

W. Frame

THE AUSTRALIAN Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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THE TOWNSVILLE STORY

ONE YEAR OF MINISTRY

R. N. Gilmore, B.A.

Our little car was laden to the hilt; atop, the roofrack held a child's playground and a hundred other miscellanias; within, the luggage stowed between the seats was topped with a cot mattress bringing it to the level of the back of the seats, and, on top of all this, in an excited sprawl, three children. After four thousand miles in our various wanderings northwards, we crossed the railway at the unprepossessing Stuart on Thursday, April 26, 1962, and turned for the drive into the city. Soon, a utility, travelling in the opposite direction, gave us a hail, and in a minute we were meeting friendly hands and welcoming faces, for these had come to greet and escort us for the final few miles of our journey.

Over the Ross River — not much water in it, we noted — and then a few turns and one incredibly pot-holed street — it has since been bitumened! — the tennis court on the corner, and there was the manse and our home. Our eager eyes took in every detail, and we were not disappointed with what we saw, but soon somewhat dismayed to find the place so bare within — the furniture was yet en route from Brisbane and for four days we were to sleep on the floor — what a blessing those mattresses had come through! The bareness of the house faded before the warmth of the welcome from the ladies with their friendship and fellowship and, of course, a cup of tea.

Then came our official welcome, outdoors on the spreading lawns beneath the graceful palms. Speaker after speaker, each with meaning and

emotion, told of what our coming meant, and there developed an inescapable atmosphere that this was a God-willed occasion. The aura seemed to carry over into the induction service the following morning. There the right hand of fellowship was given in all the simplicity of the act, but with all the love and genuineness of the fact of fellowship. J. H. McCormick (Qld. Conf. Pres.) challenged both minister and congregation in their joint task of ministry.

All that was twelve months ago — one year of ministry, and now we look back.

There have been difficulties, as one would expect in any church where

distances form such barriers to fellowship. Brisbane is just on one thousand miles south by road; to the north Ingham, the next township, is seventy miles, and we have no work there; in fact there is no Church of Christ north of Townsville at all. To the west Charters Towers lies some eighty miles, and sixty miles south is Ayr; these two are our nearest neighboring Churches of Christ. Such isolation inevitably leads to isolationism. There have been problems arising from the lack of resident full-time ministry for some years, and the accompanying slowness of acceptance of the ministry and the lack of skill in the handling of a ministry. There have been problems arising from the lack of experience in other churches, within the membership. BUT, and here's the point, although these problems do not all lie in the past, all these problems do not add up to anything greater, or perhaps as great, as those problems which I have experienced in the churches of the south.

For nine months this church met for its services under the manse. Their worship area had a six foot ceiling and was punctuated by twelve inch square house stumps every eight feet or so. While the preacher ducked his head to miss the beams as he preached, the congregation peered at him round the stumps and, in turn ducked their heads and tilted their hymn books to gain more light as they stood up to sing. But, here, under circumstances which would be considered by many quite impossible, here, there was a reality of worship all too seldom experienced, and here, there was witness and here, decisions for Christ. Here, Sunday School, Christian Endeavor and Christian Women's Fellowship — all the richness of church auxiliary life went on almost unhindered, and the cause of Christ prospered.

Then came a new building! Few people in this northern church will forget the moving service of the "turning of the sod" to mark the beginning of the building operations, and fewer still will forget the day of opening and the inspiration of the presence of Principal E. L. Williams as our guest over that weekend in September.

Now, of what shall I write since the move into this lovely all-purpose hall? Shall I write of the Sunday School with its increasing enrolment nearly every week, with its upward movement in standards and teaching, and its new outreach into teenage Christian Education group activity? Or shall I write of the Christian Women's Fellowship and the new stimulus in this work, the increasing tempo not simply of activities but of impact through friendship cultivation — but one



R. N. Gilmore, B.A.

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C. G. Taylor, B.A., Editor.

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could not enumerate the lengthening list of highlights of this work of dedicated women. Or, again, shall I write of Christian Endeavor and the service of young people to the church, of their gifts of a piano, a dozen chairs and two electric fans? Or shall I write of the part played in inter-church activity through Fraternal, Women's World Day of Prayer, Christian Endeavor, and so on?

In spite of the impressive story that could be told in these spheres, it is not of these that I wish to write, but of the changing face of this congregation. It is not alone new faces that impress one on looking back, but the change in the old, for here in this northern centre is a growing congregation. Growth in number is only secondary; here growth is primary, for it is growth of stature and spirit. As one remarked, "I'm growing and I don't like it!" but the growth goes on, and there emerges a new spirit of fellowship enlarging and out-reaching for the Kingdom of God. Herein lies the hope for the future — in the new spirit of acceptance and fellowship in Christ. New families have moved in and found themselves at home, and what this means to Townsville is best expressed in an exclamation given voice following the arrival of some new members by transfer, "God is sending us reinforcements!" Under the impetus of this enlarging heart, it is no wonder that we are able, in coming down to the secondary level of growth, to report that on a recent Sunday those breaking bread at the Lord's Table reached what is a record high for many years, fifty-one. To God be all the praise and glory! And this record is sure to stand but a short time, as yet more folk move into the city.

Church life is expanding in keeping with the tempo of the city, and Churches of Christ are abreast of the moves, thanks to the tenacity of the few who held this work together through long, tough years, and to the foresight of those who, in this day, saw the potential and, joining hands through Federal and Queensland Home Mission resources, established a ministry of New Testament witness in the developing north. Let it be said bluntly that, were it not for this co-operation of Federal and State Home Missions, today's chapter in the Townsville story could not be written!

One year of ministry lies behind: what lies ahead? We cannot tell; the future chapters of this story lie hid in the mystery of the purposes of God, but this we know, the future is as big as we like to make it — that "we" means all of us, for we are all — the whole Australian brotherhood — in this mutual ministry together, to the end that his name might be glorified!

Catering For The Converted

The retiring Dean of Ridley College, Melbourne, has been in the news with some biting comments on church life in Australia. One with which many would agree affirmed that "the Church seems to be catering more for the converted than for those who need converting." This is the kind of statement we would expect from the man who headed the Victorian committee for the Billy Graham Crusade. It is in line with widespread criticism of the modern Church as being too ingrown, too self-absorbed.

The Editor of *The British Weekly* has put it this way: "God is never on trial. But his Church always is. It is in fact dramatically on trial now. The Christ of yesterday, today and tomorrow can stand all the analysis in the world and emerge triumphant in his world. But his Church must do more than stage manage." He looks at the kind of situation that confronts the Church today — "the appalling popularity of the trivial, the growing dissemination of the pornographic in the name of art . . . the pathetic explaining away of sin in the name of understanding . . . the sanctification of weapons of mass destruction in the name of civilisation and of Christianity" — and asks whether the Church is adequate for the facing of such a challenge and opportunity.

Questions like this need to be asked — and sometimes they spring from the frustration of those who feel that all their words have only bounced off the sound-proofed smugness of many of their fellow-Christians. Admittedly, there is much to cause us serious concern about the Church's witness in the modern world — and to join the critics seems to many an effective answer to the charges of complacency and self-righteousness. But it can be carried too far — and sometimes is today, when it's the vogue to be critical of the Church from within.

We have indulged in our own measure of self-criticism, and will do so again. But it is a tragedy if an awareness of what is wrong with the Church blinds us to what is gloriously *right* about the Church. One wonders how the Church which some of its inside critics talk about could ever have been the missionary force of the last two centuries, sending consecrated men and women, with the printed Bible, into every part of the earth. How could such a Church ever have been responsible — as it undoubtedly was — for many social changes, bettering the lot of mankind? How could it have been the one world body to maintain a real fellowship across the frontiers of two world wars? How could such a cosily insulated Church ever have cared enough to do what is still being done in the name of Christ for refugees and dispossessed? Surely, the Holy Spirit

is doing more in our midst than we sometimes give him credit for!

Yes — let us have "eyes wide open to the mercies of God" — present as well as past — even while we face honestly our own weaknesses. The full reports of what is said at world church gatherings show that, at the top, there is by many a realistic awareness of what is implied in the Church's total ministry to the world. But it is at the local level that we so often fail. The converted need to be cared for — but their spiritual needs and physical amenities are only the *beginning* of our task.

RECONSECRATIONS

If reports reaching this journal are any guide, it is increasingly becoming the practice in our churches to make an appeal for public reconsecrations, as well as first decisions and restorations. This happens in some gospel services, as well as in missions and similar special campaigns. By contrast, mission reports in our "Fifty Years Ago" columns show that their statistics were only concerned with first decisions and restorations — in addition to those added to the church as previously baptised believers.

Why the call for public reconsecration? On what New Testament authority? And why sometimes the misleading inclusion of such figures in the overall total results of a mission? Are we too "figure-conscious" — too wedded to the worldly view that unless we can bolster our "results" figure to its maximum, we shall be thought to have failed?

At their best, such figures are an inadequate guide, anyway. In any church or mission congregation there are certainly those whose response to the calls for deeper levels of consecration is none the less sincere because they happen to agree with this writer that a public act of reconsecration is unnecessary. Instead, they may prefer to talk with their minister about it, and seek his guidance on ways in which they can "earth" that sense of deeper commitment in the life and work of the church.

Admittedly, there are some temperaments among churchgoing folk that might well find spiritual help by "going to the front" again. No preacher would deny the opportunity to those who, for genuine reasons, wished to do so. But there is a big difference between meeting that situation and encouraging it — no, *urging* it, as though such an act is in itself spiritually superior to that of the man who, without any such public declaration, has nonetheless sincerely renewed his personal commitment to his Lord. Must we reduce every spiritual experience to a statistic?

— THE WATER OF LIFE —

Sitting recently in the home of a friend I was attracted to a number of potted plants arranged on a stand. Among them were some beautiful African violets and other indoor plants. One was a coleus, the leaves of which were hanging almost lifeless, and that which should have been a thing of beauty was a pathetic sight to behold. I drew the attention of my hostess to its apparently dying state, and her response was to bring some water and give it a drink. Nothing happened immediately, but next morning there was a complete change in its appearance. The leaves were now full of life and vitality. The real beauty of its coloring could be seen, and it was a joy to behold.

Surely this is a parable of life. Some of us have been privileged to see just such a transformation in human lives. The Water of Life was all that was needed to change a spiritually dead life into one all aglow with divine enthusiasm, and turn a drab, colorless personality into radiant sunshine.

What a difference water can make! I have been reading recently the experiences of some of those intrepid explorers who in the early days open-

Ira A. Paternoster.

ed up the heart of Australia for settlement, and in every case life depended upon the finding of suitable supplies of water. Not a few lost their lives because they could not find it, and some died within a few yards of where it was to be found.

Jesus in his message to the woman of Samaria has a deep and abiding truth for us today. Hear him again as he says to her, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

When visiting India years ago this message came with fresh meaning to me as I motored along a range of mountains, with little sign of vegetation. Suddenly we passed to the other side where there was a complete transformation. The secret was in the waters of the Nira Canal as it flowed, yielding its life-giving gift to the country through which it passed. Human life depends on water. Let the rains cease to fall over a lengthened period, and soon all vegetation dries up and life becomes a

problem for man and beast. In the realm of the Spirit how truly may be seen similar results. In the Adelaide Art Gallery there used to be a painting depicting a sorrowing husband sitting by the bedside of his wife, from whom the spirit has just taken flight. Beside him stands the Comforter, hand resting on his shoulder. In the frame of the picture are the words, "I cannot live without the Man, Christ Jesus." How many of us have passed through a similar experience, but to those in the prime of life when everything is bright and clear, this is none the less true. The Holy Spirit is sent not only to be a Comforter, but he is to lead into all truth. Jesus spoke of himself as the Water of Life. He is available to all and none need perish for lack of this water; yet how many do fail to find its life-giving freshness. Jesus has offered this gift to all who will come and partake. It is free and abundant, and because it is free many pass it by. "Come unto Me," Jesus says, "all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. My yoke is easy and my burden light." May none of us be so foolish as to refuse to come often to drink of this life-giving stream.

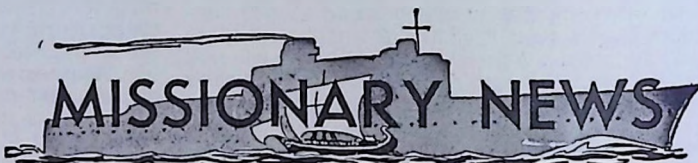
Overseas Mission Board

FACES CRISIS

The Federal Board of Overseas Mission has been greatly concerned and embarrassed over the financial position in the General Account. The Budget compiled in July, 1962, required £70,000 for the ensuing year. Total receipts to date, on the average, show that there will be a deficit of some £10,000 on Budget. However, expenses already are at the rate of £75,000 for year.

This has been brought about by a great upsurge in field expenses, occasioned by expansion of our work in the three fields. The question the Board is asking is, "Will we withdraw in certain areas as we cannot support the expenditure on the present scale?" We have excellent missionary candidates available, including professional men, but finances are restricting our forward view.

We also request the brotherhood to keep in mind when making donations, that in our Missions the major expenditure is on our general work and that often gifts are forwarded for specific projects to the detriment of our General Account.



Supplied by R. S. A. McLean.

Dhorja Annual Convention, April, 1963

Pandhrinath Bhalerao, B.A.

In the year 1949 a small Boys' Home was commenced at Dhorja, with the view of providing education for the poverty-stricken children of village Christians. The purpose was to give them a good start for acquiring a secular education, together with a solid grounding in religious education. These motives have been behind the work over the past fourteen years. The year 1949 is significant for another feature also — i.e., the commencement of a Christian Convention. The city people have a lot of opportunities to enrich their spiritual lives, but in villages the Christians enjoy these privileges very rarely; and hence, taking that need into consideration, Mr. Coventry and the Indian leaders of the area commenced this Convention.

During the last fifteen years, this Convention has fulfilled its purpose, and is a continuous blessing to all Christians of Shrigonda, Dhorja, Bhangaoon, Bhose, Pargaon, Takli, and other neighboring villages. Every year an able speaker with a forthright Christian message, and knowing the village background, is invited. Sometimes the speaker is a "Kiritankar" as well (a "Kiritankar" is a man who presents the gospel through the singing and speaking method of delivering a message). These meetings are a great attraction to the non-Christians. People listen to these messages with rapt attention. On the final day of the Convention some people make their decision to accept the Lord as their personal Saviour, and are baptised.

The meetings take place in the school buildings. On the first day of the meetings when the speaker and guests arrive at the little Mission house on the hill, the village Christians come there with their bhaajan group-singing. (A bhaajan group is

an indigenous group of singers who make a practice of singing and using drums and cymbals for keeping time.) On arrival at the Mission house, they welcome the guest speaker and the other guests by saying, "Salaam," i.e., "Peace." From here all then move off to the school building, and the night meeting commences.

Most of the Christian families of the villages mentioned above contribute grain towards the hospitality for the time that all will attend. This grain is sufficient to feed not just the people of these villages, but the outside visitors also. The food is cooked in a common kitchen and eaten in a common meal of real fellowship. People sleep in the school yard or class rooms. All do their utmost to co-operate and help each other.

After the night meeting the local people and some of the visitors sing bhajans and have discussions at intervals over a cup of tea. These bhajans are often sung right through the night. This is the background and practice of this village convention.

This year the Convention was held from Friday to Sunday, April 5-7, and was a real success and blessing in many ways. H. M. Waghmode and S. P. Hiwale were the speakers. S. N. Surywanshi, a famous "Kiritankar" of Maharashtra, was a third guest speaker. These guests brought really fine messages, befitting the occasion.

When playing outdoor games on the Saturday afternoon, when the non-Christians of the town took part, opportunity was taken to invite them

to the night's "Kiritan." The non-Christians appreciated the "Kiritan" very much, and decided to read some of the books written by Mr. Surywanshi. These books contain a gospel message.

On Sunday ten people were baptised. The baptismal service was followed by the Lord's Table, when about 100 people partook of communion. Mr. Hiwale gave the sermon. After this service a fellowship dinner was given, climaxing three days of rich spiritual fellowship together.

Pandhrihath Bhalerao graduated B.A. (Hons.) from the Ahmednagar University College. He is a full-time worker with the Conference of Churches of Christ in India, assisting B. V. Coventry in literature work.

THE MINISTRIES OF OUR



Interstate News

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Meeting held in Grote-st. chapel on May 2, 1963. President, Mrs. E. Fax, presided. Attendance 179, including 145 delegates and 3 visitors. Visitors welcomed were Miss R. Bradshaw (Hobart), R. Tippet (Whyalla) and J. Luff (Mile End).

The Obituary report was presented by Mrs. Pillar, and prayer by Mrs. Lewis.

This meeting took the form of Home Missions Rally, and Mrs. Bull capably presided over this part of our meeting, assisted by members of the Committee. Mrs. Outlaw read the Scriptures and Mrs. Curtis (Brighton Gardens) rendered two lovely solos. Mr. Luff gave us plenty of food for thought as he brought devotions, leaving this uppermost in our minds — "This is the day of Good News, let us go and tell it." Mr. Tippet told of the rapidly expanding industry and development at Whyalla, and the work and opportunities awaiting the church in this place. It was a very informative and interesting address.

Offering for Home Missions amounted to £21/10/-. Meeting closed with the benediction.—L. Watson, Asst. Sec.

VICTORIA-TASMANIA.

At the first Council meeting following Conference, on May 3, our thoughts were led by Mrs. Morrison, President, 1963-64. "All may suffer, but blessed are they who suffer and remain faithful unto him."

Leader of devotions was Mrs. W. Newham, President-Elect — "Be ye

therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect."

202 women, representing 67 churches, listened to many challenging thoughts presented to them during this meeting.

A warm welcome was extended to new delegates, two interstate visitors, (Mrs. Dale, Mosman, N.S.W., and Miss Hooper, S.A.), and to Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Haskell. Mr. Haskell (Pres., General Conference) brought a greeting and a further challenge — it is the supreme task of the Church "to bring people to Christ."

Eighteen apologies were recorded.

Our President addressed us, presenting a Forward Look on strengthening the home base. Christian Women's Fellowship must have a strong home base and meetings must be conducted in the best possible manner — on time, attractive, educational and inspirational. Further information will be given next month through guest speaker, Mrs. L. T. Williams. No business arose from minutes, or correspondence. Several women endorsed the change of location to St. Kilda Town Hall for Women's Day of Conference, 1963.

Past President, Mrs. Stafford, gave a resume of her visit to Tasmanian C.W.F.'s, during March. Ratification of appointments to Interchurch Council (8), Women's World Day of Prayer (2), National Council of Women (2) and British and Foreign Bible Society (1). Mrs. Mott (Surrey Hills) led the obituary prayer, remembering families and friends of those called Home — Dr. Paul Jenner (Brighton) and Mrs. Davis (Chelsea); also those ill —

Mrs. Duffy, Mrs. Gullidge, Mrs. Preston and Mrs. Geo. Wood (W.A.).

Treasurer's Report — Ludbrook House is now fully paid for because of the fine efforts of our women.— E. M. Rankine, Sec.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Devotions for May were conducted by the Executive, with Mrs. P. Armstrong, new President, leading, assisted by Messrs. Wyss, J. Brown and J. Pallot.

All present were welcomed, visitors being Mrs. D. Hughes (S.A.); Mrs. Harry Manning and Mrs. Guttman; Mrs. Black was welcomed back from her holiday East.

The prayer text was shared from Prov. 3: 5 and 6. Mention was made of the passing of our sister, Miss Gwen Wellings, and Mr. Rattray, during month, and operation of Lynette Sewell. Mrs. Johnston offered prayer on behalf of those who mourn, and God's blessing on the Sewell family in their time of anxiety.

102 sisters from 20 Fellowships were present. Three apologies. Financial statement was read by Mrs. Beck, showing balance of £496/14/9. Prayer was requested for Mrs. E. Wortle-hock, very ill in hospital, and Mrs. Payne, who had had a bad heart attack.

A highlight of the meeting was the Conference Echoes, prepared by Mrs. K. Patterson. Several sisters spoke in appreciation of these. Mrs. Armstrong then had the pleasure of declaring that Mrs. M. Wyss had graciously accepted the position of President-Elect.

Sisters were happy to hear that the Federal Overseas Board had approved that Mrs. K. Ludgater (W.A. Living Link) would visit us during her furlough next year.

The new Home Mission Supt. is Mrs. J. Brown; Hospitality Convener, Mrs. R. H. Richards; Youth Rep., Mrs. R. Thomson.

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— OPEN FORUM —

"UNITED CHURCHES."

All members of our churches should rejoice that the desire for Christian unity has now spread throughout the Churches of the world, including both Protestant and Roman Catholic. This desire is in harmony with the Lord's expressed will, calling forth thanksgiving to God for this attainment. The all important question now presents itself, namely, "What shall the basis for the desired unity be?" This question raises a very vital issue, for if the basis is not the one on which the Church as Jesus gave it to the world, was united — in other words, the Divine basis — it is certain that any alternative basis will be insufficient to fulfil the Divine will and purpose for the Church.

Today, quite generally, reference is made by various church leaders to the intercessory prayer of our Lord in John 17, and particularly to vs. 20, 21 — "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." But we notice the absence of any reference to what the Lord stated as being the basis on which the oneness of his followers might be promoted and sustained. Verses in this chapter, like vs. 6, 8, 14, 17, 19, make it obvious that the oneness of Christ's followers was based upon the inspired Word, received and obeyed, upon the truth revealed and accepted, and upon the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit.

Some years ago, I heard a prominent Geelong minister say, "We already have spiritual unity; but I believe the Lord intends that we should have organic union as well . . . This would demand sacrifices on the part of each Church, not sacrifice of principles, which we should not sacrifice; but sacrifice of those things, which are more or less matters merely of sentiment. For such a worthy objective we should be willing to make this sacrifice."—D. D. Stewart, Boronia, Vic.

Note. — Edited to conform to 300-word limit.



"UNITED CHURCHES."

I feel that the "lithurgy" on Christian union matters which worries G. A. Hearn (A.C., 14/5/63) is more imagined than actual. Why will he not give credit to those among us who do all possible to foster good relations, who share with other communions, who put our plea and position before church councils and conferences? Why will he not thank God that in so many fields of unity

approach Churches of Christ, from local congregations to leadership, have always been out in the lead? Why will he not admit with people of other church bodies that as far as unity is concerned Churches of Christ make as great a contribution as anyone in the Christian world?

The failure to become involved in the discussions leading to the Uniting Church in Australia is not necessarily our fault. At Federal level, we sought to be admitted to the discussions, or as observers, but were refused because the bodies concerned felt that the situation did not make it easy for us to be represented. It is obvious to anyone that the reason behind this was that our stand on believers' baptism, at least, could be an embarrassment.

Now I ask Mr. Hearn, would that have been the point he would desire for us to throw away our historic witness and for the sake of coming into the discussions, simply become driftwood? Let us do this, and what respect would we gain from Christian bodies who are coming to look upon us with friendliness and deeper understanding? This respect is being born of an appreciation of our own stand for what we believe, and our willingness to state it unashamedly and in love. And when the final test comes it will not then be a case of what we will be called upon to give up for the sake of the unity of Christ's body, but a matter of what we have to contribute. And I still believe, as do the bulk of our people, that we do have something to contribute.—E. P. C. HOLLARD, S.A.

Edited to conform to word-limit.



LITERATURE WEEK.

I wish to express my appreciation of the very fine article, "The Gospel, The World, and Literature," by C. L. Smith in the Literature Week issue of The Australian Christian.

Mr. Smith's breadth of perception and informed scholarship in this article greatly overshadowed those of his fellow contributors. It is unfortunate that beneath the impressive, and promising, headings "Christ in the Paperbacks" and "The Christ-figure in Modern Literature," Mr. Longthorp and Mr. Haskell failed to come to grips with the subject in anything like a similar fashion. Mr. Longthorp, in dealing only with the S.C.M. paperback series, ignored the majority of the vast realm of literature currently published in paperback form. What of the works of Alan Paton, Grahame Green, Morris West, Tolstoy, Arthur Miller, or even

Darcy Niland, to name a few whose works are available in cheap paperback editions, and their implications for us Christians? What also of the hard-bitten, brutal paperback criminal-detective, and the popular "six-bob-sexy"? It is a pity that Mr. Haskell instances not one example of a work of modern literature, let alone of the Christ-figure therein, to substantiate his very well written argument. And even more tragic the paucity of the Recommended Book List.

On the title-page of Howard's End, E. M. Forster has written "Only connect . . ." In this ordered world that God brought forth out of chaos nothing occurs without prior cause, nor subsequent effect. Our glimpses are partial and fleeting, but if we connect we will see the full pattern; the working presence of God in the world of men. In his final paragraph Mr. Smith points to the need for Christian publications that will turn our attentions outwards to the wider fields of significance in life. He mentions only literature; there are also world affairs, politics (abroad and at home), science and the arts, all of vital importance. F. G. Morgan, Warragul, Vic.

Editor's Note. — In fairness, it should be noted that Mr. Longthorp and Mr. Haskell between them only had the same space as Mr. Smith (one page), and were therefore necessarily limited in development of their themes.

We appreciate Mr. Morgan's letter, and it is one of our hopes that the new "Australian Christian," with its increased number of pages and editorial staff, will be able to give a lead in covering a wider field of interests.



DIVORCEMENT OF THE ARTISTS.

I wish to endorse the comment found in C. L. Smith's article ("The Gospel, the World, and Literature," A.C., 7/5/63), that "artists and the church community in Australia are pretty much divorced." Mr. Smith deals in particular with writers and film producers, whom he believes are "probing more deeply into the concerns of man and God than many of the official theologians," and who are therefore better able "to interpret faith to contemporary life."

Is this not also true of the growing number of young people associated with our churches who will become the creative artists of our nation — the dramatists, artists, and architects? People of aesthetic temperament are capable not only of reaching near to the heart of God, but of giving us lasting and tangible expressions of their spiritual experiences to aid us less gifted in our religious life; and yet we fail to use them.

I know that there is an increasing use of architects in planning new churches, but do not we continue to restrict them to producing buildings that are artistically static and sterile structures, simply because we want a church to look like the accepted idea of a church building?

Artists are even more remote from us. This was not always so in the church; nor is it so in Europe today, where some of the most dynamic forms of art are found in modern church structures. But in our nation, and particularly in our churches, the time has not yet come when the artist can praise God with his hands.

Equally, the dramatist could do much to help us with the ever-increasing problem of communicating the gospel to modern man. Musicians have fared better (except in anti-organ churches); so also have the singers (even those of doubtful talent!); why not the rest of the artistically talented also? Who has divorced whom? — D. B. McIntosh, Shepparton, Vic.

Lord's Table Meditation

W. J. E. Lewis.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away,
but my words shall never pass
away."

Wonderful and strange words to come from the lips of one who was born in a manger, spent his life among poor folks in humble surroundings, was rejected by his own people, reviled, scourged, spat upon by them and the Roman soldiers, and, when taken before Pilate, was deserted by his own disciples, and finished his earthly life, crucified between two thieves! Had Jesus been only man one would naturally expect that, in a few short years, those prophetic words of his would have been forgotten. But his words, since then, have gone to the uttermost parts of the earth, and have been translated into many tongues, while the demand for the Word of God among the heathen is such that the Bible Society states the supply is not equal to the demand.

Every Lord's Day, at the morning service, we hear the Master's voice ringing down through the ages, "This do in remembrance of me." These words never seem to lose their power or their freshness for all who love the Lord. How many millions of the human race have they encouraged, inspired and comforted! They will continue to do so, till Christ shall come again to receive his own, for he is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Till that time arrives, may his followers continue to "do this in remembrance of me," and count the time thus spent as a precious thing, giving hope and comfort, feeling that he is looking down with favor on all who thus obey his command.

Fifty Years Ago

From "The Australian Christian"

of May 29, 1913.

Editor: F. G. Dunn.

Chapel in a Day, Carnegie, Vic.— For many years past the church in this district has met in a small building in Murrumbena, with inadequate appointments. If over sixty people attended, the place became uncomfortably full. The ground was not even their own, but had been rented. Then, with the coming of A. P. Wilson as preacher, the old building was sold, and a block of land bought in a prominent position near Carnegie station. A new building was discussed, and at last it was decided to erect a new class of building altogether. It was octagonal in shape, and as nearly circular as practicable. On the appointed day the work started at 6 a.m. by the blaze of three electric arc lamps. The workers (over 130) included some members of the Chinese Church, working on the seats. A hitch in the erecting of the first principal of the roof meant a delay, but the work was sufficiently far advanced to allow services on Sunday.

Changing Preachers. — Are frequent changes of preachers good for the churches, or for the cause as a whole? Perhaps no rule can be made applicable to all cases, but, generally speaking, we are satisfied that frequent changes are detrimental. The Christian-Evangelist, in a recent editorial, says: "Pray for your preacher. Pay him a living salary . . . Don't expect perfection of him. If he were perfect he would be mighty lonesome in most churches. But if he is loved, prayed for, appreciated, supported, he will grow toward perfection, and you will be astonished at his increasing power as a minister of Christ's gospel. Do you treat your preacher this way?"

From Here and There. — F. Collins (Auburn, N.S.W.) has accepted an engagement with the church at Paddington, and will begin there in August . . . The work at Prospect, S.A., is going on well. The school is growing; 144 present last Sunday. The work generally is very promising . . . 28 confessions in the Mildura (Vic.) tent mission up to Sunday night last. Six baptised believers have also been received into fellowship, and one has been restored. Altogether, 24 have so far been received at Mildura . . . H. G. Harward expects to conduct a short mission at Erskineville, N.S.W., at the opening of the new chapel, commencing on July 13 . . . Average B.S. attendance at Perth, W.A., during March and April was 235 . . . At Albion, Qld., two allotments of land in a splendid position have been bought for £160 for a future church building.

QUESTING

A. E. White.

Some of the non-members who attend our church and take communion include young people who have gone through our Bible School, but have not made public confession of faith and they have not been baptised. Should they be told not to take the bread and cup until they have fulfilled the New Testament requirements for church membership?

This question concerns real persons, and I shall begin to answer it by referring to a personal experience.

Lauris and Jayne are two young teenagers who called on me to ask if they could take communion. They had grown up in our Bible School. Their parents were not in the church. I talked to the girls about the steps to discipleship and clearly set out the importance of public confession, baptism, and responsible church membership.

After hearing me out, they still asked if they could share in communion without these things, and I gave them my blessing. There may have been family problems in the way of "normal" church membership, or they may have just been scared of the public occasions. However, they did acknowledge, in my presence, their faith in the Christ and their acceptance of him as their Lord. I could see no point in insisting that they should publicly confess their faith and be immersed before they could share in the church's worship. These actions have value only as they are voluntary personal responses.

After some months, without any further discussion, Jayne did "come forward" and she was baptised. Lauris has not done so; indeed, she now rarely comes to church.

You ask if persons like these, and those who are in nominal membership with other churches, but have not been baptised, should be told not to take the bread and cup.

The New Testament requirements for church membership are, I presume, to hear the gospel, to make an inward response, to make public confession of faith, to obey through baptism, to be received into the fellowship of the church, to remember the Lord in the Supper, then to worship, to witness, and to serve in the Spirit.

This is all very logical and neat, and it would be wonderful if the average church member would do everything decently and in order. Unfortunately, as A. R. Main was fond of saying, "The average man is way below average!"

Next Week: More on this question.

HERE AND THERE

K. J. Harvey has accepted the invitation of the Camp Hill (Qld.) church to extend his ministry for a further two years, on completion of his present term, which would conclude in Dec., 1963.

Subscribers to The Australian Christian are advised that the subscription renewal form inserted in the paper last week is for the use of subscribers who have not yet paid their 1963 subscription. Others, please ignore. This notification does not apply to readers who receive their copy through a church agent. Overseas subscribers are reminded that the yearly rate is 32/6.

The church at Albion, Qld., has expressed congratulations to Miss H. Trudgman on securing her Bachelor of Education degree, and to W. Walsh, who recently received his Diploma of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

We congratulate David Pfeifer (Mulvern, Vic.) on receiving the award of Outstanding Apprentice of the Year in sheet metal work.

The 78th anniversary of the church at Ma Ma Creek, Qld., was celebrated on Apr. 27 and 28 with a fellowship tea and special services at which H. G. Sargent (Annerley) was guest speaker. Numerous greetings came from past preachers and members. Visitors were present from Brisbane, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Gatton, Esk, Marburg and Rosevale. Dorothy Howden (N.G. missionary) brought a message. At a "back to Sunday School" service, many past scholars were addressed by Miss Howden and H. Sargent. Members of Gatton church joined in all services. J. A. Rae is the present minister at Ma Ma Creek.

The Vic.-Tas. C.W.F. Council meeting will be held in the Reception Room, Churches of Christ Centre, on Friday, June 7, at 11 a.m. Leader of devotions will be Mrs. A. Cleland and guest speaker, Mrs. L. T. Williams.—E. M. Rankine, Sec.

H. Trotter has been congratulated by the church at North Fitzroy, Vic., on receiving from Her Majesty the Queen the Imperial Service Medal for meritorious service.

A delegation of men's work leaders in U.S.A. churches is visiting Europe to study the factors which have led to the rapid growth of the laymen's movement there since World War II. Headed by Dr. Don L. Calame, director of the National Council of Churches' Department of United Church Men, the six-man delegation will spend a month visit-

ing laymen's centres in Europe. The visit will be returned in 1964 by leaders of men's work in European churches.

At a special meeting of members at Ivanhoe (Vic.), it was unanimously decided to adopt the Official Board's recommendation that an invitation be extended to E. W. Roffey, B.A., of Lane Cove, N.S.W., to minister at Ivanhoe following the close of H. Street's ministry at the end of this year. Notification has been received from Mr. Roffey accepting the call, and the new ministry will commence on Jan. 19, 1964.

New Missionary Farewelled

A farewell service to Miss Dorothea Lake was held in the Subiaco (W.A.) chapel on Wed., May 8, prior to her departure for the New Hebrides on Saturday. A large representative gathering of the brotherhood attended.

A service of dedication was conducted by A. W. Morris (W.A. Conf. Pres.), assisted by J. Gordon, G. Smith and Roy Raymond, who paid tribute to Miss Lake, having known her from childhood. He charged the church at Subiaco to support our sister constantly in prayer, and reminded Miss Lake of the essential need of the companionship of Christ, every day, every hour, in this great service to which she has committed herself. Mr. Raymond spoke of the commencement of the missionary work in the Hebrides and of the urgent need of a teacher to train older girls.

Miss Lake spoke of her definite call to this work. Why God had chosen her she did not know, but she was confident that, if she was obedient to God in his will, he would lead and guide her all the way.

Miss Lake is the church's Living Link, and it has promised to support her to the amount of £300 yearly for three years.

A time of fellowship and supper was enjoyed, several presentations being made by Mrs. Armstrong (Aux. Pres.), Dr. G. Hall (Overseas Missions), Mr. Tinetti (chairman, Church Board) and Miss Phau (Overseas Christian Fellowship). Miss Lake expressed her appreciation for gifts received and also to the many friends and relatives for their gifts for her new home. Every member will be part of a giving and praying team to support Thea as their own Living Link.

New Life Crusade MANNING, W.A.

With praise to God for his providence during the planning stages, the New Life Crusade commenced on Sunday, April 21, when 300 people assembled to hear George Wood's opening address. Good attendances have been maintained even during unfavorable weather conditions, and there are positive signs of increasing interest as the mission progresses. Eighteen confessions had been made at the close of the second week, with still a month to go. Associate evangelist, Bill Bowden, and pianist, Le Donaldson, are combining effectively to promote lively singing and excellent fellowship. Personal follow-up and visitation are being carried out under the leadership of J. K. Bond and encouraging results are being achieved.

The district is a vast one, with tremendous potential, and great interest is being shown by the brotherhood churches, particularly those with similar situations near their own areas. The organisers have attempted to pay attention to all detail and in every way to present the gospel attractively. The sponsoring churches of South Perth and Manning are looking forward with thrilling anticipation to what the Lord may be pleased to do. A further report will be provided as the Crusade proceeds.—J. C. Swift, sec.

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New Buildings Penrith, N.S.W.

It was with great joy and thanksgiving to God that the church at Penrith opened its new building on April 20. Following the opening the C.W.F. served tea, after which the first meeting of a one-week Crusade was held.

During the Crusade nine people responded to God, through inspiring and challenging messages presented by the missionary, E. T. Hart (Bexley North). A special women's meeting was held on the afternoon of April 24, when Mr. Hart spoke to the large gathering.

Thanks of the church is extended to all who made the opening of the new chapel such a memorable occasion and the Crusade such an enriching experience.

Membership of the church (where A. L. Webb, B.A., is ministering) stands at just over 90, 44 of whom have been welcomed into fellowship during the past 15 months. The Bible School and other auxiliaries are flourishing.—J. Wilson.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Miss Pat Arnel to Graeme Turner, Bentleigh, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

W. C. Roffey, Inglewood, W.A.

Mrs. I. Davis, Chinchilla, Qld.

Mrs. L. Davis, Albion, Qld. (late of Chelsea, Vic.).

Discipleship

Mary Blakemore, J. McMahon, P. Smith, E. Knintses, Miss Boyd, Yap Yen Choon, Subiaco, W.A.

Elizabeth Lilly, William Hemmings, Gilbert Schultz, Michael Wise, Collins-st., Hobart, Tas.

R. and D. Hore, H. Hickingbotham, A. Lulham, M. Neilson, A. Kornaczewski, L. Prout, Pascoe Vale, Vic.

Mrs. Morris, Oakleigh, Vic.

Misses Kay and Jean Burton and Gary Burton, Kangaroo Flat, Vic.

Ian Titter, Noble Park, Vic.

Helen Grenness, Croydon, Vic.

Mrs. Jowett, Inglewood, W.A.

Cheryl Brown, Glensy Dunstall, Hampstead Gardens, S.A.

Grace Pomery, Ann Stevens, Ian Adams, Naracoorte, S.A.

Merilyn Dennis, South Yarra, Vic.

Mrs. Jill Mead, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. and Marlene Chapman, Denis Schenk, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Bowman, Mrs. Rosemary Taylor, Peel-st., Ballarat, Vic.

Membership

Andre Rosenberg, Glen Waverley to Burwood, Vic.

W. Van Gelderen, Northcote to Hawthorn, Vic.

A. Richardson, from Higheroft; Mr. and Mrs. Batten, I. Webb, from Margaret-st., Launceston, to Collins-st., Hobart, Tas.

Margaret Garth, Bendigo to South Yarra, Vic.

Marriage

Miss Val. Cameron to John Elsbury, Inglewood, W.A.

Miss Alma Smith to Wallace Cane, Wambo, 16-Mile, Qld.

Miss Ruth Wilson to Stan Hay, Ann-st., Brisbane, Qld.

Miss E. Huggan (Northcote, Vic.) to P. Mudge (Carnegie, Vic.).

Miss Grace Barclay to William Hoggett, Oakleigh, Vic.

Miss Rosalie Hall to Thomas Crompt, Miss Judy Jepsen to Graeme Jackel, Ballarat, Vic.

TASMANIA

Collins-st., Hobart (L. G. Cooke). — Av. attendances: 170 a.m.; 102 p.m.; 147 communicants. M. Wilkinson (S.A.) now employed in Hobart and meeting with church. New Hebrides students, Samuel Bull and Japheth Karal, gave appreciated addresses May 12. Church has accepted responsibility for West Hobart zone in doorknock collections for Freedom from Hunger Campaign. Bookstall conducted as part of Federal Literature Week. B.S. parents and friends' assoc. raised over £8 at film evening. C.W.F. conducted luncheon party at Bethany Children's Home, raising £18 for Home. Sis. Holt has been farewelled on her departure to rejoin her mother in Sydney. Peter Sotnikov convalescing at home after surgery. Mr. Clark also convalescing at home, following accident in which he sustained fractures in both feet. Church rejoices in answered prayer with restoration to fellowship of Sisters Cooper, Clifford and Stacey; Les Moore and Z. Davis. Preachers' panel of Collins-st. men folk continues to assist Southern country churches. Boys' Explorer Club formed, with Ken Denison as leader.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Perth (Dr. L. E. Jones). — New pulpit chair presented by family of late E. R. Berry dedicated on May 5. Series of instructional addresses on The Ministry of the Church being presented by minister. Youth Fellowship ten, with leading footballer, Mr. Blakemore, and members of Churches of Christ Choir, was followed by gospel service, assisted by choir. Car trial popular evening, conducted by Youth Fellowship. Home and Family Week included 3 separate socials on same night for different age groups. One lady and one man confessed Christ as Saviour on 12th.

Inglewood (A. W. Morris). — Each Wed. in May, groups from several denominations in district met with C. of C. for Bible study; happy time of fellowship and discussion spent.

Children of kinder and primary entertained mothers at special service on Mother's Day. Church has been saddened at the passing of Mr. Roffey, father of Mrs. Morris. New church appointments: chairman of elders, J. Hansen; sec., J. Cranwell; treas., L. Peacock. Mr. Ellis (Maylands) helped a.m. May 12.

Kalamunda (D. Croot). — Instead of church holding usual midweek prayer meeting, deputations have attended Manning Crusade. Girls' and boys' basketball teams in churches' competition this year. On Anzac Day, some Y.P. went to Mandurah on enjoyable combined youth picnic and car rally. Older Y.P. had social evening at manse on Apr. 27. Young Women's Christian Fellowship held first meeting on May 9; six present. Five of women had previously joined with Shepperton-rd. ladies, Apr. 22, for meeting and social evening.

QUEENSLAND

Chinchilla - Wambo, 16-Mile (B. Reid). — Churches mourning loss of aged and beloved pioneer sister, Mrs. I. Davis (81). Churches in good heart; av. attendances: Chinchilla, morning 35; Wambo, 16-Mile, 65; evening combined at Chinchilla, 80. Officers planning to enlarge Chinchilla building. Sunday Schools, C.E. and Ladies' Fellowships all active. Members taking part in Temperance League, W.C.T.U. and Freedom from Hunger activities. Mother's Day services held at Kogan, Wambo and Chinchilla. Monthly services still held at Kogan and Pelican.

Albion (M. H. A. Pieper). — 22 adults attending a Leadership Training Course in preparation for All-Age B.S. New hall and chapel extensions rapidly nearing completion. Plans well in hand for opening and dedication on June 22, when Back to Albion weekend will be featured. 104 present p.m. Apr. 28; H. Walmsley (Mission to Lepers) guest speaker, screened film, Lifted Hands. Qld. Y.W.F. members also present and brought beautiful tableau, Sharing the Cross. Mothers' Day tea catered for by C.E. Societies, attended by 40 mothers. Mrs. W. J. Finger (Annerley) brought fitting message to the mothers following tea.

Ann-st., Brisbane (L. G. Read). — Strong spirit of practical service among Y.P. recently evidenced by donation of £15 from J.C.E. towards costs of manse renovations. Choir has built up fund of £62 towards purchase of

new choir seats. Guest speaker a.m., May 19, Prof. A. Wilson (Albion).

Ma Ma Creek (J. A. Rae). — Athol Rosenberg (M.B.I.) presided a.m., May 19. Plans being drawn up by D. Cranston (architect) for new chapel, present building to be used as Y.P. hall. Pre-wedding tea held for Margaret Horrocks and Bevan Neumann, teachers at Mt. Whitestone. B.S. children at Mt. Whitestone gave Mother's Day programme and tea, at which Mr. Rae presided and Mrs. Rae gave talk. Frances Cole farewelled at C.E. meeting at which she gave address. Travelling clock presented. Frances is now furthering her nursing studies at King George V. Memorial Hospital, Sydney. Lockerby C.E. rally held at the Gattin Baptist church, on 21st, when students from Melbourne Bible Institute conducted meeting.

Roma (B. M. Nowitzke). — C.W.F. held successful street stall in aid of Hall Fund. Y.P. meeting, 10th, took form of games and barbecue at home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Waldron. Visitors during school holidays were Judy Reid and Mrs. Turner (Brisbane). Services well attended.

Maryborough - Baddow - Hervey Bay (D. G. Nelson). — On May 18, many children and adults enjoyed annual B.S. picnic at Pinalba Sports Reserve, Hervey Bay. Recent attendances for month have been good. Average combined a.m. 83; and for Maryborough p.m. 81. Jim Ferguson, recently elected by officers, has succeeded A. Popp as church sec. On 19th, one decision. Sis. E. Deighton in hospital very ill; church praying for speedy recovery.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Earlwood (F. Elliott - R. Craig). — Y.P.F., on occasion of their 2nd anniversary, held afternoon prayer meeting prior to youth rally, compered by R. Grey (Woolwich). Rain continued, but chapel filled beyond capacity. Delightful musical items from guest artists — Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, Misses Riggs and Berry, Denis Shadow, L. Stuart, B. Turnbull and Sharon London. Inspirational message by Mr. Main (Auburn). C.W.F. climaxed evening with supper, complete with large birthday cake. R. Craig speaker both meetings, 19th, F. Elliott being on leave. One member reconsecrated her life. Mrs. J. Dickson, soloist. Visitors included Mrs. Watson (Ann Clapson), Miss Webster, Mr. Simpson, Miss and Mr. Hillman.

Inverell (R. Powell). — Minister conducted special services on Mother's Day; good attendances. Broadcast over station 2NZ on May 5 well received. Teenagers recently held record night at manse. Boys' and girls' club held games evening on property out of town. C.W.F. held

enjoyable children's afternoon during school vacation; games and items conducted by Mrs. Boland. B.S. and services continue to be held monthly at Delungra.

Albury - Wodonga - Lavington (D. Oldfield and P. Kavanagh). — Miss Barbara Badelley (H.C.J.B., Quito, Ecuador) presented slides and talk on their ministry, May 21, whilst David Jackson (S.I.M.) told of work of Radio ELWA, Liberia, on 18th and 19th. Gathering of Christians met at Bright on 19th to break bread and commence fellowship there. David Oldfield on holidays in Sydney.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Barmera (T. F. Lawrie). — Auxiliaries continue to function well. C.E. took part in special services on Mother's Day, and G.L.B. paraded at evening service. C.Y.F. visited Moorak gospel service, May 5, and took part. Ladies held annual fete, 10th, when £60 clear profit was made. Number of visitors recently. G.L.B. basketball teams started well for season. Shrubs and lawn planted in church grounds, improving appearance of building.

Hampstead Gardens (K. B. Marriott). — At annual church business meeting in May, reports revealed work in good heart. Church accepted recommendation of Board that budget scheme be adopted. Good attendances for Mother's Day; two young ladies who had previously made their decision were baptised p.m. Tennis courts, recently completed, are being used by basketball teams. Men's Fellowship enjoyed talk by Dean of Aquinas College on subject, Birth Control.

Naracoorte (E. O. Stevens). — Apr. 20-21 C.E. meetings held to celebrate 7th birthday. Y.P. gathered for tea on Sat., followed by screening of film, Decision, song service, and rally, at which two young girls made decision to follow Christ. Visitors present from Adelaide, Keith, Bordertown and Mount Gambier. Guest speaker, Mr. Alabaster (Melb.). Y.P. assisted p.m. Sunday. Young man made confession of faith, and on evening of 28th, he and the two young girls were baptised and later received into fellowship. S.E. Women's Conference held at Naracoorte on May 1, when between 70 and 80 women were present from Mt. Gambier, Bordertown, Keith, Wampony, Mundalla and Naracoorte. Morning programme commenced at 10.30 a.m., followed by luncheon, and afternoon meeting; Deaconess Bonython, guest speaker. Afternoon tea was served before visitors left for home. £218 was raised during year for project, towards Keith chapel furnishings. B.S. anniversary, 5th, D. Onkes (Bordertown)

VICTORIA

guest speaker morning, afternoon and evening. Young man made good confession at gospel service. Special church business meeting held May 10.

Brunswick (R. E. Burns). — Attendances have suffered through sickness. Communion being taken to Mrs. Scott, unable to attend services. Sympathy of church extended to Mrs. Guy on passing of her husband. Two members of C.M.S. who attended Anzac Day Conference gave their reflections of it at C.M.S. meeting.

Ivanhoe (H. W. Street). — Alan Wright (Chaplain, Carey Grammar School) addressed senior Bible Class and morning worship service on May 12. Evening meeting took form of special Mother's Day service, with women of church participating. New Discussion Group formed to meet alternately on Wednesdays with Prayer Group. Special Family and Home services being conducted during May. C.W.F., joined by Hurstbridge and Fairfield ladies, heard interesting address from Mrs. Smith on work in New Hebrides. C.W.E.F. given demonstration and lecture by qualified butcher. Tennis club, with four teams competing, having successful season. After-church fellowship on 5th, held in home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Anderson. Y.P.F. has raised £100 for special Missions project and further £5 for Bethany Children's Home. New Organ Fund now stands at £229. Y.P. (1096 Club) met North Essendon Y.P. in "challenge" sports night on 10th. Attendances being well maintained.

Maryborough (R. E. Pritchard). — Y.P. enjoyed camping at Hall's Gap over Easter period, and three young men made decision for Christ. On Apr. 21, W. W. Saunders was a.m. speaker. In the afternoon he met key workers to discuss forthcoming Half-Yearly Convention at Maryborough. On Anzac Day, four men attended conference at Monbulk, organised by C.M.S. On Youth Sunday night, junior choir, under leadership of Jean Bartlett, sang for first time in service. W.M.B. held picture night, May 8, the Mayor (Mr. Ross) showing slides of New Zealand. Y.W.F. conducted street stall; proceeds towards an electric organ for new chapel. Ladies' Aid held 48th birthday, 11th, with building filled to capacity. Guests included representatives from every church in the city, clubs, Bet Bet, Dunolly and Ballarat churches. C.W.A. choir guest artists. Oldest member, Mrs. Branton, snr., cut the cake. Evening service 12th, conducted by mothers, and special Mother's Day choir rendered items. Structure of chapel almost completed. Church enjoyed fellowship with Mrs. Holland (Tas.), and Mr. and Mrs. M. Coombs (S.A.).

Northcote (A. B. Withers). — May 12, p.m., Y.P., who had been in camp for weekend at Seaford, took active part, preacher being speaker. After service, opportunity taken to give present to Miss E. Huggan and P. Mudge, prior to marriage. On 19th, A. Brownrigg (after illness) and Mrs. M. Guildge (after accident) welcomed back.

North Fitzroy (J. Turner, B.A. - C. Hler). — At annual meeting on May 1, reports of auxiliaries revealed work in good heart. A. Arnott, P. Foster and L. Trotter re-elected to Deacons' Board. Deaconesses elected: Sis. H. Trotter, A. Arnott, J. Turner. At combined meeting of Women's Fellowship and C.M.S. on 19th, G. Scambler spoke on Conference, 1963. Men have visited Mount Royal, Y.P. enjoying after-church fellowship in members' homes.

Hawthorn (H. E. Hunt). — At annual business meeting, officers elected: elder, C. Milne; deacons, Messrs. Hillbrick (sec.), Smith, Twose, Watt, Walters, with W. Van Gelderen representing Y.P. Preacher's report showed much visitation being done; 4 received by transfer and 2 by faith and baptism. Fellowship group formed with membership of 13. Monthly fellowship teas proving popular, with an attendance at evening service of 50. Sisters' Fellowship formed.

Warragul (G. A. Hearn, Dip.R.E.). — Church anniversary held Apr. 28. Guest speaker was Dr. G. A. Whiting (Hartwell). At P.S.A. he spoke on *Church Life in U.S.A.* Vocalists were L. Lye (Ripplebrook) and Miss Dale Ellis (Moe). Mrs. Grobbeck delighted with numbers on the maestra-vox and piano. Miss Ellis also sang at evening service. Ladies did splendid job of catering for lunch held in church hall. All services were well attended. Temple Day offering was £320. Church sorry to farewell Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Byard and Miss Shirley Byard. They were honored at social evening, prior to leaving for Tasmania. Mr. Byard, a sincere, gifted preacher, has been an elder and member of the Officers' Board for many years and also church sec. for long period. The work of the family in the church has been a great asset. Church also sorry to farewell Mr. and Mrs. R. Wilmshurst and family. C.Y.F. had 30 Y.P. from Springvale present on 21st for a youth tea and church service. Film on missionary translation work in South America was screened prior to church service. C.Y.F. had 15 members of Gardiner C.Y.F. present on May 3 for social evening.

Balwyn (L. F. Barker). — Three more received into fellowship May 5; mother and son through faith and baptism, and one through transfer. After-church hour of song and fellowship enjoyed by all and used to make new members better known and more

welcome. Book presentation given to Dr. and Mrs. Cliff Warmbrunn as token of esteem, on marriage. Shopping services each 2nd Friday of month show growing interest in community. Different denominational speakers and soloists result in inter-church fellowship. Footballers held car rally, Anzac Day. Good Companions' mothers' night on 8th, and Phi Betas on 14th, enjoyed by all. Phi Betas conducted evening meeting of 12th. Mrs. Amos was guest speaker; soloist was Miss B. Reid, and Phi's choir completed excellent service of witness by the young women. I.C.E. continuing with enthusiastic programmes.

Belmont (F. E. Langford). — Church continues to grow numerically and recent additions by transfer have brought membership to 100. Many members have been hospitalised in recent weeks and church remembers them and others saddened by loss of loved ones. Cricket club held presentation social, Apr. 19. Tennis club formed and playing social matches during winter season. Officers attended Y.P.S.C.E. 28th, and answered many questions regarding church administration. Ladies held luncheon May 1, prior to attending combined meeting at Belmont Presbyterian. Stewardship campaign launched at special meeting on 25th. Membership visited and committal cards returned at family service on Mother's Day. Special B.S. Mother's Day service, when Mrs. Langford was speaker. Work has commenced on extending kinder, hall and erecting new kitchen. Youth clubs held special meetings to honor mother during Home and Family Week.

Hampton (G. L. Smith). — On Apr. 28 a service in recognition of the work of R. T. Pittman was held, when many ex-students of the C.O.B. and past members of the church gathered to honor Mr. Pittman, who has served at Hampton as preacher and deacon for 46 years. C. G. Taylor spoke on behalf of the brotherhood, K. A. Jones for the College, and V. L. Gole for local church; Miss Leonie Henshillwood was soloist. Presentation of books was made to Mr. Pittman. On May 5, C.W.E.F. assisted at evening service, and on 12th, Good Companions held church parade and assisted in Mother's Day service. Cricket club held presentation night on 11th; three players received Association trophies.

Kaniva (J. W. Way, B.Sc.). — Mr. and Mrs. T. Reinholdt have left to live at Griffith, N.S.W. C.M.S. sent two railway trucks of Mallee roots to Social Service Dept. House warming evening given to Mr. and Mrs. M. Williams. Mrs. F. Goldsworthy progressing after surgery.

Mitcham (E. W. Heard). — Official Board held monthly meeting in retreat for full day at Yarra Junction,

with preceding evening spent in prayer preparation, seeking the Lord's guidance. Full review of work and future needs was made. Good Companions' strong growth, under Elaine Walters, emphasises need for larger halls. P.B.P. reorganised, under leadership of Mrs. M. Barnden and Mrs. J. Williams, following dinner held May 8. C.W.F. held *Devotions Through Records* afternoon. C.W.E.F. had discussion evening. B.S. staff held sectional conferences with supt., D. Beasy. Minister has resumed after illness. Mesd. Tudor, Trathen and Howgate are sick. Many visitors welcomed. Church officers attended meeting at Ringwood to discuss future of Eastern District Conference. Minister's son made good confession on 12th. Sympathy expressed to Mrs. Phelps in loss of father.

Prahran (T. H. Ede). — Youth tea, Apr. 28, followed by baptismal service; musical items from M.B.I. Newly formed Inter. and Y.P.S.C.E. met at manse, May 3. Large congregations attended meetings on 5th for church anniversary. Speakers: D. Nicholls, M.B.E., J.P., and S. Graham; duets by Mr. and Mrs. M. Wolf, and solos by Miss Jean Milne. Evening service ended with baptism of young man. Basketball club premises for season.

Kangaroo Flat (J. K. Martin). — Fifth B.S. anniversary May 5; Ray McKenzie (Ormond) guest speaker at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Scholars sang well under baton of Keith Lacey. On 8th, at scholars' tea, film, *Teenage Testament*, shown, followed by distribution of prizes. On 21st, three members of family baptised and received into fellowship before transferring to Ballarat. Mr. and Mrs. G. Ford have moved to Warburton, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Hargreaves have also transferred.

Croydon (W. J. Thomson). — Mrs. J. Reidy speaker at C.W.E.F. meeting on 7th. Members distributed Mother's Day gifts to patients at "Ardrossan" Private Hospital. Mrs. O. Smith progressing rapidly after illness. Greg. Lacey has undergone surgery on his foot. C.Y.F. held games night, 13th. Church was represented at Eastern District prayer rally at Montrose on 15th. C.W.A.F. continues to hold helpful meetings fortnightly. About 40 ladies attended Eastern District C.W.F. quarterly meeting at Croydon on 16th; duet by Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Hone appreciated; guest speaker, Mrs. E. M. Kershaw. Newly-formed Christian Education Committee arranged bookstall for Literature Week.

Boronja (J. A. Manallack). — Averages for last month: 124 a.m.; 59 p.m., and 119 communicants. 21 B.S. teachers attended camp at East Warburton for beneficial weekend of discussion and study on B.S. work. P.m. speaker, 5th, F. Manning (Regions

Beyond Mission), who also showed slides of work. C.W.E.F. took service on Mother's Day, with Mrs. A. R. Lloyd (Dandenong) as speaker and Miss Z. Luke, soloist. Successful C.W.F. garden party raised £28 for Social Service Dept. C.Y.F. discussing study on witness and outreach during Teen Service month, led by members of State Committee. Good Companions held mothers' evening on 10th and attended Field Day at Fawkner Park, while Explorers joined with other groups for hike at Hurstbridge. Both Good Companions and Explorers paraded at evening service on 18th. Book-stall held in conjunction with Christian Literature Week. After-church discussion group studying Report of the Joint Commission of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches on Church Union.

Footscray (G. S. Brown). — Ninety attended Missionary Group birthday on 7th, when Mrs. V. Morrison (Vic.-Tas. Conf. Pres.) did devotional, and Mrs. J. Smith (New Hebrides) was speaker, Mrs. E. Pearce (Wattle Park) soloist. C.W.E.F. held jumble sale on 7th, resulting in £10. Mothers attended kinder on 12th, for special items by kinders for Mother's Day. C.W.A.F. had interesting tour of Doherty's Bakery, Yarraville, on 14th. Ladies attended Sunshine Group's birthday at night. C.W.E.F. held apron parade and sale of aprons on 15th. C.Y.F. "Guys and Dolls Nite" on 17th well attended. H.M. prayer rally at North Williamstown on 21st had good representation from Footscray. Sympathy of church extended to family and friends of late Mena Rayner.

Chadstone (P. E. Perry). — Second Planned Giving programme commenced recently, maintaining standard of first. Y.P. attended district C.Y.F. camp at Ferny Creek, May 18, 19, then took part in evening service here, 19th. C.W.F. assisted Carnegie ladies at Cheltenham Home for Aged recently. Junior C.Y.F. held film night 8th, proceeds to Freedom From Hunger Campaign. Over £8 raised. Creche now operating effectively during morning service.

Noble Park (A. B. Titter). — At p.m. service, Apr. 28, Explorers and Good Companions held church parade. On 30th, C.W.F. made monthly visit to Cheltenham Men's Home. On May 5, they held coffee morning at home of Mr. and Mrs. Schwennesen. On 14th, mothers' night was given by Good Companions to mothers of congregation. Members attended Cheltenham church for quarterly H.M. prayer rally, 15th.

Echuca (B. L. Pryor). — Cummeragunga church enjoyed rich fellowship with Sonny Graham and Mr. Pryor over Easter; Convention ended with picnic on Monday. Sympathy extended to Malne family in Home call of Mrs. Malne. C.W.F. had visit

from Mr. and Mrs. Smith, telling of their work at Pentecost. A. R. Haskell (Vic.-Tas. Conf. Pres.) spoke at 3 services for church anniversary, May 12. Mrs. Parry, Mr. Haskell and Boys' Choir rendered items. Good Companions held special night for Mother's Day; club numbers have risen to about 14.

Tootgarook (G. Lawrie). — May 5, some B.S. scholars met for tea in school hall prior to evening service, with their parents. Some older scholars took part in service, leaving only address to new preacher; at conclusion of address, one older lad made decision.

Blackburn (R. V. Amos). — Speakers during minister's absence on holidays in Sydney were D. Smith, R. V. Longthorp, W. Atkin and B. Goldstein. C.M.S. visited Herald-Sun office, Apr. 23. 50 attended bowls night arranged by C.M.S. on May 11. C.W.E.F. held mother and daughter evening on 13th. M. McCann attended Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission in Victoria at Queen's College. New series of midweek Bible studies commenced.

Highbury-rd., Burwood (H. J. Patterson, M.A.). — Attendances maintained all meetings, including auxiliaries. B.S. record 244, Apr. 28. Special youth service, May 5, members of C.Y.F. taking part. Ladies' Auxiliary entertained at Christian Guest Home, 6th. B.S. scholars are now helping to support Aboriginal boy and girl at Carnarvon, W.A. — Gavin and Maree Kelly. One young man received into fellowship, Apr. 20.

Minyip (F. Stone). — Annual meeting, May 12; elected: H. J. Newell, sec.; R. Evans, treas.; Sis. J. Hudson, asst. treas.; deacons, W. Ingalls, S. Westerland, R. Evans, H. J. Newell. Afternoon services conducted by F. Stone, and morning services by Warracknabeal brethren, C. Rodgers, W. Harmer, M. Sherriff, L. Milne, are much appreciated. New circuit missionary project thankoffering passed half-way mark on 12th, when figure reached £254/8/-.

Frankston (R. H. Patterson). — Auxiliaries very active. C.W.A.F. hostesses to Ringwood C.W.F. at luncheon, and Ringwood members conducted afternoon service; happy time of fellowship spent. On May 14, C.W.E.F. birthday meeting had splendid attendance; speaker, Mrs. Nottling, with Fanta, her "seeing-eye" dog. At evening service on Mother's Day, Mrs. MacKenzie led the service; messages given by Mrs. Wadeson, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Patterson; organist, Mrs. Cook, all members of C.W.E.F. Men's Fellowship, 5th; Allan Avery, speaker — men attended working bee for cupboards for hall. At service on Youth Sunday, Campbell Bolwell led meeting, assisted by Ken Reed, Ian Watt, Barry Jones and speaker, R. H. Patterson. Much interest in recently conducted Planned Giving campaign, under direction of Allan Avery. Weekly offerings increased by 100 per cent, with all members showing marked interest in church activities; thanksgiving service conducted on 12th. On 14th, Explorers, under leadership of A. Cocks, visited Chelsea.

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Coming Events

NEWMARKET (Vic.) BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY, June 16. Speakers: 3 p.m., D. A. V. THOMAS; 7 p.m., L. E. BROOKER. All welcome.

NORTHCOLE CHURCH (Vic.) 60th ANNIVERSARY and HOMECOMING, Sunday, June 16, 11 a.m., C. G. Taylor, B.A.; 7 p.m., A. B. Withers. Wednesday, 19th, 8 p.m., Thanksgiving Service and Fellowship. Representative speakers. A welcome to all. Hospitality 44-4205.

CAULFIELD (Bambra-rd.) 43rd HOMECOMING Services, Sunday, June 2, 11 a.m., L. G. Crisp; 3 p.m., K. A. Macnaughtan; 7 p.m., F. A. Youens. Special soloists. Fellowship Tea, 5 p.m. Saturday, 1st, 7.45 p.m., Inspirational Rally. Speakers, John Birt, A. A. Avery.

ENFIELD HEIGHTS CHURCH (S.A.), 14th ANNIVERSARY, JUNE 2, 1963. Services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. All former members and friends are cordially invited to share in the fellowship of these meetings.

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MORRISON. — To Pam and Tom, Merredin, W.A., a chosen son—Peter Thomas. A brother for Lynette. By adoption.

DEATHS

THORNHILL. — A tribute of love to my dear mother, who was called to her rest on May 17, 1963.

—Inserted by her loving daughter, "Flo," 58 Berkeley-st., Hawthorn, Vic.

THORNHILL (Peet). — On May 17, Mabel, loved daughter of the late James and Martha Peet, loving sister of Emily (Mrs. Heron), Albert (dec.), Ernest (dec.), Elsie (Mrs. Treverton), Richard (dec.), Annie (Mrs. Jackson), Gertie (Mrs. Sone), Norman, Daphne (Mrs. Miller). "In God's care."

IN MEMORIAM

BENN, Margaret. — Cherished memories of our dear mother who was called Home to be with Christ, May 30, 1960. "Ever remembered."

—Inserted by her loving family.

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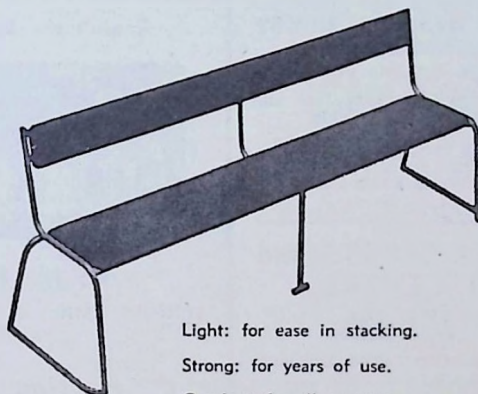
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WOMEN'S REPORTS (cont.).

The amount of £30 has been given to Bethesda Hospital for benevolent work, and £100 to Christian Centre Building Fund. The Guest Home Infirmary appeal is to benefit from the sale of sandwiches at Auxiliary meetings this year.

REPORTS.

Mrs. Fallof asked that we pray for the work at Norseman, and particularly for the native people as they accept responsibility; and for Bob Williams at Carnarvon, who has been baptised, that he might go on with Christ.

Social Service. — Mrs. Holloway said the need was urgent for children's woollens — sewing parcels ready for Fellowships. Pray still for the urgent need of Infirmary.

Wooroloo and Chest Hospital. — Mrs. Verge asked that we continue to pray for patients — rejoice that one patient has now gone home after nine years.

Hospital. — Mrs. Sonsee asked that we continue to pray for all the sick and those who visit.

Overseas. — Mrs. Gordon asked that we pray for those missionaries in India learning languages, also for the five who are going out to the fields before the end of May. The prayer for Missions and missionaries was then given by Mrs. Gordon.

There being no further business, Mrs. Armstrong closed with prayer.
— P. Reid, Sec.

QUEENSLAND.

As May is month set aside for Youth Offering, Mrs. Dawn McLucas (Sec., Young Women's Fellowship) presided at meeting on May 7. H. Sargent (Chairman, Youth Committee) challenged the women to make friends of the young people in the churches, and to help them in any way they can. Mrs. Acland (Pres.) then thanked Mr. Sargent, and welcomed all present, 36 in number, including one visitor, Mrs. Jefferies (N.S.W.). Apologies were received from 5 sisters.

Minutes of April meeting were read and confirmed, also correspondence read. Mesdames Pratt and Smith and Miss Hodgson offered to assist at Y.W.F. camp, June 15-16, in preparation of meals. Mrs. Payne and Mrs. Burdeu led in prayers for Mrs. M. Martin, who suffered back injuries in a fall, and is hospitalised. Treasurer presented financial statement, showing balance of £169/11/10.

It was decided that this year our Women's Convention Day be held on Tues., July 30; theme, Witnessing for Christ. A Women's Camp will be held at Caloundra; suggested dates, Sept. 14-15. These will be finalised when exact date of Half-Yearly Conference is confirmed. Mrs. Potter has undertaken to be organiser for the camp.

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