in pastoral visitation. Members have helped in visitation of all active and inactive members and attendances have increased at services. Church annual meeting elected: W. De'Oberitz, elder; W. Pohle, sec.; L. Stitt, treas.; H. Rackemann, asst.-treas.; R. Voss, B.S. supt.; Messrs Clark, Trebbin, Watson, deacons. There have been 2 confessions of faith and 5 baptisms. Three months' trial in progress on funds towards expansion programme for Thabeban B.S. hall. Farewell social given Mr. and Mrs. Clark and son prior to their moving to Brisbane. Their services will be greatly missed. Presentations made to them.

East Ipswich-Leichhardt (R. Acland). — Good attendances during April. One morning extra seating required. C.M.S. visited Burdeu House and conducted meeting. D. McCormick gave address; Phil. Goldfinch (N.S.W.), soloist. Mrs. Ryan (Anti-Communist group) addressed both Women's Fellowships. Building Fund now stands at £3,380. Recent visitors have been Mrs. Schroder, Mr. and Mrs. P. Oakes, Miss P. Ahearn, Mr. Goldfinch, all from N.S.W.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Carnarvon Mission (L. M. Fisher). — Films screened to augment series of filmstrips covering The Betrayal, Crucifixion and Resurrection on various nights during Easter season. Native folk from Reserve invited, and on the Sunday night some 30 adults and 20 children were present, and with other visitors brought attendance to 230. There were 2 first decisions and 1 reconsecration. On the Sunday afternoon, 11 Y.P. baptised at open-air service. Annual meeting held, and reports showed steady progress in all depts. B.S. commenced at Native Reserve by Mrs. Fisher and some of older children. Parents and children keen.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Epping (H. M. Long). — Church participated in two combined services Good Friday: 7.30 a.m. at Baptist chapel and 10.00 a.m. at Congrega-

Fallen Asleep

Mrs. M. Manning, Unley, S.A.

Mrs. C. L. Lang, Red Cliffs, Vic.

Mrs. R. Rose, Ascot Vale, Vic.

G. B. Gruhl, Murray Bridge, S.A.

TASMANIA

Margaret-st., Launceston (C. J. Robinson). — Apr. averages: a.m., 133; p.m., 82; communion, 136. During absence of minister at Vic.-Tas. Conference, G. Bullock a.m. speaker; C.M.S., p.m. C. J. Robinson spoke at the combined city service on Good Friday and again at Dawn Service, Anzac Day. C. J. Robinson and Mrs. J. Harrison gave Vic.-Tas. Conference echoes to a.m. meeting, 29th. Church annual business meeting held 6th, preceded by family tea. C.W.E.F. held special Easter devotional service for ladies. Annual mother's night by C.W.E.F. held 30th; special programme, The Good Old Days, presented. Midweek meetings now take form of visitation evangelism classes in preparation for mission to be conducted by H. J. Patterson shortly. One confession of faith at gospel service, 29th. Church choir secured a first prize in current Launceston competitions.

Tasman Peninsula Circuit (E. K. Morrison). — Nubeena: After-church fellowship, Apr. 29, happy experience. Church expresses sympathy to family of late Mrs. F. Burden. Highercoft: Combined prayer and business meeting, 26th, to discuss calling of minister. Combined C.E. meeting received reports of those who attended Easter camp, sponsored visits from H. Street (S.I.M.) and R. Head (Wycliffe Bible Translators); both visits appreciated. Kelleve: Work continues in good heart, one lass made re-

tional. Both services seated to capacity. Churches of Christ in charge of arrangements for Combined Civic Anzac Service; speaker, M. C. Leask. Fellowship with K. A. Macnaughtan (Swanston-st. Melb.) greatly enjoyed in Second Advent Convention, weekend of meetings; messages challenging and inspirational. Films on post-war development of Israel, from a Jewish source, gave added interest and confirmed prophetic Scripture. Attendance averaged better than 100 for each meeting.

Inverell (G. H. Earle). — During Easter vacation, Y.P. participated in successful camp at Terry Hie Hie, under leadership of T. Smith and Misses E. Owers and L. Lowry. Programme consisted of devotional periods, kangaroo hunting, horse riding, swimming, games, etc. Mr. Cocks (World Council of Churches rep.) spoke to combined church gatherings, Apr. 29, and showed slides of New Delhi Assembly. Morning broadcast service and epilogue conducted by minister over 2NZ, 29th, well received.

Marrickville (M. Bedwell). — Church addressed a.m. Apr. 1 by H. C. Bischoff, former minister of church, now sec. of Bible Society, Otago and Southland, N.Z. Annual business meeting showed progress and work in good heart. T. W. Dunne elected Chairman of Board for ensuing year. Infant dedication services, a.m. Apr. 1, and p.m., 8th. Youtharama, 28th, well attended; speaker B. Armstrong.

Mosman - North Balgowlah (L. E. Wylie - R. Davidson). — On evening Mar. 21, C. Cole (Social Services Director) addressed midweek fellowship. J. Ferry (Boys' Home Committee) spoke a.m., 25th. Youth fellowship tea held, and message at evening service given by H. McDonald, St. Clement's C.of E., leading first-grade cricketer. Girls' club had film evening, 30th, proceeds given to Debt Reduction Fund. On evening Apr. 4, representative of Mission to Seamen told of their work. Audio-visual, **The Upper Room**, screened p.m., 8th. L. Wylie, minister at Mosman, elected N.S.W. Conf. Pres. for ensuing year. On 15th, visiting speakers were D. Oldfield (Albury) and R. Elbourne (Georgetown). On 18th, R. Greenhalgh (Youth Director) spoke. On Good Friday morning, combined service held in Baptist tabernacle. On evening 29th, L. J. Harris (N.S.W. C.E. Pres.) gave gospel address and members of C.E. took part. Visitors during month were Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Richardson (Melb.) and Roberts family (Maylands, S.A.). Work at North Balgowlah continuing, with R. Davidson leading. Visiting speakers from Mosman, Dept. of C.E. and Social Service Dept. have helped. Combined services held during Easter season.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Ascot Park (R. H. Sercombe). — A.m. attendances increased after holidays. R. S. McLean (Overseas Missions Sec.) spoke a.m., Apr. 29. Baptistal service p.m.; lad immersed, another made good confession.

Barmera. — Sunday services well attended. B.S. now has almost 90 children, with 12 teachers. Separate Primary dept. commenced. Keen C.Y.F. group meets monthly; av. attendance, 15. Other auxiliaries continue to have good meetings. Church grateful to local and Berri speakers for help at services. Harvest Thanksgiving, Apr. 9. Help of H. W. Greenwood (Berri) in visiting families in area is appreciated.

Bordertown (F. Langford). — C.M.S. travelled to Berri for weekend. C.W.F. enjoyed picnic of South East Women's Conference, Naracoorte. Two Y.P. baptised Apr. 15. Dr. V. Coulter speaker, 22nd. B.S. picnic, 28th. At evening service, 29th, three B.S. scholars made decision for Christ. **He Lives** screened after evening service.

Murray Bridge (H. Cave). — Baptistal service, Apr. 29, one of significance to all; Mr. Bywaters presided until candidate immersed. Good attendance to hear minister answer 6 questions on baptism from adult members. Concern felt in illness of L. Johnston.

Naracoorte (M. D. Williams). — C.W.F. spent happy day of fellowship at Swimming Lake, Naracoorte. Mrs. Starke (Mount Gambier) led devotions. Church had fellowship with Mr. and Mrs. Banks, 25th. K. D. Horne (Youth Director) visited during weekend Apr. 13-15 for C.E. birthday celebrations. He spoke to youth leaders on Friday night, was present at tea, film and rally on Saturday, preached at Mount Gambier Sunday morning and at gospel service at Naracoorte that evening. After-church fellowship, Apr. 1, tendered farewell to Mrs. Herbert; presentation made. Number of visitors present during Easter services. Several Y.P. attended camp at Longwood.

Unley (C. H. J. Wright, B.A.). — Largely attended combined meeting of Baptists and Churches of Christ members at Adelaide Town Hall, Good Friday evening. Splendid addresses given by C. H. J. Wright, **Night on the Cross**, and L. J. Gomm (Baptist), **Morn at the Tomb**. Mr. and Mrs. Matthews (Maryborough, Vic.) visitors, Apr. 8. Sympathy expressed to relatives of late Mrs. Manning.

Murray Bridge (H. Cave). — Presence of many visitors at services appreciated. Minister attended Baptist - Churches of Christ Preachers'

Camp at Mylor. Mrs. Cave back from visit to Vic. Church met at tea, and I. J. Chivell spoke about budgeting. 12 ladies attended Southern District Conference at Mt. Compass and quartet sang. C.W.E.F. visited Presbyterian C.W.F. for forum. Lady welcomed by transfer.

Owen - Long Plains (C. S. Badcock). — Good attendances being maintained at both churches. L.P. B.S. anniversary services very well attended, when John Halbert spoke. Prayer meetings at Owen well attended and helpful. Combined C.M.S. group had visit from Edwardstown. M. A. Coombs (Producer/Director, Christian Television Assoc.) recent speaker at C.M.S. C.E. in all groups showing keen interest. Owen Ladies' Guild held birthday meeting May 2, when members from Royal Institute for Blind provided programme. About 60 ladies from other Guilds attended. Electric clock presented to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Parker (L.P.) prior to their leaving to live at Murray Bridge. Members attended Northern District Conference Good Friday services at Balaklava. Exterior of L.P. building has been painted.

Queenstown (L. Austin). — Family service Apr. 15, with youth tea at night and youth taking part in evening service, well attended. C.Y.F. functioning with great success Friday nights. One confession Easter Sunday evening by young lady. Attendances a.m. have improved. Much sickness prevailing, including elder, B. Scudds.

Stirling East - Aldgate Valley (B. H. Crowden). — Four welcome additions to S.E. by transfer. B.S. at S.E. has purchased Housing Trust hut for kinder use. C.M.S. formed and at inaugural meeting E. P. C. Hollard delighted with his talk. Finances on upgrade again. Manse and Property Committee doing great job with improvements. E. E. Walton, who has been carrying dual position of sec.-treas. for some time, now treas. and R. W. Knight sec. Prayer and Bible studies continue at 2 centres. Visiting speakers: C. Curtis (Conf. Pres.), J. Lewis (Brooklyn Park), W. Bowden (Hawthorn). Harvest Festival goods donated to Colebrook and Morialta from respective churches. Film evening Apr. 29 well attended. Basketball girls attended and sang 2 items.

VICTORIA

Ascot Vale - Newmarket (G. Moyes). — Interesting and instructive talk on **A Journey through Israel** given by Mrs. J. Burns at Ascot Vale C.W.F., Apr. 4. Interesting discussion with Mr. Pfeifer, S.M., held by members of C.Y.F. Six members of C.Y.F. (4 A.V., 2 N.M.) received into fellowship

by faith and baptism; one young man by transfer. Encouraging increased attendance at gospel services and pre-service prayer meetings. United Churches Youth Council formed with leaders from all nearby churches. Inspiring testimony and message given by Robert Coles, executive member, G. J. Coles. Good Companions took part in swimming sports, with excellent results. Four ladies from A.V. C.W.F. attended camp at Parkdale. Half-yearly business meeting, 30th, showed steady progress. Church saddened by unexpected passing of Mrs. R. Rose, 9th.

Berwick (K. Mason). — Well attended service Good Friday. Terry Falla (Baptist) gave illustrated talk at evening service, Apr. 22, of recent youth parade, when two scholars made confession of faith. Gifts from Harvest Festival shared between C.O.B. and Emmaus Rest Home. Miss Margaret Aurisch assisting with Good Companions.

Dunolly (D. Andrews). — B.S. scholar drive now under way. Interior of chapel tastefully painted, thanks to women of church who have carried cost. Harvest Festival Apr. 8; wonderful display of goods sent to hospital and C.O.B. Visit by Incoming Sec. (D. H. Smith) and Field Officer (A. Avery) H.M. Dept., 15th. They addressed officers from Bet Bet and Dunolly in afternoon. Mr. Avery preached at evening service. Plans for future programme of church now being considered. Annual general meeting held 29th, and youth night, 28th.

Kaniva (J. W. Way, B.Sc.). — Good attendances maintained. Visiting speakers have been Dr. Coulter, Ian Blair and A. R. Mansell, M.L.C., who spoke to C.M.S. on workings of Parliament. Twenty members attended N.W. District Conference at Warracknabeal; Mrs. R. Amos addressed women and Mr. Amos the men. Special offering collection amounted to £112 to aid Rheinholdt family, who lost all possessions in fire.

Moreland (G. A. Grainger). — Betrayal of Christ featured at Easter, presented by films, readings and musical items by members of choir, with A. Barber singing final hymn of triumph. Church business meeting held and deacons re-elected: J. Cook, I. Dickson, B. Shea, L. Withers. Y.P. work is promising and W. Green congratulated on leadership. Many expressed appreciation of happy witness and co-operation of Mr. and Mrs. Grainger. Norm Murphy well again. International night held with Y.P.; talks by Mrs. Potgieter on Africa, Mrs. Grainger on Ceylon, and Mr. Miles on Austria made interesting and educational programme.

Red Cliffs (S. K. Bannon). — Speaker at both services Apr. 15 was B.

Snoxall, while minister was at State Conference. Chapel packed Easter Sunday morning; Y.P. from Murray Valley Youth Camp and many other visitors present. F. Robertson (Strathmore) soloist p.m. Sympathy of church goes out to C. L. Lang and family in death of Mrs. Lang. Many members on holidays, but av. a.m., Apr. was 115. Mrs. A. L. Martin home after surgery.

Swan Hill (D. G. Beanland). — Excellent attendances marked both services Easter Sunday, when church had fellowship with large number of visitors. Baptismal service held 29th, when a young woman was immersed. C.E. being well supported and numbers at Good Companions increasing. C.E. conducted evening service May 6, commencement of Youth Week. Av. attendances for Apr.: a.m., 75; p.m., 82; communion, 73.

Wangaratta (A. E. Stevens). — C.M.S. joined with others at combined meeting at Baptist chapel, addressed by T. Roberts (Albury). Young man baptised and received into fellowship.

Warrnambool (F. W. Bradley). — Two boys made good confession Apr. 22, following their mother, baptised previous week. A.m. service, 29th, broadcast over 3 Y.B. Good Companions in camp at Port Fairy that weekend attended service in our chapel there, when the service was by medium of the 3 Y.B. broadcast. Married couple confessed Christ 29th, and two lads baptised.

Ringwood (J. E. Brooke). — Attendances very good; av. communicants 116, p.m. 67, B.S. 170. Six received into fellowship, others in discipleship class. Both membership and evangelism committees functioning. New appointments to Officers' Board: I. Harradine, treas; G. Thomas, assoc.-sec. 100 present at Good Friday service, with number of Young Adult group campers joining in on way to Berwick. All auxiliaries functioning well.

Yarrawonga (D. Russell). — B.S. anniversary Apr. 15. Children sang well, under Mrs. Russell's leadership. Visiting speaker at three services was R. Lane (Williamstown). Cradle roll and kinder. prizes presented at afternoon service. Anniversary concluded 17th, when prizegiving to the senior school took place. Film, Tammy, screened. Many visitors present Easter Sunday. Two car loads journeyed to Albury, 28th, to attend N.E. District Conference. Mrs. Foulkes still in Box Hill hospital.

Chelsea (C. G. V. Thomas). — Attendances holding steady, with number of Y.P. at services. Good Friday service led by minister. Two welcomed by transfer. Mrs. N. Brown in hospital for surgery. New members to

C.E. C.W.E.F. met May 2. C.Y.F. enjoying fortnightly after-church fellowship.

Sunshine (B. F. Goldsteen). — Most auxiliaries reported continued progress at half-yearly business meeting. Groups attended Easter camps at Belgrave Heights and Anglesea. P.B.P. and K.S.P. competed in swimming carnival. M. Carter conducted services, Apr. 22.

Boronia (J. A. Manallack). — Averages for Apr.: 137 a.m., 69 p.m., 124 communicants. Eight welcomed into membership, 22nd and 29th, following baptisms. C.W.F. held display night of Tupperware plastics; proceeds to Monbulk Refurnishing Appeal. "B1" tennis team premiers of recently completed competitions. Chapel now open throughout week for private worship. Springvale C.Y.F. visited on May 5, while camping at The Basin. Combined Good Friday service at Methodist church well supported by members.

Red Hill (M. D. Keatch). — Apr. 15 good display at Harvest Thanksgiving. Goods distributed to Guest Homes; also on this date Temple Offering taken, £100. Easter services well attended. First inter-church service held Good Friday; all denominations well represented; M. Keatch speaker. Farewell given to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Veal and family at evening service, 29th; Mr. Veal was guest speaker and Mrs. Veal soloist. After gospel service, members gathered to make presentation to the Veal family prior to their departure for missionary work in India. Mr. and Mrs. Veal and family were guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Holmes for several days, renewing acquaintances of old friends.

Wattle Park (L. G. Crisp, L.Th.). — Family service conducted monthly. R. Thompson (B.&F.B.S.) spoke to combined service and screened film, *The Leaves of the Tree*, at conclusion. E. W. Heard addressed church and B.S. Harvest Festival goods given to local Homes for Children and donation of £8 to Inter-Church Aid. Easter camp at Warburton attended by 30 C.Y.F., under leadership of G. Kennedy and D. Denehy. Mr. McCredden, Mrs. McCoull, Mrs. Shangie recovering after illness.

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BIRTH

SANSOME (Holt). — Joy and Ron happily announce the arrival of Jillian Joy, born April 10. Thanks to our heavenly Father's love.

ENGAGEMENT

KEYS - PLANT. — Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Keys, 24 Cromwell-rd., South Yarra, announce with pleasure the engagement of their eldest daughter, Beverley Ailsa, to Ian John, only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Plant, 7 Rubery-st., Moe, Vic.

DEATHS

PAUL. — On Apr. 24 (suddenly) at her daughter's home, 5 Scarborough-gve., Beaumaris, Eva, dearly loved wife of the late Edwin Hamilton, and loving mother of Muriel (Mrs. Arnup) and Nancy (Mrs. Rodwell), fond mother-in-law of Arthur and Len, and loving grandma of Graeme, Douglas, Neil, Kevin, Robin and Leigh.

PAUL. — On Apr. 24 (suddenly), Eva, the beloved wife of the late Edwin Hamilton Paul, daughter of the late John George and Anne Barrett, sister of Mary (Mrs. W. B. Jenkin), Jeanette (Mrs. J. M. Blackshaw), Olive (Mrs. G. A. Smyth), Harold and Doreen Barrett. "Resting where no shadows fall."

WHITTINGTON. — On May 4, 1962, at a private hospital, Darling, Vic., Mabel Elizabeth, beloved wife of Frank, loving mother of Marjorie and Alan (Mr. and Mrs. Tait), loved nana of Elizabeth and Ross. "The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and there shall no torment touch them."

IN MEMORIAM

FLOWER. — William James. Loving memories of my dear husband and father, grandad and great-grandad, passed away May 3, 1961. "Always remembered."

—Your loving wife, son and daughter-in-law, Arthur, Gert and family.

DICKENS — E. M. A tribute to a loved friend, who was called Home May 7, 1945. "Memories."

—B. Sinclair.

POTT — Aileen. In loving memory of my dear wife and our loved mother, recalled to His courts May 16, 1960.

—Inserted by Albert, Sue and Tony.

COMING EVENTS

SPRINGVALE (Vic.) CHURCH ANNIVERSARY, May 13. Speakers: 11 a.m., C. G. Taylor, B.A. (Conf. Pres.); 7 p.m., J. G. Shaw. Past members welcomed. Hospitality provided. Sunday, 20th: 3 p.m., Opening of New Kinder. Hall.

ESSENDON (Vic.) BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY, May 13: 3 p.m., B. F. Goldsteen; 7 p.m., V. Quayle. Conductor, R. Tippett.



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OBITUARY

Mrs. Rose Ellen Smith.

Mrs. Smith, who died in the Dandenong and District Hospital, Vic., on April 2, aged 60, came to Dandenong from England 37 years ago. Mrs. Smith became ill about two years ago and, though able to attend church at various times, her condition gradually worsened, until on March 31 she was admitted to hospital in a coma, and did not regain consciousness. She is mourned by her husband, her daughter Kath (Mrs. Oakes), son-in-law Harry and grandchildren Alan and Russell, and sister Ivy (Mrs. Beanland of Springvale). Her only son, Rodney, was killed in a road accident seven years ago. Mrs. Smith, together with her husband and family and several other residents of Dandenong West, first attended the church at Dandenong during the ministry of W. Atkin, being baptised and received into membership Oct., 1932. During these 30 years Mrs. Smith was a faithful follower of her Lord. An active member of Mission Band and C.W.F., she served a short term as secretary, and for some years as a Committee member, until ill-health forced her to retire. A large gathering of friends, and Mr. Smith's fellow-employees of the S.E.C., were in the chapel for the funeral service, which was conducted there and at the Springvale Crematorium by J. G. Shaw (Springvale). Many lovely floral tributes were received as an indication of the love and esteem in which the late Mrs. Smith was held by all who knew her. Deepest sympathy is offered to her loved ones in their loss. —E. Reveligh, sec.

H. W. D. Massy.

One of the oldest members of the Albury (N.S.W.) church passed away on Apr. 21. The late H. Massy was baptised during the Vawter mission in 1929, and both he and his late wife remained faithful members all their lives. Mr. Massy was a guarantor and a trustee of the chapel erected in David-st., and was always closely associated with the work. Although he was not of a disposition to take part in the services, he used his talents privately, and was a grand witness for the Lord in his daily life. His wife predeceased him in July, 1957, and since then he has gradually declined in health. Last September he was admitted to the Base Hospital where, after an operation during the week, he passed quietly to be forever with the Lord. A service was held in the chapel and attended by many friends and a few distant relatives. D. Oldfield led the service, and the writer paid tribute to thirty years' acquaintance. He was 78 years of age, and was ready for the Home call. —A. E. Combridge.

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of May 9, 1912.

Editor: F. G. Dunn.

Mission Girls Join Amazons. — Most of the Mission schools in Shanghai are greatly disorganised on account of the revolution. Many of the older girls have joined the Amazon corps, and have gone off to the war. At present there are in Shanghai 17 young ladies from the Foochow Mission school who have joined the grenade brigade. As the name implies, their special work will be to throw bombs. . . . Thousands of young people of both sexes are breaking loose from all the restraining influences of the past. —James Ware.

Ninety Decisions for the Day. — Sunday was a day that will live long in the memories of those who were able to attend C. R. Scoville's first Sunday meetings at Enmore, N.S.W. In the morning the brethren did not grow tired although the service did not conclude until nearly one o'clock. There was one confession at this service. In the afternoon, Bro. Scoville went down to the Bible School in its ordinary session, and the party visited each class in turn. At the reassembling of the school after classes, Bro. Scoville addressed the scholars and gave an invitation to accept Christ, which was responded to by 64 of the scholars. In the evening, the service was held in the Trocadero Theatre, Newtown. In spite of the rain, the building was crowded to the doors. At this meeting 25 responded to the invitation, making a total of 90 for the day.

A Recurring Problem. — In the course of his Presidential address at the Victorian Conference, Horace Kingsbury said: "During this Conference we have again been confronted with the problem of stopping the leakage in our churches. It is a serious problem, and one hard to solve. Perhaps the leakage is a result of imperfect instruction. Perhaps it is a result of pastoral carelessness. But may it not be that our failure to hold is a result of our failure to put to work. The Church must find work for all willing hands and hearts."

Mission at Pt. Pirie. — Bro. Beiler, of Pt. Pirie, S.A., writes: "Splendid meetings at mission. 32 confessions to date. S. G. Griffith in great form."

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