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FRANK GRIFFITHS (Kalgoorlie, W.A.) presents . . .

# A LETTER FROM JOSEPH

Joseph to Heli, father of Mary and my own father-in-law. Greeting.

We have a son. He was born the first night we were in Bethlehem. Mary was so languid and heavy that we could only travel slowly. The last day we only journeyed from Jerusalem. She could scarce raise any interest when I showed her the fields where Ruth had gleaned, homesick in a strange land. She could not be roused even by the hills where David had led his sheep and the very well from which he used to drink — the well, of course, from which his friends drew water at the risk of their lives — water that he refused to drink and poured out as something sacred, an offering to God. I know you will understand how these landmarks made me think of our common descent from the great King David. In spite of our poverty our dignity must be recognised at this time. This fact gave me some satisfaction, as you will realise. Even Herod himself would give a lot to have our blood in his veins.

But my thoughts were continuously brought back to our plight. You know how slowly our old donkey travels. Anyhow, Mary could not bear to have him hurried. Her weariness was obvious, and the fact that she failed at times to stifle the low moans of pain filled me with dread for her. In spite of all my efforts, night was falling when we reached the one inn of Bethlehem. I led our beast into the courtyard and hurried to find the inn-keeper to secure a lewan. I planned to hang my own outer robe across for a screen so that we might have some privacy for her hour of need. I glanced into some of these lewans as I went looking for him. They were poor enough places at the best for a baby to be born in. They were called rooms, but were very small and quite open at the front, and were in fact little more than recesses in the wall of the cave, raised a little above floor level. But, of course, you would know them quite well.

But you would never guess the shock that was waiting for me. There had been such a lot of visitors for the enrolment that none of these rooms or lewans was left. Every one was taken and there was nothing I could do. I went back to Mary completely beaten. Where could I turn? Our baby could not be born in the open. But Mary nodded down toward the corner of the yard. "There is a bare corner down there," she said. I knew there was no alternative and quickly prepared a bed for

her in the corner. Our tired old donkey lay down to make a rough shelter one way. I hung my own robe to make a screen the other. The inn courtyard was a large cave and about fifty beasts were stabled in it that night, some of the poorer people sleeping among them as we were. That is where our baby was born. It was a spectacle for any who cared to look. Not that many seemed to bother. I don't know if you have noticed, but those who are poor to the brink of despair seem to have little interest in anything.

By the time I had settled Mary down she was in considerable pain and said to me, "It is coming." I knew it was, too. She began to whimper and moan, and all I could do was give her sips of cool water from the well and dampen her forehead with it. I became afraid that I was going to lose Mary. When I



felt I could stand it no longer, I went out into the night. Far on the hill I could see the lights of Herod's castle still burning. I could even hear the shout of revelry, the rough orders of his paid soldiers and the ring of their armor. This was a fit symbol for an alien king who rules in unrighteousness and does not reign by right, but by force. These sights and sounds made me think of what the future held for the one whose birth was making my wife cry out so. Dare I call him the infant king? How weak he seemed before these things I saw and heard as I gazed out on the starry night.

But God had spoken. Those promises of which we had often spoken raced through my mind. We were to call him Jesus; that was clear enough. I remember so plainly the angel saying to me, "He will deliver his people." He is to be called Emmanuel, God with us.

God is certainly not with his people now. The sights and sounds that forced themselves upon me as I stood in the gateway were proof that God has forsaken us. Of course, the words of the angel to Mary were

even more staggering. He is to sit upon the throne of his father David. Think of that. Will he conquer and drive out this pagan and cruel thing that is everywhere manifest? He will rule over the house of Jacob for ever. His will be an endless kingdom. My mind began to reel with the immensity of it. Think what it would mean. Not a second Judas Maccabaeus, or even another David, would be near as great as that. Can it be that this is he who is to come?

Suddenly I realised that something was different. Then I knew what it was. The whimpering had ceased. Instead there was complete silence. This alarmed me even more than the crying had done, and I hurried in, fearful of what I would find. Mary was standing, leaning over a low manger in the corner. Her own hands had wrapped our son in the swaddling clothes she had prepared. She had covered the straw and in this manger bed she laid him. Now she stood gazing down at him. A strange glory seemed to surround her; she was more beautiful than I have ever seen her. I knew it was the beauty of the peace that follows pain. But it was more than that. As I gazed at her I sensed that she knew that this child was set for great things in the purpose of God. Then I stood with her and gazed at this son that God had given us; yet, in the mystery of things, not my son. I almost gasped when I saw this frail morsel of humanity, and then thought of the great promises of God. Then I thought of the favored one to whom God had linked my life. Few would have understood that, though she was my wedded wife, she was a virgin mother. I thought of this tiny frail mite, destined to be so great. God had called me to play the part of a father to him — surely the greatest task ever given to mortal man. It was second only to that given to the one chosen to be his mother, the one whose blood flowed in his veins and whose milk had already soothed him to infant slumber.

Time would fail me to tell of visits from shepherds and wise men who had been taught by angel and star to look for him as Saviour and King. Nor of aged and holy ones, led by the spirit of God to wait for him as the Lord's Christ, and how they spoke freely of him as the salvation of God to all who look for redemption in Israel. You cannot wonder that we marvel at all these things. What manner of child will this prove to be?



## "ALL WE HAVE LEFT"

Our cover artist, Bruce Petty, of the Doncaster (Vic.) church, focuses attention on one of the decisive moments of the Christmas story. The Bethlehem inn, crowded to its limits by the rush of guests come to enrol at the Roman census, stands dark and still. The last few inches of space available have been haggled over and the price paid. The tired travellers are bedded down and the inn door barred. There is no room left for late arrivals, no matter how urgently they knock. Not even the fact that one of them is a woman, with the birth of her child very near, can find her a bed within that crowded inn. But there is still one place which clean straw might make bearable — and the innkeeper offers the stable as all he has left. When, in the middle of the night, the shepherds come seeking the new-born Saviour about whom angels had sung, they find the inn in darkness, and the door fast barred. But the light in the stable shows one alert man where they ought to go, and his eager, outflung arm directs them there.

By contrast with all else, the artist has flooded that crude stable with light, as though reminding us that here a world-shaking thing has happened this night — the Light of the World has been born! This is the focal point of the picture, and rightly so, for here man's gift and God's gift meet in that kind of pitiful contrast the passing centuries have seen so often repeated. Man gives to God in this hour all he has left — a stable, for "there was no room in the inn." God gives to man his best — his only begotten Son, for "God so loved the world that he gave . . ." How skimpily man has given to God ever since, crowding his life out with other things, and then giving God the left-overs. But how generously God has gone on giving, fulfilling the confidence of Paul's words to the Romans: "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things" (Rom. 8: 32).

Most of us have our Christmas lists — a present for this one, a gift for the other. And when we come wearily to the end of the list, how has God fared in it all? Does he come in for the left-overs (if any) — some small change from our pockets for the Christmas Bowl, an appearance at church for a Christmas service, before we thankfully take our "holiday from it all" — including church! Or have we resolved that this season which highlights the fulness of God's self-giving demands, and will receive, from us a

measure of giving we have never achieved before, with God and his work having first call on our money, our time and our talents?

Take another look at that Bethlehem stable, and marvel again at what God did there. It seems a poor best for man to offer him as a starting-point for the world's salvation. But the stable isn't the really important thing there; God's starting-point for that Bethlehem drama was in the Nazarene maiden who, when confronted with her destiny, said, "I belong to the Lord, body and soul" (Luke 1: 38, Phillips). However drab or unpromising the circumstances, if God has a truly dedicated man or woman there, he can work out his purposes. For after all, isn't it the glory of our faith that "God has chosen what the world calls foolish to shame the wise; he has chosen what the world calls weak to shame the strong. He has chosen things of little strength and small repute" (1 Cor. 1: 27, Phillips). The all-important thing is the fulness of our self-giving to him. If we hold nothing back, there is no limit to what he can do through us.

Then whose standard of giving is ours this Christmas-tide — the innkeeper's grudging gift of all he had left, or Mary's giving of herself, complete and unreserved?



## Greetings

*This special issue is a Christmas gesture from all associated with the Austral Printing and Publishing Company in the weekly publication of this paper.*

*This is the 65th Christmas on which "The Australian Christian" has appeared, and the Austral Directors join us in extending to all our readers warmest seasonal greetings, with the prayer that 1963 will usher in a year of even richer Christian experience and service for us all.*

*Again we thank all whose invaluable help and co-operation, in many ways, has made the publication and distribution of this paper possible.*

*May God bless and guide us all!*

*C. G. Taylor, Editor.*

*A. R. Haskell, Manager.*





# "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked"

Our visit to the Holy Land was at the hottest time of the year, and we were told the hottest ever for many years. Visa difficulties and heat changed our plans of going overland from Beirut to Damascus, thence to Amman, and then Jerusalem. Instead we flew direct from Beirut to Jerusalem.

It wouldn't be wrong to say Americans are the chief tourists of Palestine and the Holy City. The mighty dollar is the magic for "your every wish is but to command." Charter flights enter and leave Jerusalem from America at regular intervals. During our flight from Beirut to Jerusalem we encountered no Americans, although we had met charter flights whilst in Athens, but we did find ourselves in the company of three Swiss air hostesses, a Swiss economics student and a Jordanian air pilot — and at their invitation we made a touring party. Such we remained until we separated on leaving the old city of Jerusalem.

We had made no prior arrangements, and, as a result of contact with the group, found ourselves safely lodged in a comfortable hotel serving most delightful European meals, with congenial company, and a well informed guide. Our arrangements were not to follow any cut and dried pattern of touring; we were to see everything we wished and other things not generally on the beaten track of most guides.

## Jerusalem the Golden

There it stood, Jerusalem on a hill, near and dear to our hearts and the hearts of millions. In the blazing sun and cloudless sky it did look golden, with its walls of massive stone, minarets, the golden Dome of the Rock, the Golden Gate, places of worship and other historical buildings rising with irregular shape within the walls, whilst the barrenness of the hills which surrounded the City of Jerusalem seemed to fling back a glare accentuating the golden appearance.

With a map, one can take in almost at a glance the city and its hinterland. The City of Jerusalem isn't all that large; somewhat the size of Adelaide, surrounded with its towering walls. The Dung Gate, Stephen's Gate, the Golden Gate, Herod's Gate, and the Damascus Gate can be quickly located, whilst the Jaffa Gate can only be seen once inside the City, alongside the Tower of David. The latter borders No Man's Land and is manned day and night by Arab soldiers watching the

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold C. Caldicott.  
(Geelong, Vic.).

Jewish sector. It was through the Jaffa Gate that General Allenby rode, liberating Jerusalem from the Turks. Immediately outside the walls one sees Gethsemane, and the Mount of Olives. These are directly opposite the City, whilst between you have the Brook Cedron, the Valley of Himmon a little to the right — and one sees at a glance the tomb of Absalom, and alongside a desecrated Jewish cemetery.

Our hotel was outside the city walls, but a few steps down the road brought us through Herod's Gate into the City, where immediately you are caught in a maze of Arabs. Jerusalem is in Arab territory; that is, the entire old City. One learns quickly the art of dodging donkeys loaded to the hilt, and one feels resentful the way their owners flog these animals mercilessly. Poverty is everywhere, also unearthly smells, and instantly you are in the ancient setting of the days of our Lord. We thought of the song, "I walked today where Jesus walked . . ." Our tour of the Holy City itself was left to the last day of our stay, just before we passed through the Mandelbaum Gate, which is said to be more dangerous than Charlie's Gate through the Berlin Wall.

## Beyond Jerusalem

Our first afternoon we visited Bethlehem. Our companions knew little of Bible background, and we enthusiastically discussed the Bible with them, witnessing to things eternal. The Jordanian pilot, Hanna, had been reared in a Mission school in Jerusalem. His priest, an archbishop, had translated the Dead Sea Scrolls. We met him later on the occasion of meeting King Hussein of Jordan — the latter has given us an invitation to visit him at the Palace in Amman anytime we visit there.

Bethlehem is not so very far from Jerusalem. We saw evidence of the same poverty as in Jerusalem. The Nativity Church was of great interest and, whether the traditional site of the birth of Jesus or not, Bethlehem was where Jesus was born, and we were glad to be in it. This was our attitude to many of the traditional sites we visited. We climbed the tower and photographed the Bells of Bethlehem, knowing that very shortly thousands of pilgrims will throng the town of Bethlehem and hear those bells pealing out the joyous message of the birth of Jesus.

"O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

The silent stars go by;"

Yes, we visited the traditional field of the Shepherds; "where shepherds watched their flocks by night . . ." It was just on sunset when we stood in those fields, not a cloud in the sky and a shimmering gold light behind the town of Bethlehem which became a golden silhouette against the sky. This soon gave way to the night and silent stars. That night, happy but weary, after a most wholesome meal, we went to bed . . . but not to rest entirely, for through the stillness of the night came the strong singing voice of a priest, set to the rhythm of drums, singing the prayers to Allah, heard from the minaret right throughout Jerusalem.

A full programme followed next day. On the Jericho road, we passed through Bethany and here one visits the tomb of Lazarus, the home of Martha and Mary, then on past the Inn of the Good Samaritan. On a good bitumen road we travelled through sun-smitten hills to Jericho, and there can be seen the Mount of Temptation, also archaeological discoveries of remnants of the old walls of Jericho. Jericho is a mixture of old and newer buildings, with the plains showing a wonderful attempt at agriculture. It was most refreshing in the heat of the day to visit a farm and pick at will luscious grapes — all you can eat and carry away for a few fils.

The exciting part of the journey lay ahead. The River Jordan and the traditional scene of Jesus' baptism — how often we had heard arguments against immersion on the grounds of little water in the Jordan — here, at the hottest time in Palestine for many years, was water enough for a person to disappear out of sight, and boats could be rowed. We made sure we had a photograph of the Jordan with a rowing boat moored on it.

After Jordan we went off the beaten track to Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, right alongside the Dead Sea. Opposite were the towering mountains of Moab, so well known in Moses' day. The sun beat mercilessly upon us as we climbed the tremendous hill to the cave, and only by help from an experienced guide were we able to enter the cave, as one false step would have sent us crashing hundreds of feet. To be in the actual cave was a thrill — the Scrolls, if nothing else, have confirmed the



authenticity of Isaiah. After the cave, we went further beyond again to a Bedouin camp, where we saw sheep and goats drinking out of a huge pool fed by crystal clear springs, all but a short distance from the poisonous waters of the Dead Sea. "Springs in the desert," how true. As we saw the shepherds separating the sheep and the goats, we thought of Jesus and Matthew 25. We rested under a Bedouin tent and devoured one of the most delicious watermelons ever tasted, cooled by the ever-flowing cold waters of the spring. After a swim in the Dead Sea, we returned to our hotel for the night.

### The Coming King

We were up early to get photographs in the morning light before the glare of another day. This was a day of days, meeting King Hussein, but most conscious of the coming King of kings, of whom it was prophesied he will stand again on the Mount of Olives, and will enter through the now sealed Golden Gate, into the City which rejected him. Through those gates, now so strangely sealed, Jesus rode triumphantly to the cries of "Hosanna!"

Near the Golden Gate is the Dome of the Rock, and this, it is claimed, is the original site of Solomon's Temple. The site is, apart from the Temple of the Dome, an enormous courtyard of huge rock squares, and beneath it is another marvellous sight which few get to see — Solomon's stables, which spread beneath the City of Jerusalem in all directions. The Temple of the Dome is called Mount Moriah, the site of the rock on which Isaiah was once offered by Abraham, and where, over the years, blood sacrifices were offered by priests of Temple days, a channel from the Rock carrying the blood beneath. One also sees nearby the wailing wall, part of Solomon's Temple, where the Jews once cried with tears for the coming King, the Messiah. Now,

as vowed enemies of the Arabs, this is denied them.

Everywhere one sees fantastic English architecture of the Crusader period, of Norman design. The keen Bible student is often confused with technical detail such as a Crusader building being on ground level, whilst another is being excavated nearby several feet below ground level, and the tourist must always keep in mind there have been three walls around Jerusalem since the days of our Lord, the first destroyed in A.D. 70.

Hence we walked the Via Dolorosa with an open mind, not caring to accept all as authentic. We were sure of many, many things . . . nothing could alter the Dead Sea, the Mount of Olives, the Sea of Galilee, the glorious spring water in Nazareth and only source of water supply for centuries, etc. Centuries have not changed the sites of Jerusalem and surrounding cities, but war and invasion have had an effect during passing years. We didn't care for the claims of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre within the city itself, but rather the Garden of the Tomb, outside the city walls. Here we saw a hill just like a skull, and no one can climb it, as there is a Moslem cemetery on top of it. General Gordon, when in Jerusalem, claimed it as the authentic place of our Lord's crucifixion. He reasoned that, to prove it, there should be a tomb nearby, and had archaeologists excavate, and though it took some thirteen years they finally found a tomb which would have been newly hewn in the days of our Lord, a place just for one body, completed, but with the outline for five others if such would have been required.

The Garden of the Tomb is in the hands of an English Protestant group, and the whole setting is without ecclesiastical trappings, beautiful and natural in its setting. It is here on Easter Sunday morn that a large company gathers and sings, "Christ,

the Lord, is risen today, hallelujah!" This was the last visit of our tour of old Jerusalem. We wished it had been our first. A few minutes later we passed through the Mandelbaum Gate in No Man's Land, with Arab and Jewish rifles trained on us, knowing that the City we had just left will be trodden down until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

We went on to Israel and saw the desert blossoming as the rose, with fragrant Australian gum bringing back nostalgic memories. Here the records must close, hoping some day a charter flight can be arranged among ourselves.

### Missionary Project

For 20 months the Ormond (Vic.) Christian Endeavorers have been raising funds towards the lighting plant for the hospital being built at our Mission in New Guinea.

Other auxiliaries and church members have been generous in their gifts. However, the Endeavorers worked hard and gave sacrificially. On Sat., Dec. 1, they handed over a cheque for £700! Miss Jan Hunting received the cheque from the leader of the Y.P.S.C.E. — Bob Alabaster.

The occasion was a social evening when gifts made by the Endeavorers were sold, and second-hand goods were "Dutch auctioned" by Les. Brooker. Missionary aprons (with donations sewn in patches) were opened. Talent tins were opened, and the money counted. (It took two men an hour to count all the money!).

Mrs. E. L. Williams, from the Vic-Tas. Overseas Mission Committee, was present and received the cheque from Miss Hunting.—R. McKenzie.

Large attendances marked the commencement of V. G. Boettcher's ministry in Rockhampton, Qld., on Nov. 17-18, which coincided with the 34th anniversary of the church. Mr. Boettcher addressed all services.—G. T. Cullen, sec.







# MISSIONARY NEWS

Supplied by R. S. A. McLean.

## Indian Delegates Return

After spending three months in Australia, B. C. Bhonsle and S. P. Hiwale sailed for India on Nov. 30. During their stay they visited churches throughout Australia, and were well received wherever they went.

They delighted their congregations as they sang in Marathi and Hindi, and inspired the churches as they gave informative messages concerning the work in India. Our interest in the work in Bombay has deepened through having met the pastor of our Bombay church, and our concern for the general Conference work has grown, having met S. P. Hiwale, who has served on our Mission field in India for 35 years.

One of the highlights of their visit was the Missionary Convention which was held at Ipswich, Qld., on Nov. 10. The Qld. O.M. Committee should be commended for arranging such a worth-while gathering.

As our brethren return to India they take with them the good wishes of the Australian brotherhood. We have been reminded that we do not only support Australian missionaries in India, but 100 national workers, who serve in the various Departments of Conference, such as education, medical and evangelistic. We are now in a better position to assess the calibre of our Indian co-workers, who share with us the task of telling India the good news.

## Mobile Dispensary Arrives — India

The Mobile Dispensary, valued at £1,850, has arrived at Dhond Hospital. This vehicle will enable our medical missionaries to reach more people and consequently spread the influence of the mission.

The Mobile Dispensary has been designed especially for isolated villages and settlements which a larger vehicle could not reach. It will be used to visit the people, not only in our larger centres such as Dhond (pop. 89,162), Baramati (pop. 134,271), Shrigonda (pop. 95,007), and Indapur (pop. 12,304), but also in the smaller villages, where the people are very isolated. The unit has proved to be invaluable in cases where, regardless of road and weather conditions, urgent medical treatment is required. Additional accommodation is provided by a tent which fastens on the rear of the body when the doors are open, and the dispensary is in operation.

Jesus told his disciples to "preach the gospel and heal the sick," and this is what our missionaries will be doing when they go out in the Mobile Dispensary. They will not only take with them a supply of medicine but a supply of Scripture portion tracts. No special appeal was launched for the Mobile Dispensary, but any who feel they would like to have a share in providing this vehicle are invited to forward their contributions.

Dr. R. Williams, Ray Veal and Bruce Coventry went to Bombay to collect the Mobile Dispensary and bring it to Dhond. Mr. Coventry writes, "Next day I spent till 1 p.m. getting through a temporary registration, then had a further garage

to call on regarding the first and second check-ups. We will take it back to Bombay for the 1,000-mile check over. On the way to Dhond we stopped at Muland to see about the land, then on up to Poona. We arrived at Dhond around 9.30 p.m., and as our Shrigonda motor was under repairs I drove it out here that night to be able to get home. On Thursday afternoon at 3.30 p.m. we had the formal dedication service. Dr. Patil chaired the meeting, and, on behalf of the Hospital, spoke words of appreciation of the Board's generosity in making it available. Dr. Williams spoke on behalf of the outreach programme of the Hospital, and I spoke on behalf of the Board as Secretary of the Power of Attorney members. The pastor concluded the short service with a prayer of thanksgiving. It was a service of witness to the people of the Hospital, and coming at this time meant we had representatives from all of our stations present for this function."

## THE MINISTRIES OF OUR



## I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Mrs. V. Morrison, Victoria.

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth,"  
I said,

For hate is strong, and mocks the  
song of peace on earth, good-  
will to men.

Then pealed the bells more loud  
and deep: "God is not dead,  
nor doth he sleep,

The wrong shall fail, the right pre-  
vail, with peace on earth, good-  
will to men."

So once again we celebrate a birth-  
day, the most important and happiest  
occasion of the year. Jesus, the  
Christ, was born almost two thousand  
years ago. So the most important  
part of the prophecy in the Old  
Testament (Is. 9: 6, 7) has been  
fulfilled. But the sad thing is that  
while many of us call his name,  
Wonderful, Counsellor, the Prince of  
Peace, if we are honest we have to  
admit that these praises ring a little  
hollow. For his government, peace  
and justice seem a little shaky, both  
in our private lives and in the world  
around us.

Why is this? Is it because it has  
not become real to us yet — because  
we have not provided the listening ear?  
Or have we not been willing to re-  
ceive the great gift personally? "Unto

us a child is born, unto us a son is  
given." Can we say "Unto us"? It  
takes two to make the real Christ-  
mas. Christ and us. Christ and you.  
Christ and me.

"When is Christmas, Mummy?"  
asked the small child. Dale Evans  
Rogers took care of the When? as  
she answered the question simply and  
beautifully, "Christmas, my child, is  
always. It was always in the heart  
of God. It was born there. Only  
he could have thought of it. Like  
God, Christmas is timeless and eter-  
nal, from everlasting to everlasting.  
It is something even more than what  
happened that night in starlit little  
Bethlehem; it has been behind the  
stars for ever. Christmas is always.  
It has always been, but we have not  
always understood it."

Because love is the spirit of Christ-  
mas, love was in the heart of God  
when he gave us this gift. Love was  
in the heart of Christ when he lived  
and died for us. The Christmas  
spirit, love, changes hearts and lives.

When? It can happen to us now.  
This minute. This Christmas. In  
our own home, if we will let Christ  
enter our individual minds and hearts.  
The minute that we do, the child is  
born unto us. Then his government  
can, and will, take over our individual  
lives, not only on his birthday but  
every day.



Cast our minds back again, and see Mary and Joseph trudging along the busy streets of Bethlehem, door after door, all closed and houses full up. Where would her Holy Child be born? And we cannot help feeling sad about those people in far-off Bethlehem who had refused the greatest event in history. And a sadness, too, for the people today and of all ages and all places who, for one reason or another, refuse him admittance still. In their efforts to keep their comforts and possessions, they crowd out of their lives the greatest blessings of all! For our Lord himself said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in unto him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3: 20).

I would like to recall a wonderful story told by Edwin Markham. It's about a cobbler who dearly loved the Lord. At the Christmas season he dreamed that Christ announced he was going to pay him a personal call the following day. So, rising early next morning, Conrad, the cobbler, shined and decorated his meagre shop, prepared a fine meal for his Guest, and then sat down in great expectation to await his coming. Three times that day he had visitors, but not the one he longed for. First it was a poor beggar seeking warmth, and Conrad gave him warmth and a new pair of shoes. Then the cobbler saw an old woman, bent under a load of heavy firewood, wet, weary and cold. He brought her into the warmth of his humble shop, and gave her part of the fine meal he had prepared for his Lord. As darkness fell, a lost child, frightened and crying bitterly, wandered into his shop. Conrad was worried; if he took the child home he might miss the Christ. But he left the shop, hurried the child home and hurried back again. Through what remained of the evening, the cobbler worried that the Lord had decided not to come. Finally he cried out, "Why is it, Lord, that your feet delay? Have you forgotten that this was the day?" And then, in the silence, Conrad heard a soft reply:

"Lift up your heart for I have kept My word.

Three times I came to your friendly door;

Three times my shadow was on your floor;

I was the beggar with bruised feet;

I was the woman you gave to eat;

I was the child on the homeless street."

The humble cobbler's shop had become an inn where there was room.

"I heard the bells on Christmas day, their old familiar carols play. The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, goodwill to men."

# QUESTING

A. E. White.

What is the meaning of dedication? Is it possible to dedicate or consecrate anyone or anything other than oneself?

I remember someone telling me long ago that the difference between dedication and consecration was that a thing was dedicated but a person was consecrated. Apparently I was much misinformed, because my dictionary doesn't make any distinction between the two words.

"Dedicate" comes from the Latin *dedicare*, which means to set apart, to declare, or to consecrate. "Consecrate" comes from the Latin *consecrare*, which means to set apart as sacred, or to dedicate.

Wherever the words came from, many people think that the dedications business is getting out of hand. We read of churches and mansees being dedicated, of Bibles, communion tables, offerings, parents, children, missionaries, chimneys — even the church typewriter and film projector!

It does not offend my faith that any or all of these are set apart for specific use in Christian worship or service with words of commitment to God. There is plenty of Biblical precedent: David dedicated gifts and spoils of war to God, Solomon dedicated the temple, with thanksgiving Nehemiah dedicated his wall.

But it does offend me when it is suggested that a form of words can impart any holiness or sacredness to any person or thing. I think we cannot dedicate anything or anyone but ourselves. But we can dedicate ourselves in respect to something or to some service. For example, if we dedicate a Bible, we set it apart for its use in services of worship, but we also commit ourselves to hear it and obey its words. The book is still a book, and the service of dedication has in no way changed it.

When we dedicate a missionary to his task we do not add to his faith or to the measure of the Spirit, but surely something significant takes place when a missionary publicly consecrates himself to his task, and the others present consecrate themselves to share his concern and to support the work which is the acknowledged work of all the church.

Any service of dedication has validity only as there is personal commitment.

Next Week: Exclusiveness in church sport.

(Send Questions to the Editor).

## Musings

A Conference President's Week.

SUN., DEC. 2. — I celebrated our wedding anniversary by preaching at two Temple Day services. In the morning I was at Gardiner, preaching there for the first time since I conducted a Highway to Victory mission in 1943, during Thomas Hagger's ministry. Someone staggered me after this morning's service by recalling some of the things I said over 19 years ago! Tonight I went to Black Rock, where I found among the visitors my one-time College room-mate, Ern. Sherman, who had a student ministry at Black Rock during the thirties. It was good to see the obvious pleasure with which the older members greeted him.

MON., DEC. 3. — After I had been to an early morning get-together on brotherhood business, Amelia and I joined countless others in some Christmas shopping. After that, it was nice to know there was no meeting tonight!

TUES., DEC. 4. — Tonight's farewell to B. J. Combridge, after 12½ years' service as Vic-Tas. H.M. Secretary, was a memorable occasion. Inevitably, it was also a wordy one — counting the speeches given at both the dinner and the public gathering, mine was the tenth! But this good man and his wife deserved all that was said about them, both tonight and in the hundred or more greetings received, and it was a privilege to be able to make a presentation to him on behalf of the brotherhood. The response of this "Dean of Home Missions" (as Eric Hollard calls him) showed that he has lost nothing of his passionate conviction.

WED., DEC. 5. — With Heather in the cast of a school play tonight, we joined other proud parents at the performance. Most of the fun came from the unrehearsed incidents — especially the "noises off"!

THURS., DEC. 6. — I was talking on the phone this afternoon to "Auntie Rita" Roberts, loved through all our churches as Good Companions leader. She and "Uncle Charlie" Young have been busier than ever, attending the usual round of pre-Christmas rallies to which the "Goodies" bring gifts for Mr. Young to use in his hospital visitation of children. "Auntie Rita" and her helpers are surely among God's choicest gifts to the brotherhood.

FRI., DEC. 7. — Worth thinking about — "He who allows a day to pass without generosity . . . is like a blacksmith's bellows — he breathes, but does not live."

SAT., DEC. 8. — There was plenty of noise and fun at tonight's "break-up" party for "Goodies" and Explorers.



# HERE AND THERE

The Federal President, G. V. Haigh, and Mrs. Haigh, extend season's greetings to the Australian brotherhood. They write: "May the celebration of Christmas be one of happy fellowship and family reunion as together we remember the birth of the Saviour, and worship him."

Next week's issue, dated Dec. 18, will be the last for 1962. There will be no issues on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. First issue for 1963 will appear on Tues., Jan. 8.

Friends of V. C. Stafford, Director of the Federal Board of Christian Education, will be pleased to know that he is out of hospital and making satisfactory progress after a recent operation.

A £1,000 Missionary Appeal for 1962 by the Lygon-st. church, Carlton, Vic., closed on Dec. 2 with a total of £2,000 having been received. The amount will be distributed amongst various Missionary Societies and groups.

Sunday, Nov. 25 was a day of thanksgiving and praise in the life of the Drumcondra (Vic.) Church of Christ. A large crowd gathered outside the building, now re-located at Church-st., Manifold Heights, to witness the opening of the door by the minister, R. A. Banks, and to be welcomed and led in prayer by R. Tattersall (elder). Inside the enlarged and attractive building, which was packed, the service was presided over by H. Mountjoy (C.M.S. pres.). A. Caldicott (Lalrope-terr.) led in opening prayer, and greetings were brought by A. R. Haskell (Vic.-Tas. Conf. Pres.-Elect), K. A. Jones (H.M. Dept), A. W. Cleland (Properties Corporation), H. Roberts (Presb.). L. Mountjoy (elder) led the dedication service, with Dean Hamilton (Belmont) giving the dedicatory prayer. Inspiring singing was led by Max Murray, G. Feary (Ballarat). Many visitors and past members were present. The thankoffering, to date, is £310. The church has accepted the challenge and opportunity of this new area, and is looking forward to a time of rich blessing and service.—E. M. Jakobi.

David Hibbert, one of the full-time Chaplains of the Victorian Council for Christian Education in Schools, has written appreciatively of Dudley Hyde, who recently resigned as Director of the Council after completing 17 years' work in the field of Christian education in Government schools. Mr. Hyde was for nine years Director of the N.S.W. Methodist D.C.E. in

Schools, and then early in 1955 came to Victoria as Asst. Director of the Council for Christian Education in Schools. After being one of the first three chaplains appointed to Technical Schools, he was made Director in 1957. Under his leadership, State School chaplaincy expanded both in numbers and significance, and no man has made a more valuable contribution towards a new era for Christian education in Government schools.

Because of his own ill-health, and that of his wife, A. W. Johnson has resigned as secretary of the church at Lygon-st., Carlton, Vic., after serving in that capacity for the past 26 years. The church has paid him a tribute of praise and gratitude for his untiring and devoted service. The Vic.-Tas. Conference Executive adds its own appreciation of a selfless and willing helper, who has made his own invaluable contribution to every Conference gathering held in the Lygon-st. chapel during his term as secretary.

The church at Chadstone, Vic., announces that P. E. Perry has accepted a call to the ministry there as from Feb. 3 next.

Commonwealth subsidy has been approved for the erection of four additional rooms and new laundry at Burdeu House, Brisbane, and a contract signed for the completion of same, at a cost of £6,000. Infra-red ray wall heating has been installed throughout the building. The new work, in addition to providing extra accommodation and comfort, will allow for the provision of greater service to the residents.

A Women's Interdenominational Convention, sponsored by the Christian Service Centre of 684 Elgar-rd., North Box Hill, Vic., is planned for Tues., Feb. 19, 1963, at the Belgrave Heights Convention Grounds.

D. A. V. Thomas, at present ministering to the church at Frankston, Vic., has accepted a three-year engagement with the Maidstone (Vic.) church, commencing Feb., 1963.

Prior to the recent decision of the Chinese to call for a truce in the border warfare with India, officials of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs issued the following statement: "In order that justice may be served and enlarged conflict avoided, we urge support by world public opinion and by governments for the withdrawal of Chinese forces to their positions prior to the

recent intensified military action, and prompt initiation of negotiations or acceptance of impartial arbitration for peaceful settlement of the border dispute. The pursuit of territorial claims by aggressive military action rather than by methods of peaceful settlement must be condemned." The statement was signed by Sir Kenneth Grubb (Chairman) and Dr. O. Frederick Nolde (Director).

## ★ Family Friendship Mission

WILLIAMSTOWN, S.A.

How can I speak to people about the things of Christ when they have known me all my life? How can we make a person feel at home and welcome in the church services? In a small community it is so easy for non-members to feel that the Church is wanting to "get" them. How can we overcome all this and lead lifelong friends to Christ?

These are some of the questions we found facing the church at Williamstown and sought to answer in the above mission.

We decided to do away with anything that helped make non-members uncomfortable. Under the leadership of J. W. Lewis, from Brooklyn Park, Group Counselling Sessions were held every night of the week, Nov. 25-Dec. 1. Certain groups, including members and non-members, were invited under the following headings: Parents' Night, Mother and Daughter Night, Father and Son Night, Young People's Night, Engaged Couples' Preparation for Marriage.

Mr. Lewis spoke very frankly to each group on their relationships within the home, church and community. Throughout all he emphasised the need for each to be willing and big enough to sink all differences and allow God fully into personal and family life.

Questions were invited and the response to this was very encouraging. Many spoke personally with Mr. Lewis, who was able to give much help in this way. It is felt that at least two whole families will have been brought into the fellowship of the church through this very informal and practical approach. The church families have also received a great benefit from the ministry of Mr. Lewis.

The keynote throughout was informality, as people were seated comfortably around tables in the church hall, with notepaper before them to enable them to write their questions.

We thank God for the blessings of this campaign, and also appreciate very much the service of Mr. Lewis to the church at Williamstown.—D. M. Hughes (minister).





# INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

## AUST. CAPITAL TERRITORY

Canberra (G. R. Stirling, B.A.). — Attendance during Nov. averaged 179 a.m.; 124 p.m.; 170 communing. F. Byatt (Inter-Church Aid) visiting speaker a.m. 11th, and Mrs. Norma Clarke soloist at night. G. R. Stirling and W. Leng showed slides of Tasmania at after-church fellowship, 18th. Film, *Windows of the Soul*, screened Dec. 2. Barbecue organised by C.M.S., Nov. 29. Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Gaffey and family posted overseas with Trade Commissioner Service.

## TASMANIA

Invermay (E. K. Morrison). — B.S. anniversary services very well attended, Nov. 25; speakers E. W. Taylor and E. K. Morrison. Prizegiving Tuesday night, when scholars sang anniversary hymns and gave items. Picnic held at Evandale on 5th. Working bees held to tidy up chapel grounds and erect new brick fence. Work still being done on painting of manse. C.E. being held every Sunday afternoon, followed by basket tea; this bringing lot of Y.P. to gospel service. Several combined prayer meetings held with Margaret-st. On 18th, an after-church gathering said farewell to C. H. Battin, who is to live in Hobart. Mr. Battin will be greatly missed, having served the church faithfully in several positions for a number of years. On 9th, Northern District Convention was held at Invermay chapel and meals were served in nearby Church of England, Mrs. McElwee being meal convener. Convention great success. A. A. Avery visited Invermay to confer with officers, and Operation Friendship under way.

Margaret-st., Launceston (C. J. Robinson). — Nov. averages: a.m. 129; p.m. 78; communion 128. W. S. Lowe preached a.m. 18th. Both C.W.F. groups held annual meetings. Afternoon group re-elected existing office-bearers; over £160 raised during the year. Evening group re-elected Mrs. Gilbertson, pres., with Mrs. M. Wilson, sec.; this group has raised just over £200, of which £150 will be distributed between Bethany Boys' Home, Bombay Church Appeal and local church furnishings. Projects for 1963 include Bethany and Aborigines Missions. Film on missionary work in Dutch New Guinea, *Were Sometimes Darkness*, screened at midweek meeting. Church deeply regrets de-

parture of Mrs. Sykes and family to S.A.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dalkeith Road (C. G. Flood). — Morning services well attended. Two candidates presented for baptism. After-church fellowship featured display of Bette Beckingham's paintings and talk by her about trip to New Caledonia. Club work amongst Y.P. being consolidated, with increases in membership. Church loyalty dinner attended by 160 members and their families. Programme outlined work of church committees and plans for 1963. Excellent meal served and church grateful to ladies from other churches who so graciously helped with serving of meal and tidying up afterwards. Church sec. has resumed duty after three months' absence from duties.

## QUEENSLAND

East Ipswich - Leichhardt (R. Ackland). — Excellent av. attendance of 147 communicants Nov. P.S.A. held at Leichhardt, 25th, at which B.S. provided entertaining programme, with B. Nowitzke guest speaker. Tea provided, and over 90 present at gospel meeting. Two B.S. lads made their confession of faith. Mr. Nowitzke spoke at E. Ipswich gospel service. 25 members of C.W.F. visited Homes for Aged, 27th; after bright programme, each guest given small gift. Excess gifts given to Blue Nursing Service for distribution to aged folk. Many Christmas parties have been held for schools and Fellowships. C.Y.F. conducted gospel service, Dec. 2; good attendance. Scripture read by Les. Gerhke, with ladies' quartette and Kevin Stowe, speaker. Baptismal service conducted at commencement of meeting.

Mackay (S. Vanham). — Latter period of year strenuous time for church. Mrs. Finger (Pres., Women's Conf.) spent afternoon with C.W.F. and also spoke at Revival Fellowship meeting. Church had a grand time with Messrs. McLean and Bhonsle as they shared weekend at Mackay. Social evening given by Sisters' Fellowship, 22nd, was happy and successful occasion; Mr. Craig showed slides, including the Snowy River project. Eunice Nielson and Fred Schneider tendered pre-marriage evening.

Kedron (J. H. McCormick). — Missionary programme, Nov. 11, most successful. Overseas missionaries tak-

## Discipleship

Ann Bailey, Marrickville, N.S.W.  
David Earl, Ivanhoe, Vic.  
Rhonda Stewart, Lorys Tattersson,  
Colin Smith, Chadstone, Vic.  
Mr. and Mrs. A. McKeogh, Darryl  
Smith, Kingsford, N.S.W.  
Robert Clemens, East Bentleigh,  
Vic.  
Glen Risson, Desmond Ridgell, East  
Ipswich - Leichhardt, Qld.  
Joy Potter, Elizabeth Taylor, Ascot  
Vale - Newmarket, Vic.  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Stenberg, Carlton,  
Vic.  
E. Latimore, G. Mathers, Mr. and  
Mrs. G. Armstrong, Taree, N.S.W.  
Mrs. Cornish, Geoffrey Leeden, Hart-  
well, Vic.  
Mr. and Mrs. Hill, Mr. and Mrs.  
Crowley, Mr. and Mrs. Banaesch,  
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. and  
Mrs. Lehmann, Miss L. Gates,  
B. and G. Banaesch, Albert Park,  
S.A.

## Membership

Beth Killmier, to Murray Bridge,  
S.A.  
Fred, John and Arthur Love, from  
Tamworth; Miss J. Murray, from  
Taree; Mr. Morton, from Mar-  
rickville Baptist; Mr. and Mrs.  
S. Jenner, from Enmore to Kings-  
ford, N.S.W.  
Mrs. A. Hannah, from Hurstville;  
Mr. and Mrs. H. Eggins, from  
Hurstville; G. Armstrong, from  
Murwillumbah, to Taree, N.S.W.  
Mr. and Mrs. G. Street, Ivanhoe,  
Vic., to Launceston, Tas.  
R. Angrove, to Albert Park, S.A.

## Marriage

Jocelyn Tindall to John Hoppitt,  
Kingsford, N.S.W.  
Eunice Nielson to Fred Schneider,  
Mackay, Qld.

## Fallen Asleep

H. H. Mottram, Carlton, Vic.



ing part were Pauline Jones, Aileen Draney, S. Hiwale, L.Th. and B. Bhonsle, G.Th. Hypnotist night arranged by C.Y.F. Mr. McCormick (pres., C.T.A., Qld.) attended National Conference of C.T.A. in Sydney. Attendance at midweek fellowship meetings has fallen. Cricket team playing in A2 grade has not met with much success.

**Rockhampton - North Rockhampton** (V. G. Boettcher). — Nov. 17 marked 34th year of witness at William-st. Anniversary dinner, prepared by C.W.F., attended by 130. D. Steele extended official welcome to Mr. and Mrs. V. G. Boettcher. Anniversary cake with motto, *United We Stand*, was cut by Mrs. Boettcher. On 18th, combined services were held in William-st. chapel; attendances: 11 a.m., 95; p.m., 85; communion, 83. Mr. Boettcher addressed all services. Midweek prayer and Bible study meetings largely attended. Plans for more progressive witness in both churches being formulated and eagerly anticipated by members.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

**Hornsby.** — Guest speaker p.m. Nov. 11, W. Veith (Youth for Christ International) and soloist Miss Ison (Baptist). At monthly after-church fellowship, Mr. Veith showed slides on his work in India. Harvest Festival under auspices of B.S., Dec. 2. Staff and boys of Dunmore House were guests of B.S. and church for day. Boys took part in evening service. Guest speakers for day, D.J.A. Verco and Mr. Fennell.

**Taree** (V. T. Parker). — Church enjoying best sustained attendances in its history. Members encouraged by recent additions through faith and baptism and by letter, 8 in all. Church happy to welcome home from New Hebrides its own representatives on field, Mr. and Mrs. D. Eagling. At close of evening service on 25th, V. T. Parker welcomed them home and Mr. Eagling presented interesting set of slides.

**Earlwood.** — Weekly 5.30 a.m. prayer meeting organised. Arrangements in hand for full-time minister, and in interim, it is expected, F. Elliott (Woolwich) will conduct student ministry. Appreciated messages from Messrs. Greenhalgh, Small, Morris, Leask, and soloists Mesdames Walker, Moore and Gilbert, with Misses Donnelly. Miss Blake entertained by girls' club at shower tea.

**Kingsford** (R. M. Wilson). — Work progressing well under new ministry. Church indebted to D. Schofield (Woolwich) for interim messages. All church officers recently re-elected. At men's tea, Nov. 18, new executive committee elected; minister addressed men

on his work in Tasmania with Child Welfare Dept. Two teams of men competing in inter-church bowls competition. Successful B.S. anniversary held; guest speaker, B. Armstrong. Mr. Wilson giving Bible Class review of books of Bible; class open to all. There have been 3 decisions and 7 transfers into membership. A.C.E. progressing favorably. Church has enjoyed fellowship with Mrs. Redman, Mr. and Mrs. Aitken (Colac, Vic.), Mrs. D. Green (Boonah, Qld.).

**Mosman** (L. E. Wylie). — A.m. speaker, Nov. 11, was Mr. Cowan (Hurstville). 54th church anniversary, 18th, with special service in morning, and fellowship tea in afternoon. Special guests were members of C.Y.F. team, who led special singing, musical items and gave address. Evening service was in form of a cantata, *A Wonderful Saviour*. Ladies' Aid entertained deacons at breakup social, 28th, when they presented church with £110 as their effort for year, to reduce church debt. Speakers who have filled pulpit during absence of minister on Conference President's duties, were K. Hunter, C. Murray, R. Aldred, J. Hunter.

**Earlwood.** — R. Greenhalgh speaker both services, Dec. 2. Soloists at gospel meeting, Mrs. McClean and Miss J. McLean (Beltmore). C.W.F. terminated year's splendid service with pleasant afternoon, Nov. 28, when Mrs. McClure (Salvation Army) was guest speaker. On 29th, first of 5.30 a.m. prayer meetings had an attendance of nine.

**Marrickville** (M. Bedwell). — Decorations theme for B.S. anniversary, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, *The Guiding Light*. Speaker at teachers' consecration service, 28th, A. A. McRoberts, who also spoke at evening meeting when a girl made good confession. B. Armstrong addressed afternoon gathering. Speakers on 4th were K. Larcombe and M. Bedwell. N.S.W. C.W.F. Prayer committee conducted Women's Fellowship meeting. Missionary Life Gift Fellowship given illustrated address by Miss Hazel Louis (Sydney Rescue Work Society). Mr. Hall (H.M. Comm.) and D. Foletta speakers, Nov. 18. Social gathering at conclusion of p.m. service expressed good wishes to Dennis Foletta and Myee Stuart. S. Rodgers (Banks-town) exchanged pulpits with minister a.m., 25th. Hurstville Ladies' Choir rendered items at C.W.F. breakup, 27th. Luncheon provided time of fellowship, and sales tables yielded satisfactory result.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Albert Park** (C. E. Watson). — During last few weeks many added to church. Successful B.S. anniversary held. Tableaux presented, *The Liv-*

*ing Word Yesterday and The Living Word Today*. School held tea, followed by films and prizegiving.

**Grote-st., Adelaide** (L. E. Jones, B.A. B.D.). — Attendances at services well maintained, with interstate and country visitors prominent. Young man made decision, Nov. 25. Meeting held in hall, 28th, with musical programme provided by choir. On 30th, the Choral Association Choir, under baton of W. Watson, presented *Messiah* in chapel. Despite abnormal heat, there was excellent attendance. Morning service, Dec. 2, broadcast over 5KA, with inspired singing by choir. Y.P. sports groups paraded p.m. C.W.F. entertained ladies of church to fine programme and supper, Dec. 4. Soloists were Mrs. J. Collier, Miss P. H. Orr. Mrs. Packer has returned home after surgery.

**Brighton Gardens** (A. F. Cant, B.Ed.). — Work continues well. Nov. av., a.m. 166; p.m. 88. B.S. will need staff of 60 next year, being probably biggest in Australia. S. Hiwale accompanied Flying Squad group recently. Church has made first steps toward development of functional church by establishing Property Dept. Minister-elect assisted in planning. Pulpit exchange with local Methodist with view to State Conf. churches.

**Unley** (C. H. J. Wright, B.A.). — Well attended meetings and outstanding addresses. Increased B.S. attendance. C.W.A.F. Christmas breakup, Nov. 28. Many Christmas Cheer parcels given for hospitals, toys for children of prisoners, and artificial flowers for Mental Hospital. Guest speaker, Mrs. J. C. Cunningham; devotions led by Mrs. Wright. Lady Messent, on behalf of C.W.F., presented Mrs. Wright with standard lamp. Three ladies, in appreciation of Mr. Wright's kindness in motoring them to C.W.F. meetings, presented him with a gift. Mrs. O. R. Redman and Mrs. Bibby again at services after sickness.

**Ascot Park** (R. H. Sercombe). — C.W.F. held meeting Nov. 30; slides of Tasmania shown and Echoes of Conference given by delegates. Evening in aid of women's project work. Exchange of pulpits a.m. Dec. 2, with Mr. Barlow (Baptist).

**Stirling East - Aldgate Valley** (B. H. Crowden). — Crowded meetings for combined churches' district rally at S.E. Mr. Proeve (Lutheran) speaker. B.S. anniversary services at A.V., Nov. 4, addressed by J. Maxted (Torrensville) and B. Crowden. Week of *Inner Mission* meetings, with A. J. Ingham (Lenswood), culminated in combined communion service at S.E., 11th. R. Graham speaker at both churches, 18th. B.S. anniversary at S.E., 25th, at which speakers were A. J. Griffiths, L. E. Jones and G. Rose. Scholars presented unique programme around *Space Ship - Crusader*, at after-



noon and p.m. services. Minister prepared script and was responsible for successful occasion.

**Murray Bridge (H. Cave).**—C.W.A.F. had enjoyable 48th birthday, with guests from all local churches. Croydon ladies presented programme. Mr. and Mrs. Graham present and Mr. Graham cut cake. C.M.S. had M. Coombe as guest speaker. Men also visited Strathalbyn for mission rally. Mrs. Chiswell welcome visitor at services. One addition by transfer. Four Y.P. baptised, 25th.

## VICTORIA

**Chelsea (C. G. V. Thomas).**—Monthly youth church parade, Nov. 4, with Midget Good Companions attending for first time. C.Y.F., back from camp, had after-church fellowship at Chelsea home. Minister ill, Nov. 11, and J. Dow took both services. C.W.A.F. now start their monthly meetings one hour earlier for Woman to Woman evangelism discussion. Good Companions were hosts for Beach Zone Girls' Clubs' Christmas party, 17th. In evening, C.Y.F. held camp reunion and surprise birthday party for camp chief, Dr. Alan King. Boys' Sunday great success, with 5 p.m. tea attended by Mayor of Chelsea, and film screened at 6 p.m. by G. Smith, Antarctic Explorer.

**Gardiner (F. A. Youens).**—Annual church meeting held Nov. 14, with 80 present. Sec. and minister both reported satisfactory year. Finances in good condition. Decision to help weaker cause made, to commence in new year. Remembrance day fittingly celebrated, 11th. Tennis team won premiership of their grade, and also scored Champion of Champions pennant. Keith Stevens won Explorers' Annual Bible Reading Contest for 3rd successive year. Father and Son Sunday celebrated 18th, with C.M.S. meeting.

**Strathmore (A. J. Lloyd).**—Church conducting Loyalty Month. A. R. Lloyd (Dandenong) spoke at B.S. teachers' dedication service. B.S. raised £8 last 5 weeks on "penny drive," for building funds. Cr. Wallace (Mayor, Broadmeadows) opened C.W.F. fair, which raised £150. Explorers conducted service, Nov. 18. Boys enjoyed district camp at Toolangi recently. C.W.F. held variety concert, 17th; proceeds for building funds. B.S. held picnic at Sunbury Park. Working bee held to clear church grounds. Heather Hamilton recovering from illness.

**Swan Hill (D. G. Beanland).**—Film screened at gospel service, Nov. 18, to large congregation; service was followed by time of fellowship and supper in church hall. D. Treloar a.m. speaker. Successful

C.W.F. fete in Memorial Hall on 2nd raised £170. 35 Y.P. enjoyed hike at Kangaroo Lake, 17th. Minister exchanged pulpits with B. Pryor (Echuca) a.m. 25th.

**Belmont (M. D. Hamilton).**—Kinder hall appropriately decorated for Halloween Night, conducted by Good Companions, Nov. 3. D. H. Smith visited on deputation work for H.M. Committee, 4th, and members joined with other Geelong churches for H.M. prayer rally on 7th, when A. Caldicott showed slides of Holy Land. There was exchange of presidents, readers and preachers between Drumcondra and Belmont, 11th. At evening service, 3 Y.P. made their decision. Church annual meeting held 16th; encouraging reports from all auxiliaries. Membership now 85. R. Watt and J. Smail elected elders; A. Barling, I. Phillips, G. Smith, A. Tinker, J. Wilson, deacons; T. Banks, sec.; D. Marshman, treas.; J. Smail, B.S. supt. Ladies made donation of £350 to Building Fund, plus £100 to be reserved for new organ. E. L. Williams guest speaker for anniversary services, 18th, when total of 86 communed for day. Thankoffering of £235 received. W.M.B. collected Christmas gifts for Social Service Homes, 21st.

**Northcote (A. B. Withers).**—Special p.m. service, Nov. 18, for Boys' Sunday, when number of boys took part. K. Gluyas spoke p.m. 25th. C.W.A.F. had combined picnic with Thornbury, 21st. Good Companions' district breakup held in hall, 22nd, when presents for other children were given to "Uncle Charlie." Church represented at quarterly H.M. prayer meeting at East Preston.

**Prahran (T. H. Ede).**—Two young men made their decision p.m. service, Nov. 4. Youth tea followed by baptismal service, 18th. Russel Goffin appointed B.S. supt. On 24th, C.W.F. held successful sale of work. After gospel service, 25th, minister entertained Y.P. at manse, with singing and supper. Attendances at all services have increased.

**Ascot Vale - Newmarket (G. K. Moyes).**—Annual church business meetings show work in healthy position. First year of combined work very successful. Full-time ministry and brick manse obtained. Largest increase in membership in both churches for over 20 years. All officers re-elected, with Mrs. Parker, Mr. Olin and Mr. Thomas taking place of retiring officers. Kitchen teas given to three couples about to be married. Good Companions have record membership of 62 girls. A.V. C.W.F. street stall raised £70 for brotherhood work. Newmarket C.W.F. raised £12, and N.M. B.S. picnic had record of 150 attending. Combined Protestant service in Presb. building well attended, and Mr. Moyes spoke on our

plea for unity. Dec. 2, A.V. Temple Day raised £103 to pay for new fluorescent lighting in chapel. Church also received £50 donation anonymously. Special church business meeting agreed that both churches enter with H.M. Dept. on Three-Year Plan of Progress. Woman to Woman crusade and planned giving programme being initiated. N.M. offerings have increased 70 per cent. Average: a.m., Nov.: A.V., 47; N.M., 35; combined p.m. 49.

**Peel-st., Ballarat (C. W. Jackel).**—There has been one decision. Basketball team won premiership of B.S. basketball competition. Church has enjoyed Overseas Missions reps., S. P. Hiwale, R. McLean and Mr. Bhonsle. Mrs. N. Jackel (Wangaratta) spoke and showed slides on India, 19th. Church enjoyed talks and singing of Samuel Buli and Japheth Karai (New Hebrides students), 25th. Soloists have been R. McLeod, A. Le Coutier, Mrs. N. Jackel. Church saddened by sudden death of Mr. Fuhrmeister.

**Blackburn (R. V. Amos).**—Baptismal service, Nov. 4. Primary Dept. party, 17th. Several Explorers assisted minister p.m., 18th. C.W.E.F. visited Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh. Sat. Evening Fellowship held final meeting of year on 24th in home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Gadge (Boronia). Combined Christmas party held by Good Companions, 27th, girls attending from Mitcham, Ringwood, Doncaster.

**Carlton (R. J. Duckett).**—Annual business meeting of church well attended; all reports of high standard. Husband and wife confessed Christ, Nov. 25. Miss E. Currie and Mrs. R. McColl in hospital. Mrs. Pang, Mrs. Moriano, Miss Craigie, Mrs. Lees, Miss Prittie, Mrs. O'Malley, H. Prittie, all ill. Loving sympathy expressed to Mrs. Mottram in loss of husband. Congratulations extended to Glenys Crabtree on receiving Nursing Bursary to Royal Melb. Hospital.

**Drumcondra (R. A. Banks).**—Well attended B.S. anniversary, Nov. 18. Mrs. R. Gates gave illustrated talk to kinder, in afternoon. At evening service, Inter and Junior scholars entertained with items. Speaker was L. Winkel (Sudan Interior Mission). Young lady and young man made decision. C.M.S. held monthly fellowship tea, 25th, when W. Andrew (V.F.L. umpire) addressed gathering. Musical programme was provided by McLean Instrumentalists. Gospel meeting was led by C.M.S. Mr. Andrew preached and gave testimony to large congregation.

**Frankston (D. A. V. Thomas).**—Members enjoyed fellowship at Bay-side District Conference at Red Hill. Frankston £10 quota for New Guinea project was handed in. Inter-church worship at Frankston Presb., and



district prayer rally at Dandenong have taken place of regular prayer meetings. Minister shared in leadership of Bayside District Youth Camp at Monbulk, when more than 20 Frankston Y.P. attended. Explorer club has raised £35 "for others" during year. A. J. MacKenzie has resigned as B.S. supt., after many years' service. John Arthur appointed to position. Meryl Waugh, senior B.S. scholar, won 1st prize in over-13 section of "Fire Prevention" poster competition. Successful sale of goods, Nov. 17, realised £113 towards annual thankoffering. One feature of Boys' Sunday, Nov. 18, was men and boys' tea; J. Dow was speaker at p.m. service. R. V. Amos guest speaker at church anniversary, Nov. 25, when more than 100 attended morning service and 90 sat down to luncheon prepared by ladies. Thankoffering has reached £325. Sympathy expressed to C. Wells in passing of brother.

Maryborough (R. E. Pritchard).—P.M. service, Nov. 11, given over to Federal Conference Echoes; colored slides screened at conclusion. W.M.B. held final meeting for year, Nov. 23. Donations of £30 sent to Social Service Dept., £20 to Missionary Dept., also scrapbooks, toys and hankies to Kew Cottages. Y.W.F. held wind-up party, 28th, and packed large parcel to send to Mrs. Manning. Kinder and Primary depts.' Christmas tree and party, Dec. 8. During morning service, Dec. 2, minister congratulated Mr. and Mrs. J. Foster, celebrating 50th wedding anniversary. Girls' Choir travelled to Bendigo on 2nd to assist in evening floral service at Short-st. church. Y.W.F. held Tupperware party to assist Building Fund. Tenders have been called for erection of new chapel. Sympathy of church extended to Mr. and Mrs. Foster in bereavement.

Hartwell (G. A. Whiting, B.A., M.R.E., E.D.).—Nov. 17, buffet tea held at home of B.S. supt., R. Tyler, to honor Mrs. Macdonald, retiring after 25 years' service as teacher and supt. Primary Dept.; presentation made. On 18th, at a.m. service, speaker was Mr. Brown (B. & F. B. S.), and at evening, fathers and sons had tea together, after which some took part in gospel service. C.W.A.F. had special effort for Building Fund, on 20th, at home of Mrs. W. Baker, and visited Guest Home, Oakleigh, 27th. Final meeting for year was dinner party, Dec. 4; proceeds, £15/13/-, given to Christmas Bowl. Artists were Mrs. Quaife and Miss Joy Drinkmilk. C.W.E.F. held special effort, taking form of morning coffee party at home of Mrs. R. Cleland. Guest soloists at services, V. Woff and C. Baker. Duet on 25th by Mesdames Pearce and Callister. Sympathy expressed to Mrs. Mackey in bereavement. H.M. offering, £47.

Swanston-st., Melbourne (K. A. Macnaughtan).—In the absence of minister on Dec. 2, at Castlemaine anniversary, speakers were R. F. Geyer and A. R. Pigdon. In recent weeks 9 persons have witnessed to their faith in Christ, some being for baptism; 5 baptised. On Nov. 30, Mr. and Mrs. N. Wescombe sailed for India to work with the Ramabai Mukti Mission. L. E. Jones, B.A., B.D. (Adelaide) special speaker for three services on Nov. 11, to mark 97th anniversary of church. Morning service was broadcast by 3AK. At annual church business meeting, D. Langsford, B.S. supt., was added to Official Board. Developing interest in world evangelism evidenced in 1st Missionary Convention by church, with L. R. Winkkel (Sudan Interior Mission), E. W. Heard (Indian field) and H. Gould (China Inland Mission) as special speakers. Members and friends using special monthly missionary envelopes for various missionary and evangelistic causes. Church ladies visited Will H. Clay Nursing Home, providing helpful programme and afternoon tea. Church has made final payment on manse, completing purchase in five years.

Wedderburn (M. D. Roberts).—98th B.S. and church anniversary attracted large congregations; speaker, D. Tallens. School enrolment good and 3 new teachers added to staff. Church business meeting held. Appointments: A. B. Jackel, sec.; Mrs. A. B. Jackel, treas.; M. D. Roberts, B.S. supt.; Mrs. Steel, Mrs. B. Jackel, organists; W. Twiddy, I. Hall, L. Lanyon, D. Jackel, deacons. Church decided to give to Overseas, Aboriginal and 4 other faith Missions. B.S. picnic held at Caravan Park. Good Companions re-organised, under leadership of Mrs. Chalmers. Church work progressing favorably. One decision.

Moreland (G. A. Grainger).—Church indebted to visiting speakers, W. Hart (W. Preston), P. Foster (Nth. Fitzroy) and A. Jenkins (Moreland) during minister's absence on holidays. C.M.S. held monthly tea, when interesting address was given by Gersham Nyaronga (Tanganyika). Explorer boys and leader, W. Green, took part in p.m. service, Nov. 18; H. Gross guest speaker. C.W.A.F. visited Greenvale Home for Aged, providing over 100 Christmas gifts, 29th. Bonnie Bates (Dept. C.E.) attended meeting with Officers' Board and staff of church school to discuss plans for Vacation School. W. Lantz will lead Church Life Mission following Vacation School. Midweek prayer and Bible study group meeting with Coburg group during their minister's absence overseas. Sympathy extended to Mr. Grainger in Home call of his mother.

Parkdale (P. Perry).—Homecoming Day services, Nov. 25, best attended for many years. L. Brooker

presided at worship service and R. Geyer speaker. P. Perry spoke at p.m. service. Fellowship tea enjoyed by 80. Father and son tea held 18th, when Tony Lake (Ansett-A.N.A. pilot) was guest speaker, after which Explorers and C.Y.F. assisted at gospel service. Get-together mystery car outing to Sylvan Dam Reserve held Dec. 1. B.S. auxiliary members held luncheon on 4th to climax year's activities.

Ivanhoe (H. W. Street).—Special class for presidents, readers and helpers, conducted by C. Candy (E. Kew), greatly appreciated. Church and B.S. picnic at Toorourrong Reservoir well attended. 60 fathers and sons sat down to tea on Boys' Sunday, after which film, *The Shadow of the Boomerang*, was screened at gospel service. Good Companions enjoyed hike terminating in barbecue at Mrs. Darby's, Nov. 23. D. Smith gave interesting outline of work of Home Missions, 25th. Congratulations extended to Miriam Adams and Margaret Earl, who won awards at Heidelberg Scots Calisthenic Club. Welcome extended to Judith Fisher, Robyn Hall and Lorraine Stevens upon return, following extended stay in N.Z. Large number of Y.P. enrolled for Christmas camps. Mrs. A. Reed progressing satisfactorily after surgery.

East Bentleigh. — B.S. anniversary, Nov. 18, very well attended. Speakers were L. Brooker and F. Manning; one scholar made confession of faith, p.m. Wonderful occasion, 25th, when first services were conducted in new hall in Brady-rd. Record attendances at all meetings. B.S. attendance 114 (incl. 21 new scholars); 11 a.m. worship service, approx. 90; 7 p.m. gospel service, approx. 50. Many opportunities for expansion of work in this new area. Hall has not been completed on outside, and working bees still continuing each Saturday. Farewell tendered to M. Giezendanner, exit student minister, after gospel service, Nov. 4, prior to his marriage and commencement of full-time ministry with church at Warwick (Qld.). R. Nugent expressed thanks of church for his ministry and leadership. Suitable presentations made by church and auxiliaries. Men have been carrying on ministry of preaching since termination of student ministry. Lad from B.S. baptised 11th, and welcomed into fellowship, 18th.

Chadstone (D. B. McIntosh).—Three Y.P. baptised at impressive service. Church family conference at Monbulk enjoyed, under direction of Dept. of Christian Ed. B.S. celebrated 10th anniversary. H. R. Coventry home briefly, but has returned to Will H. Clay Home. Men led evening services at Emmaus. Donation received for youth work appreciated. Cricket club had first win. All auxiliaries keen.



## Fifty Years Ago

From "The Australian Christian"  
of Dec. 12, 1912.

Editor: F. G. Dunn.

**Towards a Federal Evangelist.** — The first step in the direction of employing a Federal evangelist has just been taken by the Federal Acting-Executive, at whose request Bro. Reg. Enniss paid a visit to Tasmania, with the view of paving the way for a mission. He visited Launceston and Hobart, and was cordially received by the brethren. The Launceston church is eager and ready for a mission, and good work has been done by A. P. Wilson in connection with the church. Hobart wants a mission later on, and in the meanwhile is helping the Launceston effort, which will commence about mid-January, S. G. Griffith's services having been secured for 3 months in an arrangement with the S.A. Home Mission Committee.

**Work in France.** — For some time a splendid work has been going on in France, conducted by Alfred E. Seddon, one of our brethren, and recently the Federal F.M. Committee sent £10 to assist in this work. Studies have been held with ex-priests and others, and books like McGarvey's Commentary on Acts, and pamphlets on our own position, have been translated into French. Within a period of a little more than two years 29 have been immersed.

**At Home with the T. J. Gores.** — On Wed. evening of last week, Bro. and Sister Gore entertained at their home at Henley Beach the students of the Adelaide Students' Training Class. This has become an annual affair. Bro. Gore said how pleased he and Mrs. Gore were to have the young men present, and thanked them for coming. I. A. Paternoster replied on behalf of the young men. The evening broke up with the singing of "My Old Kentucky Home."

**Items of Interest.** — A. W. Connor has been granted a holiday by the church at Bendigo, Vic., and intends leaving in February to visit his old home in New Zealand . . . Up to Sunday night there have been 34 confessions of faith at the Castle-maine, Vic. tent mission . . . The church at Collie, W.A., held a fortnight's mission which, by the courtesy of the Brookton brethren, H. Manning came and conducted. The results were nine added by faith and baptism, Nov. 3-17 . . . The church anniversary at Port Pirie, S.A., at which J. E. Thomas was guest speaker, showed that there have been 35 baptisms during the year, with total additions of 113 . . . At Tyalgum, N.S.W., on Sunday last, 35 people assembled at the river bank at noon to witness the immersion of a young man.

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Minister: M. D. Keatch.

## BIRTH

**BEASY (Mansell).** — On Nov. 14, at Box Hill Hospital, Vic., to Alys and Doug., a daughter — Merryn Elizabeth. Sister for Ian, Alyson and Craig.

## ENGAGEMENTS

**AVERAY - THOMAS.** — Mr. and Mrs. R. Averay, 34 Holbrook's-rd., Underdale, S.A., have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their eldest daughter, Glenys Jean, to Stephen, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Thomas, 10 East-tce., Henley Beach, S.A.

**YOUNG - PEARSON.** — The engagement is announced of Jennifer Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Young, 139 Mills-st., Middle Park, Vic., to John David, only son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Pearson, 33 Service-st., Coburg, Vic.

## DEATH

**CHAPPELL.** — On Nov. 21, at Yarrawonga Hospital, Arthur Robert (late of Telford, Vic.), loved husband of Edith (dec.), dearly loved father of Stan. (Linton), Stella (Telford), Edith (dec.), and Lillian (Mrs. F. Harris, Shepparton). "With Christ whom he loved."

## IN MEMORIAM

**NEWELL.** — Precious memories of my beloved husband and our dear father, Andrew, called Home, Dec. 16, 1958. "Beyond the sunset — till we meet again."

—Inserted by his loving wife and family.

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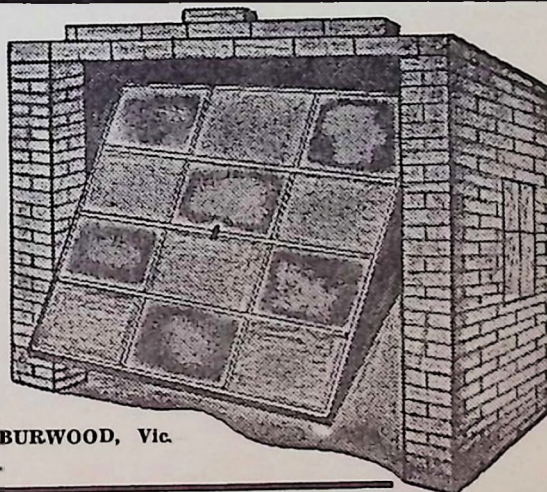
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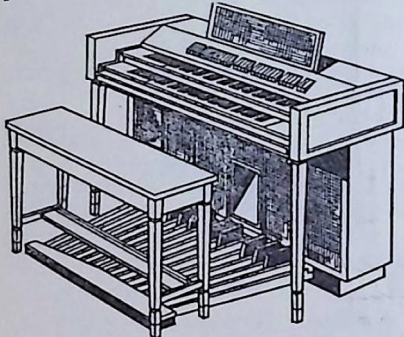
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## "From the Eastern Mountains"

(A Hymn for Dec. - No. 332, Dec. 23)

Almost everything on the title-page of one hymnal seems cumbersome and outdated. This, "The Church of England Hymn Book, adapted to the daily services of the Church throughout the year," was "compiled and edited by the Rev. Godfrey Thring, rector of Alford with Hornblotton, prebendary of Wells Cathedral" and bears the date MDCCCLXXXIII ("in plain English," 1883). Within, however, is such a collection that the greatest hymnologist of all, Dr. Julian, says "it embodies a provision for divine worship exceeding any other collection in fulness and in minuteness of detail; for practical church use, it is difficult to find its equal and impossible to name its superior."

Under 96 classifications, it is most carefully arranged and even a tiny edition has helpful texts, annotations and marks of expression. Thring not only did his editorial work with "skill, judgment and good taste," but also contributed about 60 of his own hymns.

Accepting the dictionary definition of a term never used in Churches of Christ — Epiphany — as "manifestation of Christ to the Magi," we could not suggest a more apt classification than this for Thring's hymn "From the Eastern mountains," associated as the season is in Anglican rites with the Scripture reading of Matthew 2: 1-12 and the prayer beginning: "O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles."

Editor Thring's footnote to poet Thring's hymn allows considerable flexibility in its use "... either with or without the refrain; as a processional, or not, as desired," as also does its tabulation amongst other suitable hymns at the end of the section "Foreign Missions." Our own usage, obviously without "processionals," is better served by the omission of the refrain and the final verse, reducing the number of lines sung from 72 to 40. The omitted lines, however, are by no means unworthy, the refrain reading: "Light of life that shinest ere the worlds began, draw thou near and lighten every heart of man" and the verse: "Until every nation, whether bond or free, 'neath thy starlit banner, Jesus, follows thee o'er the distant mountains to that heavenly home, where nor sin nor sorrow evermore shall come." — F.J.F.

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## OBITUARY

Cora Hilda L. Cossart.

Cora Hilda L. Cossart passed away,  
at the age of 82 years, on Sunday,  
Nov. 11, 1962. She had been associated  
with Churches of Christ for more than  
twenty years. Her quiet and loving  
disposition endeared her to all. Our  
sister lived her life with faith and  
courage, and was faithful to the end.  
Henceforth is laid up for her a crown  
of righteousness which the righteous  
Lord will grant her at that day. The  
sympathy of the church is extended  
to her loved ones.—A. C. Thurrow-  
good.

Hilda Alexandra McGregor.

Hilda Alexandra McGregor was called  
away on Nov. 11, 1962, following an  
operation in Brisbane, at the age of  
51 years. She had been ill for some  
time, but was always hopeful of a  
return to health, and continued in  
faith throughout. The late Mrs.  
McGregor was the daughter of an old  
Toowoomba (Qld.) church family (the  
Shermans). We express Christian  
sympathy, commending the sorrowing  
ones to the comfort of the Lord.—  
A. C. Thurrowgood.

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