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THE AUSTRALIAN *Christian*

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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

Aborigines Mission Issue

IT STILL GOES FORWARD!



Our work in the care and nurture of Aboriginal children at Norseman and Carnarvon, in W.A., has reached the point of a deeper thrust and a greater result. Twenty-one years of hard and difficult sowing are yielding a harvest. We must press on if we are to consolidate the gains. The children's work has now brought us to the launching of an additional ministry to adults.

ANNUAL OFFERING FOR ABORIGINES MISSIONS, SUNDAY, FEB. 10

REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. MELBOURNE FOR TRANSMISSION BY POST AS A NEWSPAPER

Vol. 66, No. 1. Tues., Jan. 8, 1963



THE AUSTRALIAN Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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

Subscription.—Payable in advance. Posted direct (Aust. and N.Z.), 27/6 year,
Foreign, 32/6. Through Church Agent, 5¼d. week (22/11 per annum).

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

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

Quarterly Displayed Advertisements: 34/6 per inch ad.

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

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Fifty Years Ago

From "The Australian Christian"
of Jan. 9, 1913.

Editor: F. G. Dunn.

Geelong (Vic.) Reaches Aim. — The last Sunday of 1912 saw the church within two of its aim of 100 confessions for the year. After an earnest address and appeal by Gifford Gordon, two men stepped forward and confessed Christ, thus making the aim complete. In these 100, there were 10 married men, 13 married women, 22 young men, 55 young women. Of these, 80 have been received into membership here, 10 were transferred to sister churches, 6 have gone back and 4 were not baptised. The year saw the erection of the two class rooms at the rear of the chapel, the Sunbeam Club for the young girls, the Kindergarten and Century Bible Classes in the Sunday School, the appointment of a sister to devote her time to the work of the church. All of these have proved great successes, and have helped to make 1912 the greatest year in the history of the church at Geelong.

Death of O. A. Carr. — Our American papers announce the death of President O. A. Carr, of Carr-Burdette College, on Nov. 13, at Sherman, Texas. Bro. Carr's work in Melbourne (at Lygon-st.) and Hobart will be remembered by many.

Tent Mission, Launceston. — Extensive preparations are being made for the Griffith tent mission at Launceston, commencing on the 26th inst. A spacious tent has been erected on a block of land in the centre of the city. Any Victorian brethren who want a holiday and would like to help — soloists, singers, personal workers — come to Launceston and make the Lord's business and your own pleasure run together.

Items of Interest. — On Christmas Day, about 70 of the Enmore (N.S.W.) choir visited Prince Alfred Hospital. Starting at 6 a.m., they went from ward to ward singing till 11 o'clock. This labor of love was highly appreciated by the patients and nurses . . . Some time ago the church at Wallaroo, S.A., purchased a block of land for building purposes. After careful consideration, the church decided to try to secure a larger block and in a better position. This effort has been successful, securing one of the best sites in the town . . . North Fitzroy (Vic.) reports that the year 1912 has been a record one financially, in number of additions, and attendance at the Lord's Table, closing the year with over 200 at the watchnight service . . . From Broken Hill (N.S.W.) we learn that there is a very strong feeling of unity in the air between our Baptist brethren of Railwaytown and ourselves, with committees appointed to consider each other's position.

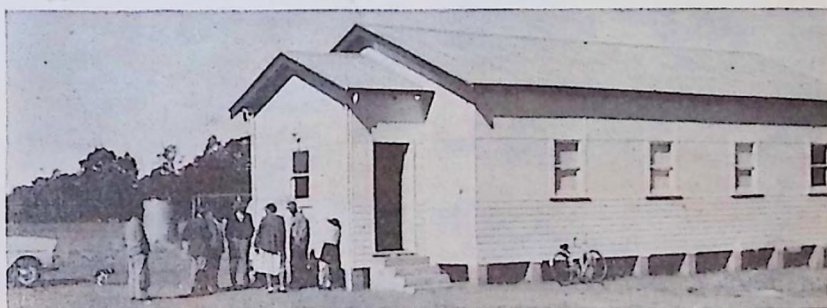
Home In The Evening . . .

The westering sun sinks slowly and a little child comes home. It is an age-old pattern, but for this native child in our picture, as for thousands of others, the threads are torn and tangled, often beyond any hope of being woven in. So the Children's Mission steps into the place where the original pattern went astray and supplies the sustenance, security, and serenity that are the rightful heritage of every child.

Life's long journey lies ahead. Pray that the little feet will be strengthened to tread it successfully, and that when the journey is over, there may be a safe lodging and peace at the last.



Balladoran, New South Wales



Our pictures show an exterior view of the chapel on our settlement at Balladoran, and a glimpse of a communion service in progress, music being supplied by unconventional types of instruments. G. Townley, leader of the Balladoran people, is at the pulpit. The provision of the chapel and the organisation of the spiritual side of the work have marked a major advance, but the housing scheme has made but small progress. The majority of the native people in the area do not have full-time employment, and find it very difficult to make the necessary financial commitments demanded for the erection of even small houses. Much more assistance will be required if the scheme is to succeed.



ANNUAL OFFERING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1963

HANDS UNDER THE WINGS

Among the captives by the River Chebar in the land of the Chaldeans, the prophet Ezekiel saw through the opened heavens a vision of the Glory of God. His description of it is recorded in the first chapter of the book that bears his name. The details are difficult to grasp, but the prophet succeeds in conveying the awe and utter humility which take hold of a man when he comes face to face with God.

Ezekiel saw approaching from the north a glowing storm cloud, which resolved itself into a group of four living creatures arranged in a square. Each one had four faces — a human face, the face of a lion, the face of an ox, and the face of an eagle. Each one had four wings, two being stretched out to meet those of the living creature on either side, the other two wings covering the body. Their limbs were straight and jointless, and their feet like the hooves of a calf. The whole group was a unit, pervaded with lambent fire from which lightnings shot forth, and able to go in any direction without turning. Beside the living creatures were four vast wheels, the rims of which were full of eyes, and they could go in any direction without changing front. The motion of this living chariot was accompanied by an awe-in-

spiring, rushing sound. Above the heads of the living creatures was a solid platform of crystal, on the platform a throne, and seated on the throne a human figure clothed in fiery radiance.

There is one detail of the vision which arrests attention, immeasurably softening the whole impression. When speaking of the wings possessed by the living creatures, Ezekiel said that he saw that "they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides." This detail of the vision expresses the wonderful principle that in a remarkable way the world of pure spirit and pure materialism are bound up together.

I.

We see the principle in all of life. Think of the life of genius — the poet, the musician, the artist, the inventor. How he soars, how he mounts up with wings! But then you read the story of his life, and we see how he sacrificed, toiled, and suffered to bring into being his wonderful creations. There were the hands of a man under the wings.

Here is a happy, well-kept home, which is a thing of beauty and a joy forever. But one day we see the father at

his toil, the mother at hers, their careful planning, sacrificial giving and taking. The hands of a man under the wings.

Here is a church with spiritual power, life and energy, with crowded buildings at the services, and people experiencing joy and gladness. These are the wings, but we see behind it much loving work, people in prayer, committee meetings often far into the night, men and women busy with material things to help the spiritual. The hands of a man under the wings.

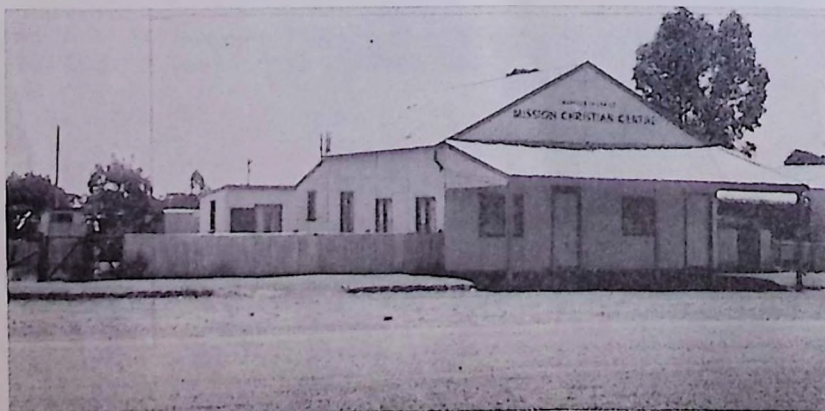
II.

We see it in all true religion. There is a kind of religion that has only wings — dreamy, scorning the earth, claiming that the spiritual must detach itself from the material. It becomes exclusive, and regardless of humanity in its needs. There is a kind of religion which has only hands. Its passion is the service of humanity. It is summed up in the creed of being kind to one's neighbor and doing good deeds. But a religion without wings is a hopeless and pathetic thing.

True religion needs both hands and wings. The wings must come first; first the touch with God, the flight to him; then the life of service. All true religion must have hands, hands to serve and minister, but they must be the kind of hands that Ezekiel saw, hands that are covered with the wings of faith and prayer and worship.

III.

We see the principle in our Lord. He was God, separate from sinners, continually beholding his Father's face. The glory of the divine was in him in its real essence. He was far above men, but he was also man. Beneath the wings of his divine nature were the hands of a man



Norseman Christian Centre



—hands that were ever ready to stoop to the lowliest service.

He is now exalted, and wings of glory cover him. However, he understands all about us, because under the wings of his glory there are the hands of a man. Hands that were like ours, hands that were pierced with the nails, reaching down to lift us up.

*Lord, when I am weary with toiling,
And burdensome seem thy commands,
If my load should lead to complaining,
Lord, show me thy hands.
Thy nail-pierced hands—
Thy cross-torn hands—
My Saviour, show me thy hands!*

IV.

Take a look at the picture on this page. He's only a little fellow, and he can't handle life yet, so he needs a helping hand. Two hands are reaching down to his, a white and a black. To him the white hand of the missionary is "Mummy's," and the black hand is that of "big sister." He doesn't know it yet, but the prospects for his future swing between two worlds, represented by the two hands that are holding his. These two

hands speak of the synthesis made by white and black in the hands of Jesus Christ.

The missionary, like Ezekiel, saw a vision of God with the wings of his glory outspread, but because the hands were there, the hands of a man, the vision translated itself into service, and her hands reached out to help. Came the day when darkened souls in dark-skinned bodies saw the vision, too, and dark hands joined white in ministering to a new generation whose baby hands reached out for help.

But not only the little ones need our help. The adults, too, are reaching out groping hands in the darkness, seeking the spring that will unlock the door to let them into the light of salvation in Christ.

Are the hands of a man under the wings of your religion? Through our Aborigines Mission work your hands can reach out in such a way that God will become real to those who do not know him.

**ANNUAL OFFERING
for
ABORIGINES MISSIONS,
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1963**

Voices From the Past

(2)

From messages given at the meeting held on March 26, 1913, to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Churches of Christ in Victoria, we cull the following comments, first by F. G. Dunn, then by A. R. Main, on . . .

THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT.

F. G. Dunn said: "The early members of the Restoration Movement desired to effect restoration within. Filled with the splendor of their plea, they thought they could get others to stand with them. But sectarianism was so strong that they were thrust out. These men became no party, no denomination. A denomination must have something extra-scriptural, by which it can be denominated. Standing for the divine plea, on the impregnable rock of holy Scripture, they cannot be called a party or a denomination.

"The plea has two features. 1. Union. 2. In the truth. The modern tendency is to forget that Christ, praying for union, emphasised truth also. Throughout Christendom the cry for union is now rung. It has taken 100 years for this sentiment to grow, and it may take another 100 years for the right basis to be acknowledged. If we are true to ourselves and to God, the day will come when we will gain the complete victory."

A. R. Main said: "What shall we give up for Christian union? Let us give up anything of ours, nothing of God's. What have we to give up? They who are true have already given up sectarianism and loved associations. We do not plead for men to come to us, but to Christ, his Word and his Church. If we depart from this we shall become the sect of sects.

"The New Testament must be our basis, for there is no later revelation. The unities of Ephesians 4 still hold good. There will be no new truth which is not already implied in the Word of God. We must be prepared for differences, but if there is piety and love for the Word, we need not fear them. Let us seek at all costs to avoid leaving the Bible. Is there not room for a charity as wide as Christ's, side by side with a steadfastness of the Word?

"If we depart from our faithfulness to the Word of God, it matters not what tremendous growth the statistics show, our work will be a failure. But the truth will triumph. Christ said he would build his Church, "and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

(At the time of these statements, F. G. Dunn was A.C. Editor, A. R. Main a weekly contributor prior to becoming Editor.)

A Growing Work has Growing Needs

One of the reasons for rising costs in our Aborigines Mission work should give us a great deal of pleasure. This reason lies in the higher standards we have reached after 21 years of operation.

We are now no longer satisfied with the rough and ready conditions which were inevitable in the pioneering stages of the work. The Board and our whole Australian brotherhood pay tribute to those missionaries who faced the rigors of those early days. Even less than 10 years ago, many of the conditions at Carnarvon and Norseman Missions were still in the primitive stage, and there are some missionaries still in service who can remember them. Tabulation may help to point the contrast:—

IN THE PAST

NOW (1962)

BUILDINGS

Unlined, some unceiled — unpainted — rough floors — not fly-proofed — communal laundry for all washing.

All lined and ceiled — painted outside and inside (a few rooms yet to be done inside) — good floors with floor coverings — fly-proofed — laundry to each section and each missionary home.

SANITATION AND ABLUTION

Old pan and night-soil disposal system — drainage water spilling on ground round buildings — iron tubs and baths, wood coppers for hot water.

Two more units will complete septic sewerage — drains take water away from buildings — porcelain baths and basins, ample shower facilities, hot water and systems throughout.

REFRIGERATION

At first none, then one refrigerator for whole Mission.

Adequate refrigeration in main Mission kitchens — at Carnarvon, a large commercial-type cool room — refrigerator in each missionary quarters.

MOTOR VEHICLES

One inadequate 1 ton or 30 cwt. truck on each Mission — no private transport for missionaries.

Two school buses, two 3-ton trucks, utility — a number of missionaries own vehicles and most have been provided with a garage for same.

ELECTRIC POWER

At first none — all lighting by kerosene lamps — flat irons on stoves for ironing — washing boiled in coppers — then gradual installation of electricity generating plants.

Now whole place adequately served with power from Missions' own generators — washing machines in all sections — electric irons and other appliances.

The above reflects something of the higher standards we have reached, and we pause to state that the maintenance of these standards calls for increased running expenditure. The Federal Board and State Committees would justifiably be heavily censured if we allowed the

standards to deteriorate. Therefore, the logic of the position is that our brotherhood shall furnish the Board with the necessary funds to maintain the standard.

However, our Missions exist to save and train our native people in the better way of life, particularly the children who live in the Homes at Carnarvon and Norseman, and we rejoice that here, too, we have reached a new standard. Once again we tabulate:—

IN THE PAST

NOW (1962)

EDUCATION

Government schools attached to the Missions — only the Mission children attending — small buildings, old desks.

All children attending the State Schools in the respective towns, transported by Mission bus under contract to Education Dept. — perfect assimilation with white children — all facilities of a modern school — school uniform, including shoes and socks — sporting activities and all that school children of today have at school.

MORALE

Little ambition — much resentment against missionaries' control and instruction — developmental work, plus inadequate equipment, left missionaries little time or energy for personal fellowship and counselling with the children.

Children keen to improve — personal pride in dress and appearance (especially among the teenagers!) — harmony between children and missionaries — despite the continual maintenance work, the improved facilities of today make possible a much closer fellowship of all on the Missions.

SPIRITUAL

Spiritual foundations were emphasised from the first, but organised activity very limited — no heritage or tradition to build upon — tribal and social background a great hindrance.

Missions operate as churches, with Bible Schools, C.E. Societies, Clubs, social activities — and atmosphere and tradition have developed — a leaven from the Missions has permeated among those outside.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Many unwanted, almost discarded children — destitution and malnutrition — unconcern by many parents.

Owing to influence of Missions and changing policy of Native Welfare Dept., a new responsibility on part of parents — families kept much closer together — Missions widening their ministry to reach the parents.

Here, then are further new standards. Not one of them can be maintained without additional financial expenditure, yet to drop to a lower standard would be a betrayal of our stewardship.

EASTERN STATES CENTRES

At Mooroopna, Fitzroy and Balladoran the very growth calls for additional finance. An extension is being added to the Mooroopna building to accommodate the Kindergarten. Sonny Graham, our first Aboriginal minister, must be kept under engagement. At Fitzroy, Mr. and Mrs. Allison, voluntary workers, will commence a Bible School next year, and equipment will be needed. Balladoran, with its advancing spiritual work, also has growing needs.

OUR GREAT OPPORTUNITY

In the Norseman and Carnarvon areas, victories of the gospel of God's grace among the adult population outside our Children's Homes demand further advances. Buildings and staff will be needed.

YES, A GROWING WORK HAS GROWING NEEDS.

ANNUAL OFFERING FOR ABORIGINES MISSIONS ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY, 10, 1963

HERE AND THERE

This issue was prepared for the press on Thurs., Dec. 20, 1962, and only includes items of news and advertisements received up to that date. Early printing was necessary so that copies could be despatched immediately after the Christmas-New Year holidays. Next week's issue will include news received since Dec. 20.

W. D. Howard has accepted the invitation of Hamilton church, N.S.W., to extend his ministry there for a further term.

Miss Dixie Willis, who won a Gold Medal for Australia with her brilliant running in the final of the women's 880 yards at the Perth Commonwealth Games, has since expressed her appreciation of the encouragement and prayers of her fellow-members of the Church of Christ at Fremantle, W.A. Miss Willis is an athlete who brings credit to the Church, and we congratulate her on her many fine sporting achievements.

Tamworth (N.S.W.) church has completed a 9-day Key to Life crusade, conducted by N. Flint (Gillandra), with D. Baxter (Padstow) song leader. The crusade commenced with the church's 9th anniversary tea, followed by a rally at which the film, *I Beheld His Glory*, was screened to a congregation of 160. There were two primary decisions and four rededications during the meetings.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Earle were farewelled by the Inverell (N.S.W.) Church of Christ at an impressive December gathering, which not only marked the close of Mr. Earle's six-year ministry there, but also his retirement after over 40 years' service in Australia and New Zealand. Among the many greetings received from political, medical and church leaders were appreciative words from C. F. Adermann (Minister for Primary Industry), C. G. Taylor (Vic.-Tas. Conf. Pres) and Dr. C. Irving Benson (Wesley Church, Melbourne). Local church and community leaders paid glowing tributes to the work of both Mr. and Mrs. Earle. Mrs. Earle received a presentation from the C.W.F., and a wallet of notes from the church was given to them both, after which Mr. Earle expressed appreciation of all the help given by so many during his ministry. Mr. and Mrs. Earle will live in Queensland, and we are sure that all their friends throughout the churches, remembering especially the devoted service of Mr. Earle's years as Federal Secretary, will wish them much joy in their new life.

Many readers will be familiar with the young people's magazine, *Skyways* (formerly *Pure Words*), publication of which ceased last month after a period of over 50 years' continuous distribution. During this period the magazine has brought joy, encouragement and Christian teaching to many. "Uncle Arthur" became a household name in families throughout Australia and New Zealand, and in his years as Editor has been privileged to share the confidences, ideas, ambitions and personal relationships of thousands of "nephews and nieces." Steep rises in costs over the past few years and heavy cancellations by schools early last year have caused discontinuance of the paper. Schools have been unable to finance circulation of *Skyways* to scholars in addition to the rising cost of lesson materials, charges for which were increased in January, 1962.

R. C. Bust, at present minister of North Williamstown (Vic.) Church of Christ, has accepted an appointment to the teaching staff of Scotch College, Launceston, to take effect in Feb., 1963. Mr. Bust will continue his studies, to qualify for chaplaincy work in Government schools at a later date.



News of British Churches

A major event in the history of Churches of Christ, particularly in Scotland, was the opening during November of the completed new church building at East Kilbride, near Glasgow. This is the most ambitious building scheme undertaken by the churches, and has aroused interest and gained support not only from many parts of Great Britain, but also from overseas. The chapel is situated in a new town, and is planned to offer facilities for all kinds of church work. A. S. Robinson, a former missionary in India, is the present minister.

The President of Conference, D. Black, the chairman of the Social Questions Committee and its organising secretary, A. Kuypers and S. Mason respectively, with the Editor of the *Christian Advocate*, attended a Conference called by the Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service of the British Council of Churches. It was held at Swanwick, a conference centre near Derby. The Social Questions Committee is seeking to interest the churches in the Inter-Church Aid Tractors scheme.

£2,500 has been raised towards the cost of a site on which to erect a Home for Aged People. — G. J. Hammond.

Grote Street, Adelaide

116 YEARS OLD.

The Grote-street church, Mother of our Australian brotherhood, recently held its annual church meeting at which the 116th year of service was reviewed. The average communicants numbered 162, the highest for the past 25 years. Evening services have regularly exceeded 200, and during the Annual Winter Campaign frequently have exceeded 300. Both local and all brotherhood offerings were the highest on record.

One of the most striking features of recent years has been the constant renovation of church property and renewing of equipment — the fine Compton Electronic Organ, the beautiful new open baptistery with stained glass window, the complete re-lighting of the buildings, and the long-desired renovation and painting of the interior of the chapel. The marble platform has been reconstructed, and an imposing pulpit added, and in course of building is a "crying room" for infants. The outside has been enhanced in appearance by the removal of the fences, and the concrete paving from door to street. These historic buildings, and particularly the chapel, in its central position in the city, now constitute one of the most imposing church properties in the brotherhood. Keeping pace with all this has been the obvious growth in spiritual vitality of the congregation, and the regular additions made to the membership by individuals and families. The deep regret of the church at the leaving of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Jones at the beginning of February, to take over the work at Perth City church, was expressed. Great blessing has been enjoyed during these most happy and fruitful years.—R. L. Packer, sec.



The Carramar-Fairfield circuit, N.S.W., has been terminated after three happy years of joint service. E. F. G. McIlhagger, B.A., who has led the circuit, becomes full-time minister at Fairfield, and a student will serve at Carramar, leading to a full-time ministry in 1964. At Carramar, both the new primary hall (seating over 200) and the new tennis court are proving valuable assets. The Fairfield church recently held a fellowship tea, followed by a conference with Don Graham (Vic.), as a result of which the church has commissioned Mr. Graham and two associate architects to prepare plans for a three-stage overall development of the two church blocks, with plans and specifications for a new chapel to face Station-st.

Experimenting with an Order of Worship for Baptismal Services

THE MOTIVES BEHIND THE EXPERIMENT.

"What is needed more than anything today is experiment. We need a handful of clergy and a few militant laymen who are willing to attempt anything in the name of the gospel" — so writes A. R. Shands. It may be said that, with this experiment, we have attempted to do something "in the name of the gospel." We have tried, as Dr. Reuel Howe puts it, "to give rather full attention to baptism and its meaning for our life." This service has been taking shape over a period of years, and is always subject to further improvements.

We felt that too many of our candidates failed to grasp the deeper implications of their decision — even after careful preparation in discipleship classes. Church members appeared to be only spectators and not participants in the service. So we set about to develop a service that spoke of the deep commitment to Christ our Lord and Saviour, which we all share.

Again, it seemed to us, that there was no good reason for deferring the right hand of Christian fellowship until the following Sunday morning. Indeed, this practice leaves the uninformed with the impression that the act of baptism is complete in itself. In this service our identification with Christ and his Church is witnessed as one complete act — baptism — reception — communion.

The third motive is the desire to offer a worthy witness to what we believe to be the New Testament concept of baptism. The relatives of those who are to be baptised are always urged to attend the service. On many occasions people who are active members of communions that do not practise believers' baptism by immersion have attended the services. We attempt to leave a good and lasting impression on the minds of these people, and thus commend our convictions to the Church at large.

THE CRITERIA BEHIND THE STRUCTURE.

Whilst we vary the actual contents of the service — hymns, readings, the wording of the charges, etc. — we have tried to arrive at a satisfactory overall order. The following important considerations have determined this action:

1. The need to give expression to the full act of identification with Christ and his Church.

2. The need to place the act of identification: baptism — reception — communion in the context of the gospel.

D. B. McIntosh, Chadstone, Vic.

3. An opportunity to stress the varied aspects of the Church's ministry by having the elders and one of the deacons sharing in the service.

4. The offering of a chance for the membership to see baptism as a confession of their faith also.

5. Attention to worship values and recent Biblical studies on baptism.

words: "Every inspired Scripture has its use for teaching the truth, and refuting error, for reformation of manners and discipline in right living." Will you, the church, nurture these newly born babes in Christ with the pure milk of the Word?

CHURCH: We will, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

MINISTER: The Evangelist Luke records that the first Christians "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers," and that "all who believed were together, and had all things in common." Will you, the church, draw these new members into this fellowship that you have in Christ?

CHURCH: We will, in the name of Christ.

MINISTER: Peace and mercy be with you all who walk by this rule.

THE CHARGE TO THE NEW MEMBERS

(Deacon) — "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy, we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. You have been born anew, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding Word of God. So put away all malice and all guile and insincerity and envy and all slander. Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation; for you have tasted of the kindness of the Lord. Be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. To you, therefore, who believe, He is precious. Amen." (selections 1 Peter 1 and 2).

THE RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

(Elders) — right hand of Christian fellowship, presentation of New Testaments and New Member's Manual. Prayer for the deepening of the fellowship (Minister).

COMMUNION WITH CHRIST.

Hymn of spiritual renewal No. 253, "Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts."

Scripture — John 6: 53-58.

Offering.

Offertory Prayer.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP.

The order is duplicated on to suitable worship bulletins (available at Austral Bookroom), so that all can share in the service at the appropriate times. The last service was as follows:

THE BAPTISM INTO CHRIST.

PREPARATION —

Introit, "Jesus, Stand Among Us."

Prayer of Adoration and Confession.

DECLARATION —

The Word of God — Phil. 2: 5-11.

Hymn of Praise No. 25, "Great God of wonders."

Responsive Reading No. 7, "Christ the Good Shepherd."

Baptismal Scripture — Matt. 3: 13-17.

RESPONSE —

The baptisms into Christ (persons named).

Congregational re-affirmation of faith — The Lord's Prayer.

Hymn of Exultation No. 137, "Hail, thou once despised Jesus."

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

PROCLAMATION —

Prayer for receptive hearts.

Scripture.

Sermon.

INVITATION —

Hymn No. 607, "Saviour, thy dying love."

RESPONSE —

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH.

THE RIGHT HAND OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

THE CHARGE TO THE CHURCH (Minister).

MINISTER: The Apostle Paul challenges the disciple Timothy with these

Breaking of Bread and thanksgiving.

Vesper — "Saviour, again to thy dear name."

Benediction — "And now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ."

Congregational Amen (three-fold).

AN EXPLANATION OF THE CONTENTS.

The service is in four parts, each with its own importance. The climax is reached in the communion.

BAPTISM INTO CHRIST.

The service commences with the congregation acknowledging the all-sufficiency of the Almighty and the insufficiency of men. This preparation is followed by the declaration of the saving Acts of God in Christ. The portion chosen is regarded by today's scholars as a pre-Pauline confession formula (see A. M. Hunter's *Paul and His Predecessors*, and O. Cullmann's *Early Christian Worship*).

During the hymn of praise the minister leaves the platform and enters the baptistery. Distinctive baptismal dress is worn by both male and female candidates. It appears that the Early Church gave careful attention to baptismal dress, seeing in the dress a symbol of the act itself. Scholars see allusions to this in the metaphorical language of Rom. 13: 12, Col. 3: 9, Eph. 4: 22, 1 Peter 2: 1. One of these readings, with its context, is often used in the baptistery, prior to the baptisms. Each candidate is prayed for individually. The congregation remains standing silently through the baptisms. The Lord's Table remains central, but in a lower position. The responsive reading before the baptisms, with the Lord's Prayer after, is an attempt to link the church members with the act of baptism: with each new baptism, we are baptised afresh into our calling in Christ. We commenced this part of the service on a Christ-centred note; we end it on the same (the minister leaves the baptistery at this point).

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

Our attention turns to the non-committed. But the gospel is not only for the non-committed; it is for us all. It stands between the two great acts of baptism and communion, as a challenge to the non-committed, and as an act of renewal for the committed.

THE RIGHT HAND OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

The charge to the church reminds the congregation of its solemn responsibility as the fellowship of the redeemed. The Scripture chosen as a charge to the new member is pos-

sibly a baptismal exhortation used in New Testament times. The Epistles abound with such charges. (One of the finest introductions to a study of this subject can be found in the *Expository Times*, Sept. 1960, p. 359). The New Member's Manual is an attractively illustrated folder prepared by the church secretary, and contains information about the local church and the brotherhood.

COMMUNION WITH CHRIST.

As in the ancient practice, the offering precedes the communion (see

The Glory of Christian Worship, by G. E. Osbourn). Thus having offered ourselves, we are ready to receive the Bread of Life once more. Where members of the family of the newly baptised are members of the church, we arrange for them to sit with the new members on this great occasion.

The final prayer of the congregation is the three-fold Amen, which seems to re-echo the meaning of the whole service. "Yes! Yes! Yes! . . . we have beheld the glory of the only Begotten of the Father . . ."

THE MINISTRIES OF OUR



Federal President's Message

Mrs. Nerida McLane,
15 Torwood-st., Toowong, Qld.

To the women of our Churches throughout Australia, the Federal Women's Council sends greetings in the name of our Master. At the commencement of each year many of us find great comfort in the words of the Apostle Paul, "Forgetting those things that are behind, we press forward to the mark of our high calling in Jesus Christ."

Many of us realise that during the year that has gone we have indeed failed to reach the mark. May the earnest prayer of each sister for the ensuing year be:

"O Jesus Christ, grow thou in me,
And all things else recede
My heart be daily nearer thee,
From sin be daily freed.
Make this poor self grow less and less,
Be thou my life and aim.
O, make me daily, through thy grace,
More meet to bear thy Name."

Let us ever keep before us the ideal of the Christian Women's Fellowship, to unite women in worship, prayer, fellowship and service.

Programme for 1963

Theme:

"SHARING TOGETHER"

Sharing in Grace Divine — Phil. 1: 1-11.

A Fellowship in Prayer — Eph. 3: 14-21.

Together We Serve — 1 Cor. 3: 1-9.

We Build Each Other Up — Rom. 14: 13-23.

The Strong Helping The Weak — Rom. 15: 1-7.

A Test of Our Profession — James 2: 14-20.

Dorcas; Faith Translated into Service — Acts 9: 36-43.

The Test of Brotherly Love — James 2: 1-9.

Sharing One Another's Burdens — Gal. 6: 1-10.

Recipe for Christian Living — Matt. 5: 13-16.

The Crucial Test of All Living — Matt. 25: 31-46.

—
Editress, Federal Women's Activities,
The Australian Christian, Mrs. Noela
McLucas, 139 Birdwood-rd., Carina,
S.E.7, Brisbane.



Aborigines Mission material for this special issue was supplied by J. Keith Robinson, Sec., Federal Aborigines Mission Board.

In our issue of Nov. 20, 1962, we included a telegram concerning the closing of the Willis-Mason mission at Kellerberrin, W.A. From further information since received we note that, of the total of 100 decisions (including 13 reconsecrations), 70 came from Aborigines, who attended the meetings in large numbers. There were 52 baptisms during the mission. Since the special effort ended, the Aborigines have preferred to constitute a church in a location most suitable to them, and of the remaining white folk, 24 immersed believers are forming a church in the Kellerberrin-Doodlakine district. Estimated cost for the 5½ weeks' effort was £380 (about £180 of it for advertising and electricity). Contributions and thank-offering totalled £350.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Fallen Asleep

Mrs. I. Kerrison, Oakleigh, Vic.

Discipleship

Lucille and Wendy Bradshaw, Robyn Wilkinson, Kaye Fuller, Carolyn Hatchard, Peter Field, Ian Crawley, Trevor Pedlar, Wayne Turnbull, Lindsay Johnson, Hampstead Gardens, S.A.

Carol Grainger, Brighton, Vic.

Beverley Loe, Shepparton, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, M. Lenehan, D. Wild, C. Wild, P. West, G. Bannister, Burwood, N.S.W.

Mr. Williams, Bruce Herdman, Oakleigh, Vic.

Dorothy DeCeff, Murray Bridge, S.A.

Mrs. Bryant, Mrs. Pilmore, Strathalbyn, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Addison, Mrs. Brooker, Mary Russell, Carramar, N.S.W.

Shirley and Bernard Treed, Reg. Sherlock, Mrs. Watt, Maureen Murrell, Angela Watt, Lesley Johnston, Linda Johnston, Wendy Lunn, Fairfield, N.S.W.

Membership

Mr. and Mrs. N. Skewes, from Ormond; Mr. and Mrs. B. Huntsman, jr., from Brighton; Mr. and Mrs. M. Robb, from South Melbourne; Mr. and Mrs. G. Smith, from North Williamstown - Sunshine to Glen Waverley, Vic.

F. Brown, Red Cliffs to Brighton, Vic.

Dawn McGregor, Richmond to Malvern, Vic.

Mrs. Wade, from Epping; Mr. and Mrs. Lonergan, from Kurri; Miss Tooth, Miss Davis and Miss Dunn, from Ashfield to Burwood, N.S.W.

Mrs. R. Bartlett, Milang to Strathalbyn, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Neal, to Tamworth, N.S.W.

Marriage

Edna Hendy to John Timmins, jr., Northcote, Vic.

Elaine Owers to Terry Smith, Inverell, N.S.W.

Joy Tucker to Don Smith, Caulfield, N.S.W.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Corrigin. — Mr. and Mrs. Newcombe, Beverley and Warren, and Mrs. Shadbolt fellowshiped with church during long weekend, and Mr. Newcombe presided a.m. B.S. anniversary held at Tipton's farm. Barbecue tea was enjoyed by everybody. Items given by all-age groups. Presentation of prizes made by Mrs. Newcombe and fine display of slides screened by Ken Tipton. Evening closed with session of singing. Visitors were from Perth, Mukinbudin and Corrigin. Anniversary marked 12 years of B.S. work by church in Corrigin districts. George Yeats fellowshiping with church during harvest.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Burwood (A. G. Elliott, M.A., Ph.D., B.Sc., Dip.Ed.). — B.S. anniversary services attracted large gatherings Dec. 9 and 12. Dramatic presentation of theme, *And There Was Light*, organised by Mrs. Leach, and verse-speaking choir trained by Mrs. Talbot Smith were notable features. F. Elliott conducted school choir in rendering appropriate Christmas music. C.W.F. entertained blind ladies of Light House, and visited Ashwood House and Winterbourne Aged Folks' Homes with Christmas cheer and gifts. Boys' Brigade display successful. Youth tea and service, Dec. 2, when 4 young men were baptised. Another was baptised on 16th. Visiting preachers have included Messrs. Holmes (Hurstville) and Eagling (New Hebrides). Fellowship also enjoyed with Sis. Pauline Jones and Annie Toka (New Hebrides).

Hornsby. — Combined prayer meeting with the local Baptists held in chapel, Dec. 5, conducted by V. Dallinger. B.S. Christmas tree held 15th. Y.P. conducted gospel service 16th, and address was given by Ron. Bartholomew. Church looks forward to commencement of ministry of R. Hilford.

Inverell.—Combined C.W.F. breakup party, Dec. 4, in Methodist building. Mr. Evans (C. of E.) conducted devotional service prior to party. All Protestant churches of district represented. Elaine Owers and Terry Smith honored prior to their marriage and leaving district.

B.S. Christmas tree Dec. 14. Two trees were in the hall, one from which Santa distributed presents, the other tree on which were hung money bags by the children for powdered milk for children of India. Boys' and girls' club celebrated breakup with matinee and high tea on 15th. Y.P. joined with other church groups in combined barbecue, on Inverell station property, for Christmas festivities and breakup.

Tamworth (F. D. Craig). — C.M.S. held Christmas tea on Dec. 3, with N. Flint (Gilgandra) speaker. Two have been welcomed into membership. B.S. Christmas party held 8th. C.W.F. Christmas meeting on 10th addressed by D. Craig; gifts exchanged. Richard Scott left recently to work in New Zealand.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Hampstead Gardens (K. B. Marriott). — Decision Sunday, Dec. 2, followed series of instruction by minister, and resulted in 10 decisions for Christ. Northfield Hospital visited, Christmas cheer and gifts being distributed to patients. Breakup parties for B.S. dept.'s held. Baptismal service, Dec. 16, attended by 180.

Clovelly Park. — Youth tea, with A. Catchpoole speaker. C.W.F. invited pensioners to Christmas breakup C.E. hike and trip to Minda Home. C.Y.F., C.W.F., G.L.B., packed food parcels for India.

Murray Bridge (H. Cave). — 50 men shared father and son dinner, sponsored by C.M.S. Sgt. Schwerdt (of local police) gave challenging talk, facing all men with responsibilities to their children. B.S. girl baptised Dec. 9. C.W.F. held combined Christmas social. Groceries were brought for Social Service Dept.

Prospect (A. J. Griffiths). — Dec. very busy month, most groups concluding year's activities with breakup functions. Offerings taken at most meetings for Christmas Bowl. Elders plan this year to hold instruction classes for presidents, readers, etc., and Board of Officers will hold special meeting in Jan. to plan work for year. Plans in hand for the Boys' Brigade, which has been in recess, to re-commence early in New Year.

Strathalbyn (W. J. Philp). — Y.W.F. held Christmas social. Two ladies received into fellowship, following baptism, also one by transfer. Church witnessed baptism Dec. 9, and a lady made her confession at close of service.

VICTORIA

Brighton (S. H. Wilson). — After-school discipleship classes for intermediates well attended, with average of 15 on 3 weekly sessions. Church Budget target achieved for last 7 months. School brought gifts in Dec. for distribution by "Uncle Charlie." Miss Bev. Lewis leaving early Jan. to serve in Hong Kong as teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Kenner, snr., Mrs. M. Davey and Miss Wendy Morris returned from overseas trips. Young lady baptised and received into membership, also gentleman by letter of transfer. Christmas carol service by choir well attended. C.S.F. conducted annual Christmas mail day, proceeds to aid Remembrance Bowl Appeal.

Glen Waverley (R. W. Marshall). — New families welcomed into fellowship; membership now 155. Attendances at all services continue to encourage. Average communicants 114. School and auxiliaries attendances good. Church preparing for mission early next year, additional prayer meetings arranged. Sis. Rolls very ill. School anniversary a success. Overall church accommodation now heavily taxed. Average offering £75. Church looks forward to new year of service and witness.

Hamilton (A. B. Clark). — Elected at annual church meeting: deacons, F. Leishman, E. Bannam, J. Baulch, S. Witham, T. Trimnell, W. McVernon, W. G. Hadden; sec., R. Snibson; treas., J. Elston; deaconesses, Mrs. R. Macpherson, Mrs. F. Leishman, Mrs. W. G. Hadden, Mrs. C. Jones, Mrs. S. Witham; auditor, J. Dean; organists, Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. Marchant, Mrs. K. Wilson, H. Bannam; C.F.A. agent, Mrs. W. G. Hadden; A.C. agent, Mrs. T. Trimnell. Church av. attendance: 76 a.m.; 45 p.m.; communicants, 69. Decisions for year 14.

Malvern. — Church and B.S. picnic, Dec. 2, at Belgrave Heights. Temple Day offering £258. Soloists during month, Mrs. F. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. M. Woff. C.W.F. had successful party. Church and school combined for enjoyable Christmas social, Dec. 13. Miss I. Mitchell back at church after illness. Other members still ill.

Chelsea (C. G. V. Thomas). — Church offerings increasing, establishing records. Church enjoyed Christmas breakups. C.W.E.F. met Dec. 5 for hairdressing demonstration. C.W.A.F. met at home of Mrs. Collins for last meeting of year. Father Christmas came to cradle roll, kinder and primary party and gave gifts to children. Explorers had successful evening at final rally for Explorers. For Silver Cup awarded to Champion Club of Vic., Chelsea boys were 2nd with 108 points, and

won pennants for best club in Beach Zone and Worship Month activities. B.S., Good Companions and Explorers had Christmas party and prizegiving night, 18th. One boy and two young ladies made confessions of faith at p.m. services.

Carnegie (L. G. Chapman - interim). — 5 Y.P. baptised Dec. 2 and welcomed into fellowship 9th. Bev. Keeline welcomed at service after accident. Y.P.F. after-church fellowship addressed by L. Chapman. Song services prior to p.m. meetings popular. Matron Button given presentation prior to marriage. All auxiliaries held happy Christmas functions. Young Explorers won Zone Competition. W. Manning, Mrs. Hall and Miss Hargreaves ill. Sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Sutton in loss of father. Ladies' apron parade and sale yielded £72. Mrs. McCarty resigned after several years as P.B.P. chaplain, and Mrs. Couper as leader of Good Companions. P.m. service Dec. 16 featured ladies' choir, soloists, quartette, also Scripture reading by various folk. Elderly Citizens' group entertained at after-church fellowship. Presentation made to L. Chapman, and appreciation expressed of his interim ministry. Evening held at home of church sec., A. Galletly, 14th, to enable officers to meet incoming minister, R. Hillbrich, Mrs. Hillbrich and family.

Colac (B. Dowsett). — Highlights have been B.S. anniversary, united service with Baptists, which was broadcast, and E. L. Williams (Principal, C.O.B.) preached. Mr. Williams addressed other churches during day and screened film at united after-church service, on World Church Aid. Miss Jan Hunting spoke p.m. 9th, and showed slides of New Guinea work. Clubs and B.S. held breakup socials. H.M. offering £25/5/-.

Gardiner (F. A. Youens). — Y.P. had charge of p.m. service Dec. 16, when the *Story of the Nativity*, as told by Joseph, was portrayed in song, film and recitation, helped by Youth Choir. Kinder and primary Christmas party held 15th. K. J. Clinton has been invited to undertake an interim ministry commencing March, 1963. All auxiliaries held end-of-year meetings.

Shepparton (T. A. Fergusson). — C.W.A.F. visited patients in the public wards of the Base Hospital each month, and made their last visit for the year their Christmas visit, taking extras, including picture books for children. Teenage girl baptised at G.S. on Dec. 2, and married woman made her decision at same service. Film, *Tomorrow*, based on automation, was screened on Dec. 13, and some helpful discussion followed.

Northcote (A. B. Withers). — Kinder Christmas tree, Dec. 1. After

gospel service on 2nd, presentation made to J. Timmins and Miss E. Hendy. On 16th, Walt. Lanz (U.S.A.) a.m. speaker, and at night Christmas service held, with special items from choir. After service, K. Furlong (U.F.M.) spoke and screened film concerning Papua and New Guinea. Retiring offering taken for work. Play, *The Inn at Bethlehem*, was produced and performed by Ivanhoe Y.P. on 19th. Offering for Christmas Bowl taken. Carl Hendy, still on crutches, but progressing favorably.

More Flexible Ministry Needed

The restriction of the ministry of the Church to a full-time paid professional group is hampering the witness of Christianity, the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches was told recently.

A report presented by the Division of World Mission and Evangelism said that in modern society and unevangelised areas where the Church must move swiftly, a variety of new forms of ministry is needed.

It mentioned several modifications of the traditional ministry. In Hong Kong a group of men in the Anglican Church have been ordained as an auxiliary ministry, but have remained in their secular vocations.

"In the area where they work, the number of village congregations has quadrupled in a period of twelve years," the report stated. "This rapid growth would have been impossible if it had depended upon the finding of additional paid workers."

"The Church was constituted as a community sent into the world to continue Christ's work of reconciling men to the Father," the paper pointed out. "There have been periods when Christians have forgotten this. They have regarded the Church as a fixed institution rather than a mobile expedition."

This static thinking about the Church is being challenged, the committee was told. The challenge comes from Asia and Africa "where Christians have been confronted with the enormous task of bringing the knowledge of Christ to hundreds of millions who have never heard of him."

The study, a result of several consultations and surveys, was conducted by Dr. Wilfred Scopes, Division of World Mission and Evangelism, New York. The paper presented came out of a conference held earlier this year at Arnoldshain, Germany. The proposals do not imply there is no longer a need for a full-time professional ministry, nor that the training of the ministry is unimportant, the Committee was told. — E.P.S., Geneva.

Qld. Preparations

M. H. A. Pieper.

The Federal Conference Arrangements Committee, under the leadership of G. V. Haigh (Fed. President), held its first meeting last November. Members of the committee were enthusiastic in getting down to preliminary planning for the Conference to be held in Brisbane in 1964.

The appointment of officers and conveners to handle various aspects of the great variety of work involved was the major item on the agenda. The following appointments were made: Sec., Arrangements Committee, L. Brooks; Asst. Sec., Mrs. E. W. Potter; Treas., W. W. McDowell. Conveners: Buildings and Ushering, H. J. Horne; Registrations and Accommodation, H. D. Farmer; Catering, Mrs. H. McLane; Music, K. Hack; Floral, Mrs. W. Finger; Tours and Transport, J. H. McCormick; Publicity, M. H. A. Pieper. The conveners have power to co-opt helpers, and will be responsible to bring progress reports to the Arrangements Committee from time to time.

OPEN FORUM

MISSIONS AND W.C.C.

The Sudan Interior Mission, which has over one thousand missionaries in the vast area of Africa between Nigeria and Ethiopia, in a recent pamphlet states: "The churches which have come into being as a result of the ministry of evangelical missionaries are now facing a new problem—Ecumenism. The inviting approach to these younger churches by the World Council of Churches completely ignores or by-passes the Mission organisations concerned—proving a temptation and in some cases a snare! These churches have generally been more conservative than the church at home. It is to be hoped that they will not now be deceived and drawn into the W.C.C. Probably no greater time of danger has come upon the Christian Church than the present, when men who call themselves Christian resort to theological double talk to achieve Christian union, and when faith cannot be distinguished from doubt by the language it uses, using evangelical words to permit liberal interpretations that have already misled many."

This pamphlet also says: "Consider the amazing story of evangelical missionary enterprise outside the sphere of the W.C.C. They now support thirty thousand missionaries in 110 lands—throughout the world. Sixty per cent of all Christian missionary work being done today is under the auspices of these enterprises." This is certainly "food for thought."—J. A. Wilkie, Ballarat, Vic.

DEATH

DAVIES. — At the Maryborough Hospital, Vic., on Dec. 18, 1962, Eliza Ellen, dearly loved wife of Gomer, devoted mother of Nellie (Mrs. A. Bursill), Fred and Clarrie; loved mother-in-law of Arthur, Mavis and Jessie; loving grandmother of Les., John and Robert, Allan, Dennis, Barry, Ken and Shirley. "In God's care."

IN MEMORIAM

BARNES. — Loving memories of our dear mother, Clara, wife of Ted Barnes, Brighton, Vic., dear mother of Myrle and Jack Hattersly, Wes. and Elsie Barnes (Carnegie) Hazel and Charl. Manton (Stanhope), Olive (dec.), grandma of Rowley Piper, Hal Hobbs and Wes. Manton. Died at Will H. Clay Hospital, Dec. 29, 1957.

BUCKINGHAM. — Ever dear memories of my dearly loved eldest son, Edward Marcel (Ted.), died result of accident, Jan. 11, 1933, aged 22 years. "Some time we'll understand."

—Ever remembered by his loving mother, Florence Buckingham, 40 Emma-st., Caulfield, Vic.

GOLDSWORTHY. — Treasured memories of our loving mother and father — Amelia, Jan. 2, 1954, and Reginald, Jan. 12, 1941. "Sweet peace the gift of God's love."

—Inserted by their sons and daughters.

BIRTH

STORAY (Sewell). — Phyllis and Bert happily announce the arrival of Jennifer and Mark's baby sister — Michelle Lynne — on Dec. 9, at Preston C. H., Vic.

APPRECIATION

CHAPMAN. — On the passing of my dear mother into God's care, at the age of 94 years (Dec. 1, 1962), who was Mrs. A. F. Chapman, at Churches of Christ Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh, I would like to pay a tribute of gratitude and thanks to the Staff and friends who contributed so much in reading to my mother, and making her life so much easier and happier when she became blind. Especially Matron Gall, Mrs. Kempster, and the visiting minister from Oakleigh church. She was always grateful for the wonderful care and attention, which I noticed on my many visits. May God use them further to bless many others as they did my dear mother. From a very grateful heart, R. O. Chapman (Police Matron).

RUBY WEDDING

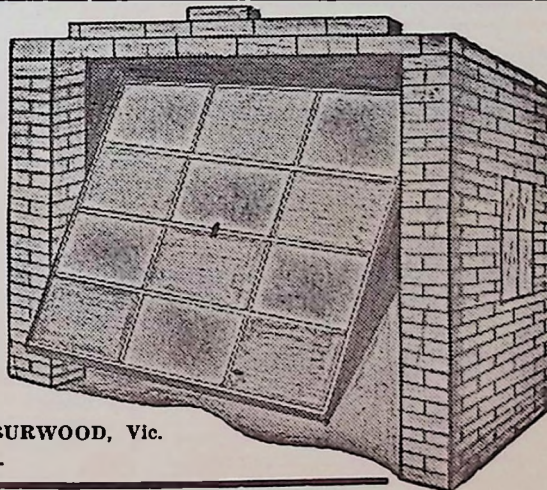
HILL. — Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Hill, 5 Harry-st., Thornbury, Vic., have pleasure in announcing the 40th anniversary of their marriage, conducted by Chas. Young at Bet Bet, Vic., on Dec. 14, 1922.

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Massive free distribution of Scriptures tends to give the impression of the low value of the Scriptures. Then, if large numbers are discarded, as is often the case in such distributions, large numbers of people may come to the conclusion that the Christian gospel is of small value, and an additional barrier may thus be raised to its future entrance into their lives.

The Bible Society continues to regard the principle of sale, in contrast to methods of free distribution, as the soundest and most steadily dependable principle. "At a price he can afford, however poor he may be." It is this principle that requires the continuing and increased giving of our friends.

The vast majority of Scriptures available on the many missionary fields of the world are sold at a fraction of their cost of production. There recently came off the printing press in Australia an attractive little booklet — The Gospel of Mark and the First Epistle in John, in the Kyaka language, for the Australian Baptist Foreign Mission in the Western Highlands District of the Territory of New Guinea. The actual cost of production was 5/6 per copy — it will be available to the natives for 1/6.

"If you are prepared to lose 4/-, why not 5/6 and give it away?" some may ask.

Because it would violate our very principle "to sell"; for the native who pays 1/6 or less for his copy is paying the sum which represents the amount he can afford. Moreover, in doing this he indicates that his interest in the book has been aroused. The soil is partly prepared for the entering of "the seed."

What happens to the profits made in the Bible Houses of Australia and those parts of the world where people have to pay a reasonable price for their book, and rightly so?

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steady flow of free grants of Scriptures characterises the normal activities of the Society.

Publicity is not sought, though scarcely one Committee meeting goes by without authority being given for further free grants of Scriptures to some worthy cause. In this matter, high priority has always been given to Prisons, Gaols, Reformatory Institutions, Homes for unmarried mothers, Boys' Homes, inmates of Homes for Aged, Hospitals, Hotels, etc., etc. Moreover, the Society has from its commencement made the friendly gesture of a gift of the Greek and Hebrew text to all theological students in Colleges of all denominations. Here we come to a policy which seems to contradict all that has already been expressed, yet it must be made clear that the Society has always, since its very inception, made free grants of Scriptures in special and deserving cases.

A review of the past years, in Victoria alone, would show that the free distribution of Scriptures has been constant, generous and extensive.

OBITUARY

Mrs. C. Whalan.

The church at Fairfield, N.S.W., has lost a zealous worker in the Home call of Mrs. C. Whalan, who had been in active association with Churches of Christ since 1921, when she and her husband were baptised and welcomed into the church at Loftus Park. For many years she served with this church as B.S. teacher and C.W.F. sec. She later transferred with her family to Fairfield, where she continued in active fellowship until the time of her death. As well as being able to share her thoughts in a public way at meetings, Mrs. Whalan was expert in needlework and knitting, and woollen rugs from her hand have gone to our home and overseas fields. Just prior to her being taken to hospital in her last illness, she had almost completed crocheting a cloth for the communion table at Fairfield. Funeral services at the chapel and graveside were conducted by E. Plenderleith and D. Wakeley. We commend to our Heavenly Father her husband (C. Whalan), her daughters (Mrs. Collingwood and Mrs. J. Clelland), her sons (Rowland and Owen), and the other relatives, confident that they have the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.—E. F. G. McIlhagger.



W. F. Alton, after a number of ministries in various parts of England, has begun his duties in the newly created post of Regional Secretary, and will serve our churches in the Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffordshire area.

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