

W Fraser

THE AUSTRALIAN Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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It was very evident that the best way to help all youth workers was first to have something to offer them and then, as far as possible, by personal contact to present this to them.

This resulted in the work being divided so that members of the Committee became Supervisors of various aspects of the work, with myself as the co-ordinator of all the work. At the same time I took upon myself what I felt were the major activities of the Committee, the training of teachers and the development of camping. The matter of Supervisors worked as well as could be expected when it was realised that these men and women could not give full time to the service. However, the work developed.

COUNTRY WORK AND CONFERENCES.

The matter of country work with its great distances was a problem. This could only be handled by having a vehicle. By the grace of God and the gifts of those who were the Lord's bankers, a vehicle was secured free of debt. This now enabled a programme of country visitation to be carried out, and this was done on a systematic basis of North, West and South. Towards the end of the term with the Department it was planned to visit two centres and give a Sunday and three weekdays to each church. This meant being away from the office only a little over a week. Sometimes Happy Hours meant being away longer. Happy Hours were after-school programmes for children. They were both a means of making contact with potential new scholars and a stimulus to attendance and enthusiasms of those who were already in the church family. The value of these is now becoming evident, as I receive letters or hear from those who were brought into the Bible School or church through Happy Hours or missions conducted together with Happy Hours. The Teacher Training Workshops held at country centres were always profitable. Sometimes a team of four to six workers was taken to a country centre for a workshop. This gave a variety of presentation.

One of the best media of training was found to be the Superintendents' and Secretaries' Conference held at the Youth Centre. Here an outstanding educationist was usually guest speaker, and the exchange of ideas and presentation of challenging methods was stimulating. The proof of the value lay in the men and women who came every year and who continually asked for more time for discussion.

NEED FOR ASSISTANCE.

The demands of country work placed a heavy burden on home and office. (continued on next page)

20 Years of Youth Work

R. Greenhalgh.

At a time when youth work in New South Wales had been at a low ebb for many years, three men of the church realised that something drastic had to be done. They therefore offered a subsidy to the Youth Department for a full-time Director. Frank Hunting was available and willing, and he led the Department splendidly for three years. At the end of that time he approached me and asked if I would be prepared to take his place. Partly because of his enthusiasm, and partly because of my own concern for youth, I accepted. That was the beginning of 20 years of work that were both rewarding and exhausting.

GETTING STARTED.

The subsidy of the three men ceased after I had been in office after a year, and the Committee was always chronically short of funds. We started in an office 9 feet x 6 feet. This housed myself, Miss Murray, as a voluntary worker, two tables and a duplicating machine. Before long we received back an area which had been granted to the Book Room, and this gave us an office 15 feet x 9 feet, in which we worked for many years. There has always been the feeling of constriction and restriction. No State brotherhood seems to have grasped the fact that evangelism amongst young people means the strength of all the work. The lack of emotional appeal has operated against the work of Christian Education.

In laying down a principle for work I decided that I must be prepared to give some kind of authoritative answer to every question about youth work. Also, the Department must be effective in influencing and training young people for the full work of the brotherhood, first through

and for the local church, and then for wider work in the State and beyond. We realised that we must be interested in all Committees and their work, but for the churches to realise the value of State youth work it must be shown that the work of the Youth Department produced more efficient and more enthusiastic workers in the local church.



R. Greenhalgh.

The inadequacy of the College Course on Religious Education was quickly seen, and when the opportunity was given me to lecture at the Woolwich College on "Christian Education," it was determined to make the course as practical as possible, consistent with a knowledge of theory, and to cover all the subjects that were now found necessary. This association with College and students is one of the treasured highlights of the twenty years.

(continued from front page)

I would express my appreciation for the understanding and co-operation of Mrs. Greenhaigh and my son, Ken, which enabled me to be away from home so much, for I lived in other peoples' homes more than I did in my own. I also acknowledge with great appreciation the co-operation of Miss Murray in the office, who carried a double burden of work in my absence. In this regard also we are greatly indebted to a host of voluntary workers, but in particular to Mrs. C. Baker, who for eleven years gave voluntary service until eye trouble forced her to resign. Mrs. Colin Saxby also gave valuable regular voluntary service for six years.

It was gradually becoming apparent that the work was too big for one man, there was too much being neglected. However, finance was too restricted to consider a second man. The best arrangement would have been for the Director to be in charge of Bible School work and Adult Christian Education as the major work of the Committee, and a second man to be in charge of the rest of the Departmental work, including camping. This, I think, must come in N.S.W. if the State is to cope with the demands and opportunities. The State Conference also must provide adequate staff so that the Director can do his work. Much of my time was taken up doing a junior's work, duplicating, wrapping, posting, etc. All of this was essential to the work, but took my time from more important activities. Our Conferences generally are weak in economics, and do not realise that the work of the Kingdom is being held back through not providing adequate staff and facilities for its executives.

(continued next week)

Fifty Years Ago

From "The Australian Christian"
Editor: F. G. Dunn.

Cheap Land in New Hebrides. Mark Twain once said he had discovered that the English were mentioned in the Bible. He quoted the Sermon on the Mount, in which it is said, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." But in the far off days of 1913 you could buy it even if you did not inherit it. A. B. Chapple wrote from the New Hebrides to say that he had bought for the churches 20 to 30 acres of land for £3!

Bits and Pieces. An election is being held in N.S.W. on Dec. 6 and the Roman Catholic authorities are being especially aggressive. . . . "Child-widows" are now being permitted to remarry in some provinces of India. The problem indicated behind this item is obvious when it is known that there were 302,425 girls under 6 already married, 2,500,000 under 10, and 9,412,642 under 16. Many "husbands" died before puberty.

• STOP PRESS . . .

Death Of The President

It was not only the people of the United States of America who felt dismay and shock. John F. Kennedy was acknowledged as "The President" by peoples of many lands, including our own. To some degree at least the ordinary man regarded him as the symbol of his hopes and the spokesman for the non-communist world.

And now he is dead, shot down in an act that seems as senseless as it was cruel. Whatever motive the killer may have had, it has not yet been disclosed. The first reaction was the numbness of shock at the loss of a great leader. The second was of deep sympathy for his widow and her two young children who have lost a husband and a father.

When he was elected, many of us had misgivings. He was a Roman Catholic, was the youngest ever President, and he was extremely wealthy. Therefore many feared that he would yield to religious pressure groups, would be too inexperienced and immature in competition with the tough leaders of other lands, and might even legislate in favor of the rich.

Very soon, however, it became clear that the new President had high principles and clear objectives which he stated with refreshing clarity. He led his people with great intellect, ability, courage, and determination. Even hard-to-please Protestants acknowledged his impartiality. He exerted pressure against the rich industrialists. He gave strong personal leadership to a moral rights programme that included justice and equality to the negro. Just before his death he negotiated with Russia a test-ban treaty which marked a sharp turn towards sanity in international relationships.

President Kennedy said that man's problems were created by man and could be solved by man. But he made it clear that man could have and must have God's help. In an all too brief period of 34 months, President Kennedy demonstrated high qualities, and many gifts of leadership are lost to the world in the passing of this one great man.

The following letter has been sent from the Federal Conference of Churches of Christ to Mrs. J. F. Kennedy:

Dear Madam,

On behalf of the members of Churches of Christ in Australia, we assure you of our profound sympathy in the sudden and tragic loss which you and your children have sustained in the assassination of your late husband.

President Kennedy endeared himself to us and to all lovers of freedom by his strong and kindly approach to

those matters which affected the welfare of all people. He will ever be thankfully remembered by us for his great humanitarian qualities and for his unselfish devotion to duty. He fulfilled his high office with distinction and honor.

We pray that the assurance of our Christian affection for you and your family, supported by our sincere prayers for divine comfort, will sustain you in this sorrow and less which we share with you.

Sincerely,

George V. Haigh, President.
Stanton H. Wilson, Secretary.

THE NEW PRESIDENT.

The new President, Lyndon Baines Johnson, is 55, and belongs to our churches in the U.S.A. He is a member of Johnson City church, near Austin, Texas, the State in which Mr. Kennedy was assassinated.



Lyndon B. Johnson.

It is fitting that the following letter has been sent from our churches to the new American President:

To Lyndon B. Johnson,
President of the United States
of America.

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the members of Churches of Christ in Australia, we wish to convey to you the assurance of their prayers as you now occupy the high office of President of the United States of America.

We are deeply sensitive of those great responsibilities which have suddenly devolved upon you because of the untimely death of the late President Kennedy.

We assure you of our continual prayers that you may be sustained with Christian grace and divine wisdom and so be enabled to discharge your duties to the blessing of mankind and to the honor of God.

Sincerely,
George V. Haigh, President.
Stanton H. Wilson, Secretary.

CUSTOMER TRAFFIC

This was a term used by the late Fred N. Lee, a Christian business man and an Australian church leader. Because he was a successful businessman, he often drew from his profession important lessons which applied also to the church.

Before a shop can hope to sell its goods, there must be customer traffic, he said. You must get the people into the store, and then impress them with what you have to offer. True, a customer may go into the shop and still not buy. But he certainly will not buy unless he enters the shop. Therefore, your shop must be inviting. Once in the shop, the wares must be so attractively displayed that they will almost sell themselves.

We cannot press the business analogy too far, but this much is true of the church: if there is no customer traffic there will be no response to our invitation to receive what we have to offer. Therefore, our churches must be inviting. Too often, they are repelling. Gardens are uncared for, long grass says that people don't care, ceilings are cob-webby, walls are dirty, paint is cracked or faded.

This may sound extreme, but there is enough truth in it to doubt the sentiment of Psalm 122, "I was glad when they said to me: Let us go into the house of the Lord."

The house of the Lord should be an attractive house so that when men and women go shopping for a faith, they will find God's house inviting. When they enter they should also find that what we have to offer is effectively displayed (we call it witnessing!) in lives of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and self-control.

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

In Roy Greenhalgh's article this week there is a comment which must have been made by many another servant of our churches over the years. "Much of my time," he says, "was taken up doing a junior's work: duplicating, wrapping, posting etc. All of this was essential to the work, but took my time from more important activities. Our conferences are generally weak on economics."

When our churches meet in conference they tend to think in big terms of high endeavour. And they pass resolutions accordingly. They approve the plans and programmes of departments and send men off to work. Too often, however, the churches make it impossible for the work to be carried out. Available resources are too limited. Instead of being able to work creatively and extend the frontiers of their areas of service, the men we have set apart for great tasks become tied to a routine of work that a junior could easily do. This applies to ministers in local churches, of course. Two of our children were playing at the

manse and one of them said, "Let's play church. I'll be the minister and do the printing and the stamping!"

It's poor economics for churches and conferences to use their trained, committed, and commissioned men for little tasks, essential though they may be. In these situations, some of the big jobs will be done badly or maybe not at all.

We must find better ways of involving the men and women of our local churches in the decisions of our conferences. At present, it is fair to say that a large number of our members never get to know of the resolutions made on their behalf. When we decide to do something for the kingdom of God, let's provide the tools and the manpower and see the job through.

SANTAMARIA

You may not agree with him, you may not even like him, but you can hardly ignore him.

Mr. Bartholomew Michael Santamaria, known as "Bob", is president of the National Civic Council, an organisation which developed from the Catholic Social Studies Movement. This was th. famous (or infamous, depending upon your political leanings) "Movement" which worked within trade unions to fight against communism. The resulting tensions and conflicts brought a split to the Australian Labor Party and led to the formation of the Democratic Labor Party. The D.L.P. has twice used its preference votes to give decisive support to the Liberal and Country Parties in Federal elections.

The National Civic Council is not an official organ of the Roman Catholic Church. It is composed of lay members of that church. It is not directly related to the D.L.P., in fact Mr. Santamaria is not even a member of that organisation. He does support it, however, and his support means a great deal.

Mr. Santamaria is always in the news. He became newsworthy again during this past week when Dr. Simonds, the new R.C. archbishop who succeeded the late Dr. D. Mannix, relieved Mr. Santamaria of his place in the R.C. TV programme "Sunday Magazine." Almost immediately other arrangements were made with a rival station to keep him on TV. He will be a significant voice for a long time yet.

From what we have seen and heard of him, Mr. Santamaria is a sincere Christian and is devoted to his church. He has cheerfully made many sacrifices in order to achieve ideals which, he believes, will be good for his Lord, his church, and his country.

We could well do with more men who would give themselves as enthusiastically and completely to our Restoration Movement.

IN THE MAIL

To the Editor,

In a recent note in regard to the service the "Austral" has rendered to the brotherhood, I omitted to speak of the splendid work over the years of the Managers of the Company. A. B. Maston was the foundation manager, as well as being the editor of the A.C. G. P. Pittman succeeded him and was also assistant editor. Following him, F. G. Dunn also acted as manager for a short period while occupying the position of editor. Douglas Pittman, who followed F. G. Dunn, remained, till his death, as manager, rendering yeoman service. W. R. Hibbert then became manager for a period, to be followed by our present esteemed manager, Arthur Haskell. Considerable expansion has been made under his efficient managership — the enlarged premises and increased plant and wider activities have had his close attention. The members of the "Austral" Board of Management record, with pleasure, the splendid service these men have rendered since the "Austral" came into being.

W. A. Kemp, O.B.E.,
Chairman of Directors.

To the Editor,

This is an unsolicited and personal commendation of the study booklet, *Summons to Unity*, written by Harold F. Gross, and published by the Federal Board of Christian Education. The price is 3/6.

In the area of Christian Union it is essential that, first of all, we ask the right questions. This Harold Gross has done, and then given excellent "comments and suggestions" to provoke thoughtful answers to specific and relevant questions. Appropriate Scripture references are listed.

Of late, our Officers' Board at Brighton (Vic.), at the suggestion of one of its deacons, has met a half-an-hour earlier for its monthly meeting and has given the first hour of its session to the consideration of Christian Union. Last month we used a chapter from *Summons to Unity* for this purpose and a stimulating and profitable discussion followed.

Summons to Unity will serve as an excellent manual to arouse and further an informed interest in that for which we plead — the union of all Christ's followers in truth and love.

Stanton H. Wilson,
Brighton, Vic.

THE NEW
Australian Christian
Use Form on page 749

Adventure at Albion (Qld.) . . .

All-Age Christian Education

M. H. A. Pieper.

It is now four months since the church at Albion, Qld., embarked on the adventure of an All-Age Christian Education Programme. July 7, 1963, was a red-letter day in the life of the church, for on that morning at 9.30 a.m. the first session was held.

Investigations had been made of A.C.E. programmes that are working successfully on a Wednesday evening in two Sydney churches. A visit was paid to the Annerley (Qld.) Baptist All-Age Sunday School, and those visiting participated in the actual session.

After further meetings and discussion it was decided that a Sunday morning programme, with the organisation adopted by the Baptist folk, would be the best suited for our congregation.

The members of the committee then set about to familiarise themselves with the methods and steps of preparation involved.

Step by step we advanced towards our ultimate goal. As the committee worked, so also was the congregation informed by way of pamphlets available on the project. These included *The Proved Answer*, *The All-Age Sunday School — What It Is and How It Works*, and finally, *Let's All Go to Sunday School*. Then in April and May training classes were conducted for about twenty adults who had agreed to take the leadership course which we proposed. This was ably led by Miss H. Trudgian and Prof. A. F. Wilson.

On the night of our church anniversary, Sat., May 18, an audio-visual based on the work of the All-Age programme in the Baptist churches in N.S.W. was screened, and those present were invited to become par-

ticipants in our programme. The response was heartening.

Whilst this preparation was in progress, our new building programme was also advancing towards completion, and two weeks before the All-Age school was due to commence the buildings were completed and opened. These splendid facilities not the least of which is the nursery, built mostly by voluntary labor, under the manse, have made it possible for our programme to work successfully as far as accommodation is concerned.

Apart from the departments of the school which were already in existence, and in which some sixteen adults are involved on the staff, there are forty-five adults on the roll in the new Adult department, plus eleven in the Young Adult department, making a total of over seventy adults involved in the whole school. Studies on the Epistle of James, prepared by Prof. A. F. Wilson, were used in the first weeks. Since the completion of this series the study groups, having been given a choice, are studying either the second Epistle of Peter or *Continuing Steadfastly*, by Dr. A. G. Elliott.

Although no great increase in numbers has been recorded to this stage, it is worthy of note that some who at first declared that they would come occasionally are now among the keenest Bible students in the school, and some have not missed a Sunday!

Already, then, this adventure into All-Age Christian Education has been a blessing to many lives, and we pray that time will tell a story of continuing blessing and growing in the things of Christ in the experience of many more over the years to come.

CHALLENGE

On Nov. 16, the young people of the church at Box Hill, Vic., presented the second of a series of programmes aimed to capture the interest of uncommitted young people and to challenge them with the claims of Christ. Despite the fact that school examinations were in progress, 150 young people enjoyed a most entertaining programme. Artists included Anita Skewes and Allan Rowe, and A. E. White presented a brief yet challenging address. Two local young people responded to the invitation to commit their lives to Christ. Once again we rejoice and give praise to God for this evidence of answered prayer.

CITY WITHOUT A ROOF

The earthquake-ruined city of Skopje, Yugoslavia, is a city without a roof. 100,000 people are living in tents and cardboard shacks among the ruins. Torrential rainstorms have added to present miseries, but they also herald the coming of winter. This area often records 50 deg. of frost. In a race against snow and ice and death, the World Council of Churches is sending five rail-wagons a day of pre-fabricated housing parts from a factory in Austria. These will rehouse 130 families. In Skopje, concrete foundations are being made ready at the rate of eight a day. Building records are being broken to save lives.

We claim to be a Restoration Movement, let us . . .

RESTORE ADAPTABILITY

By B. J. Combridge.

"Adaptation is a law of survival and life." This statement was made in a recent discussion of biology, but it is difficult to imagine any area of life where this principle of adaptation lacks significance. Certain it is that the only objects which adapt themselves to their environment are living objects. It is equally certain that for some objects, failure to adapt to environment is death. To state the truth in another way, and to give it the point we wish to emphasise, the ability of an object to adapt itself is a sign of life.

The church may be expected to adapt itself to the life around it, not in such a way as to alter its own nature, but in such ways as may be necessary for it to fulfil its mission.

THE N.T. CHURCH WAS ADAPTABLE.

The church we see in the New Testament was a living organism, and to fulfil its mission it adapted itself to successive situations. Pentecost was obviously an exceptional occasion, but that tremendous event portrays in eloquent fashion the church's reaction to a situation. That this was under the direction of the Holy Spirit is obvious, but the church must always act under his direction. The sermon on that day was not merely a recital of texts from the prophets, it related the ancient word to current topics — the life of Jesus, the attitude of men to him, his death and resurrection and his place in God's scheme of things. The preacher saw God acting in the events of his own day, he saw God pouring out his Spirit, approving Jesus whom men had rejected, saving those who called on his name, thus making human redemption possible through this same Jesus. True gospel preaching must always conform to two fundamental principles found in this sermon. The first is to lay bare how men are striving against God by their rejection of his Christ, and the second is to declare the salvation God makes available through Christ.

There is certainly much more to be seen in this epoch-making event, but it is probably the supreme example of the church adapting itself to a life situation. This is a kind of key note to the book of Acts, and it is struck again and again.

Exactly the same kind of attitude is observed in the "communism" of Acts 4, when concern for the ongoing work of the kingdom expressed itself in the voluntary sacrifice of personal property for the common

good. The appointment of the seven to serve tables was a further instance of the infant church adapting itself to changing situations, adjusting itself to developing conditions. The variety of gifts of the Spirit suggests the flexibility of the church's ministry. The primary concern of the church was to fulfil its mission, and by the beginning of the second century we find churches "here and there around the Mediterranean ordering their life in a variety of ways, but always controlled by the one task of making the message known."

Subsequent history demonstrates that the church's finest hours have been when it has suited its programme to the needs of the day. The missionary ventures of the early centuries, the church of the catacombs and modern missionary movements all tell the same story. Few pages of its history are finer than those that tell of the church's witness under the totalitarian state of Hitler's Europe. The church acted as a living organism, adapted itself to its environment, not in the interests of its own survival, but in order to fulfil its mission, and in this it found its own life. The recent publication of a book on Flynn of the Inland reminds us of a similar event in an entirely different setting of the Australian scene.

OURSELVES AND ADAPTABILITY.

We who belong to the Restoration Movement need to consider this truth in relation to our ideals. The almost bitter divisions in the ranks of the people who came into being to plead for the unity of God's people make sad and tragic reading. Fortunately this country has been spared misfortunes which have been experienced elsewhere. We are constrained to ask whether these divisions have not arisen because, although the restoration ideal sounded good, there was difference about what to restore. Some assumed that the New Testament gave one detailed plan of the church's organisation and life, and all the details had to be reproduced if the church of the New Testament was to be restored. The word assumed is used deliberately, for this concept is taken to the New Testament, not from it. The church which adapts itself to the situation in which it finds itself and, in that situation and as that situation demands, faithfully declares its witness is much more truly a New Testament church than one which is content to restore purely mechanical and incidental details found in the New Testa-

ment. No historical situation exactly repeats itself. Every situation is a new situation, and it is adaptation to the situation that makes the church relevant. The New Testament church can never be restored until there is New Testament flexibility and adaptability.

Whilst it may be questioned whether Alexander Campbell saw this in the earliest days of the movement, he did sense it later, and his doctrine of expediency was, as one writer has said, an "escape from the inevitable stagnation and death to which the purely static conception of the New Testament church would have consigned them." This principle of adaptability or expediency relates not to Christian doctrine, but to the realm of method. The fundamentals of the gospel remain constant and unchangeable, but methods in evangelism, Christian education, stewardship and the general work of the church may be as varied as the situation demands.

ENEMY WITHIN.

Difficulties arise because the church is composed of human beings all of whom are, more or less, creatures of habit. The greatest obstacles many local congregations face relate not to fundamental questions, but to the merest details of method, and the work of the Holy Spirit is hindered because of prejudice, rigid habit, selfish interest and sheer personal egotism masquerading as basic convictions. The church's faithfulness is tested not by the reproduction of insignificant incidentals found in the New Testament, but by its reproduction of the vital life and character found in the New Testament church and in its creativeness and relevance for its own time.

For the effective witness of his church Christ gave gifts to men — gifts great in variety. Every capacity that devoted Christians possess is a gift from God. It is totally wrong to label as "human" the gifts that consecrated believers devote to the church's work and witness. All the genius, all the initiative, all the originality that creative minds, submitted to the direction of the Holy Spirit can bring to the task must be used. He will direct these capacities as truly as he did those of New Testament days. Submission to his direction will call forth the most constructive and effective efforts of the church, flexible, adaptable and alert to the great opportunities and profound needs of this and every generation.



Nebringi Patrol

Sister Beryl Whittam.

The medical work here has been fairly constant in the past few weeks, with more coming from the Nebringi area.

At the moment I have a premature baby in the house, she was about 3½ lbs. at birth and was born in the village. When we brought the baby out of the house all the men fled. They are frightened of getting a bad cough, which is what they are supposed to get when they look at a small new-born baby, also the people in the village were convinced she was going to die. I tubed her for two weeks every 3 hours night and day, and now she takes a bottle very well and is now nearly 5 lbs. It was interesting to note how the men of the village gradually came, one by one, up to the house to look at her. We've named the baby Cindy, and it looks as if the name is going to stick.

During September I decided to start infant welfare work at Nebringi; this entails seven villages. Rosalie came with me, to help me, and also to take a service on Sunday. We started out after lunch on the Friday. When we came to the largest creek, the bridge was down, so we had to half swim half wade across. For part of the journey I was nearly up to my knees in mud and water. I think I turned ten shades paler when I first saw the swamp we had to walk through. We arrived at Nebringi at seven that evening, very foot sore and weary. The next day there was a reasonably good gathering of children, although not all the villagers arrived. I hope to patrol up to Nebringi every two months. The church service on the Sunday was well attended, as nearly everyone in the village came.

A patrol to three of the Roman Catholic villages in this area, proved to be heart-breaking. All the children looked thin, and a good many have different degrees of malnutrition. Not being able to treat all at the one time, I picked out the worst to come for treatment first, the others will come later.

Karmala Jutra

A stronghold of religious ignorance by K. P. Ransingh.

(Mr. Ransingh is helping H. Waghmode in evangelistic work.)

When we look to Hinduism we see ignorance as an important feature of it. In it there is ignorance of God,

of sin, of salvation and of eternal life. This ignorance is caused due to various reasons, chief of them being their faith in the forces of Nature. The sun, the moon, the wind, the stars, the water, etc., are all believed to have divinity in them. Thus they become natural gods to the Hindus. Thus multitudes of gods came into existence. (They say there are 330 million of them).

Out of this idea of many gods sprang the idea of one ultimate force (or God) who is supposed to be the "Brahm," out of whom all things in the universe took their existence. Thus every existence which sprang from that "Brahm" is part of that "Brahm" or "Brahm-tatwa" and hence is part of God himself. Thus everything has God within itself. Thus the idea of pantheism (all is god) came into existence.

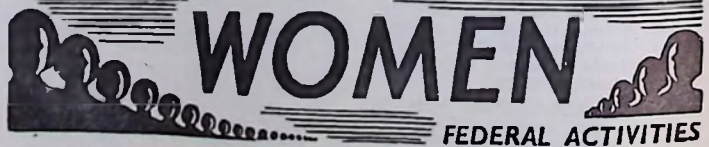
In the beginning, i.e., at the times of the Vedas, Hindus did not have idols for their worship. Idol worship was a later development in the history of Hindu religion. Since man could not see God (or natural forces) he began to make images of God out of wood, stone, silver, gold, etc. Thus idol-worship sprang from the inner craving for God's vision. It is something like the people of Israel at Mount Sinai clamoring after Aaron and asking him to show God in the likeness of a golden calf. But God has clearly indicated that idol worship is against God and his purpose for mankind. Israel later gave this up. But the Hindus stuck fast to idolatry. They found other explanations for it. Under the garb of "Aid to worship," the educated Hindus still justify idolatry. But the common man still thinks that an idol is the true God. These idols are found in every

village, city and at the banks of important and so-called sacred rivers. Temples are found everywhere. The tops of a mountain or a junction of two rivers, are supposed to be especially favored places by these gods.

Five miles away from Karamala, about 80 miles east of Baramati, there is a junction of two small rivers, where the god "Sangoba" is supposed to live. People have built a temple there and once a year they hold a big fair in his honor. In the last week of January we went to this fair, along with Mr. Waghmode and Miss Skuce, to preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this Jutra we saw various types of people. The bulk of the people were the poor, ignorant farmers who came to see the god, and worship him. Among others there were various shopkeepers who came to do their business and earn money. Mamon was their real god and this Jutra was only an incidental thing for them. Among the crowd there were also many educated Hindus who did not worry about the worship part of the fair. They just came to see and enjoy the fun with their families and children. With the enlightenment of modern education, they knew too well that the real God does not rest in the idols. They even listen to the gospel of Christ and believe it to be true. But their social prestige and communal restrictions do not allow them to embrace Christianity. Among the others there were those who wanted to make propaganda for their various companies (i.e., special brands of tea, cigarettes, etc.). Thus there were various types of people gathered together in that Jutra. We were only a dozen people, preaching faithfully the message of salvation through Christ Jesus to so many. Many people sat down quietly and listened to the word of God throughout the whole day. At night we showed pictures and preached the gospel.

We thank God for this opportunity of witnessing for him and we pray that those who have heard the gospel may really think about it and come to know Jesus as their true Saviour.

THE MINISTRIES OF OUR



WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

A combined meeting of the Christian Women's Fellowships of Morawa, Geraldton and Dalwallinu-Wubin was held at Morawa, Sat., Oct. 19. Object of this meeting was to form a Northern Districts Women's Conference. There were 31 women present. Mrs. P. Armstrong, President of W.A. Women's

conference, presided, and Mrs. Digwood acted as secretary.

Devotions were led by Mrs. Digwood, with Mrs. A. Morris, Vice-President of W.A. Women's Conference, leading in prayer, and Mrs. Armstrong as soloist.

It was unanimously decided to form the Northern Districts Women's Con-

ference, this to be held at a different time from the General District Conference. The next Conference was planned to be held at Morawa.

The following officers were elected: Pres., Mrs. R. H. Carslake; Vice-Pres., Mrs. D. G. Carslake; Sec., Mrs. Thygesen; Treas., Mrs. G. Barr. Representatives from Geraldton and Dalwallinu-Wubin: Mrs. Chamberlain and Mrs. R. Harris respectively.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Convention Day this year was held at Marrickville, Mrs. Dickson presiding. There were 170 ladies present, and all agreed it was an interesting day.

Mrs. Amos was with us from Victoria, and spoke on *Woman to Woman* Evangelism. Mrs. V. Stafford also brought a greeting from Victoria. During the morning session, Mrs. Main brought her impressions of Youth Camps, and Mrs. Millar on Family Camps. Mrs. Henderson on Camps for Women. During the afternoon session the ladies divided into three groups for discussion, and in three half-hour periods we discussed *Woman to Woman* Evangelism, Camps for Women, and C.W.F. and its outreach. The discussion leaders were Mrs. Amos, Mrs. J. Cooke and Mrs. Elliott. These proved very interesting and educational and gave everyone the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

Mrs. Larcombe led the devotions and Mrs. P. Verco was soloist.— J. Torode, Asst. Sec.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA. COUNCIL MEETING.

The President, Mrs. Lawrance, presided at the monthly meeting held at Grote-st., on Nov. 7, at 10.30 a.m.

ISLAND BIRTHDAY . . .

We have just celebrated the birthday of W.C.W.F. for the first time. For some time now our women's group has been conscious of a broadening of their outlook, and they are beginning to feel that they are a "part of the whole." Starting with our first Women's World Day of Prayer, in 1962, they now want to join with our own W.C.W.F., so we decided to celebrate the 8th birthday of the W.C.W.F. on Pentecost.

Some women came on Wednesday night and slept here, others came just for the day, some walking over 20 miles, carrying their food. We commenced the meeting at 1 p.m., and there were 126 women present. Sister Delaney led the meeting, using the set programme, which she modified to suit these people. We commenced with choruses while the women were coming in. The words of the hymns were new to our women, so we wrote them up on wall charts, together with the responsive reading. We sang the hymns to familiar tunes and alto-

gether it was a lovely meeting. After the devotions, Sister Delaney read the reports of the countries affiliated with W.C.W.F., and after each report a school girl came forward with a flag of that country and placed it in front of the map of the world and an open Bible. There were 20 flags in all, including two flags of the Anglo-French Condominium of the New Hebrides. The girls enjoyed participating in the ceremony.

At 3 p.m., we all went into the "school house" for afternoon tea. This comprised bread and butter (2 ins. thick), scones, cakes and tea, provided by the missionaries, and native pudding and vegetables, rice, meat, fish provided by the native women and schoolgirls. Everyone enjoyed the feast, especially those who had to walk many miles home again.

An offering was taken up and amounted to £5/5/-. This includes the fee for affiliation of the Pentecost C.W.F. with the World C.W.F.—(Mrs. D. M. Smith, New Hebrides).

There were 202 present, including 167 delegates and one visitor. Mrs. Lawrance extended a special welcome to Mrs. J. Edwards, on furlough from the New Hebrides.

The devotions were led by the President-Elect, Mrs. C. Cunningham, with thoughts on 2 Cor. 3: 1-3. Soloist was Mrs. J. Curtis.

The Obituary report was presented by Mrs. Hunt, and the prayer by Mrs. Riches, two sisters having received the Home call.

Mrs. Edwards brought greetings from the New Hebrides and told of the work being done at Ranwadi school on Pentecost.

Reports were received from the following departments of Women's Conference — Overseas, Home Mission, Aborigines, Catering, Christian Education.

On Nov. 12 a session of leadership training for C.W.F. and C.M.S. groups will be held at Grote-st., lecturer being John Bodycomb (Congregational Dept. of Christian Education).

Mrs. E. Parker, leader of the Hospital Dept., thanked the ladies for the Christmas gifts brought for distribution to hospital patients, and spoke on the work of the committee. She expressed gratitude to the ladies of Koongarra Park church for their help in visitation at Magill Wards.—M. Wright, Asst. Sec.

VICTORIA and TASMANIA.

Leader of devotions, Mrs. Hillbrich, Carnegie. A warm welcome was extended to all present, 187 representing 62 churches, with 25 apologies. A special welcome was given to visitors, Mrs. and Miss Brock (S.A.), Mrs. Cunningham (Red Cliffs), Mrs.

Beasy (Mildura), Mrs. Hank (Ararat), Matron Pearce (W. H. Clay Nursing Home). Also to guest speaker, A. A. McCutcheon — theme: "Inner Suburban Church Work." Mr. McCutcheon stressed the point that all Protestant churches must work together using every resource available and learning to serve the whole needs of the whole city. Church work must reconcile man to God, man to man, and man to his environment.

Mrs. Newham reported on *Woman to Woman* activities in Ballarat and Croydon, and commended the local women for faithful preparation prior to campaign. A challenge was given to other churches to spread the gospel of Christ as these churches had done.

Obituary. — President announced the passing of Roy Coventry. All remembered his wonderful service on the Mission field in India. The following were among those remembered in prayer, because of illness: Mrs. Ploog, Mr. Crisp, Mr. Amos, Mrs. Ferguson (W. Preston), Miss Davidson and Mr. Whittaker. Mrs. Randall led our thoughts in prayer as we remembered these folks.

Hospital Visitation. — Mrs. Weatherhead thanked all for beautiful gifts to be distributed at Christmas.

Temperance. — Mrs. Evans requested prayer that leaders be rightly directed during Royal Commission into Liquor Laws.

Evening Fellowship. — Mrs. Dorgan reported a successful camp, 106 present, and October rally.

Social Service. — Splendid stall, resulting in £100 raised — £90 to go to W. H. Clay Nursing Home.

The Secretary called for Superintendents' annual reports by early December.—E. M. Rankine, Sec.

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CHURCH GAMBLING

The president of the Australian Hotels Assoc., Mr. J. B. McInerney, recently complained bitterly about gambling facilities being granted to a church club in Sydney. However, it is out of no concern for the moral well-being of the community that the A.H.A. makes its protest. The club is Roman Catholic and it now has a licence to operate poker machines. Pointing out that the Catholic club had been refused a liquor licence, the A.H.A. president said this makes the club nothing more than a gambling casino!

The "Australia Baptist" says about all this, "Mr. McInerney is right. This is a straight out gambling club. The only difference between this and a lot of others . . . is that the others are straight out drinking and gambling hells. It is tragic that a branch of the Christian Church should lead itself to bringing such a demoralising influence into any neighborhood."

HERE AND THERE

Despite the use of extra pages and the crowding out of other material, there are still scores of church reports for which there is no room in this issue. Reporters are reminded that the final issue for 1963 will be published on December 17.

Dr. Paul Brand, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., world-renowned missionary surgeon is visiting Australia. He is Director of Orthopedic work for the Mission to Lepers, and Professor of Surgery at the Vellore Christian Medical College, South India. He has engaged in pioneering work in reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation of sufferers of leprosy. Dr. Brand is a gifted speaker and has the following itinerary: Sydney, Nov. 28 to Dec. 4; Brisbane, Dec. 4 to Dec. 6; Melbourne, Dec. 6 to Dec. 10; Adelaide, Dec. 10 to Dec. 12; and Perth, Dec. 12 to Dec. 14.

The need for guidance in the areas of sex, marriage, and the family, is demonstrated in the report to the annual meeting of the Father and Son Movement, held recently in Sydney. During the past 12 months the movement had conducted 1,026 lecture sessions with audiences totalling 118,000 parents and young people. The movement's counsellors were now booked 18 months ahead, and the public is being asked for financial help to make additions to the field staff.

C.W.F. Council meeting will be held in the Reception Room, Churches of Christ Centre, on Friday, Dec. 6, at 11 a.m. Special Christmas Service conducted by Coburg C.W.F. group. Members of Executive wish all a very blessed Christmas.

The Ann-st., Brisbane church has assumed a big responsibility, having purchased the adjoining property for £23,000. Improvements consist of a large two-storied brick building which can be used for expanded church activities. It is hoped that this building will ultimately become a Brotherhood Centre for Queensland, where Conference committees will all have their headquarters.

Moscow has found an argument against infant baptism that our fathers never thought of. In a talk on Moscow Radio recently, it was declared that dozens of babies have been admitted to Moscow clinics suffering from "pneumonia caused by christening." This pretext is being used to justify the stepped up programme to "overcome religious prejudices."

Dr. K. A. Bowes

AT GLEN IRIS GRADUATION AND ORDINATION

"I think I would have been prepared to crawl all the way from home rather than miss this wonderful meeting," said a mother of one of the Western Australian graduates after the annual Graduation and Ordination Service of the College of the Bible, held at Lygon-st. (Vic.) on Friday, Nov. 15.

It certainly was an occasion to remember. The chapel was crowded out and approximately one hundred people overflowed into the hall at the rear. Dr. W. A. Kemp, O.B.E., chaired the meeting, with Miss Vera Louey at the organ. Principal E. L. Williams spoke appreciatively of the thirteen students who were completing their courses, and presented diplomas to those who had qualified. D. J. Andrews responded on behalf of his fellow-exits. Dr. Kemp introduced, and warmly welcomed Dr. K. R. Bowes as a member of the College Faculty following the retirement of R. T. Pittman. Dr. Bowes made an impressive response and then delivered an address to the congregation and outgoing students. Assisted by several brethren, Principal Williams conducted the ordination service, and as those being set apart affirmed their convictions and knelt for the prayer of commitment, all hearts were joined in thanksgiving for those going forth and for the privilege of co-operative Christian service.

The following is part of a response made by Dr. Bowes:

"To be called to the ministry of the gospel is always a privilege and an honor. To be called to assist in the training of men and women for the ministry is not only a great honor, but also a grave responsibility. Such a ministry cannot be undertaken alone, but only through the grace of God and the sustaining fellowship of the Spirit, the Church . . .

"The beginning of a new work is always difficult. My work, in one sense, will be all the more difficult because of the stature of the one whom I succeed. It will be impossible for me to teach as wisely, live as kindly, and witness as effectively as R. T. Pittman, for he has been a spiritual giant in his God-given work . . .

"I believe that I stand in the great heritage of the College, which can be stated as: loyalty to the person of Christ; faithfulness to the Scriptures; loyalty to the plea of our movement; and faithfulness within the universal Church of God. My prayer is that I shall be worthy of such a heritage and such a responsibility."

QUESTING

A. E. White.

Some of the churches are revising their hymn books and omitting well-known but unsuitable hymns. What are our churches doing about hymn book revision?

We have a Hymnbook Committee which has been working hard for years on the task of revising our hymn book. The Federal Conference of 1958 asked the committee to proceed with the preparation of a new "words and music" hymnal. The committee is proceeding.

This is not a work that can be rushed. What is produced will have to last for many years. A great deal of reflection is required and, I imagine, a lot of negotiation concerning copyright will go on. The target date for the new book is, at present, 1965. This date, in the event, may prove too optimistic. But we shall have waited to good purpose if our hopes for a new and more effective hymnbook are realised.

At present more than half of our hymns are not used. This is partly the fault of congregations which get into a hymn-singing rut. But it is also because many of our hymns are unsuitable. Then, too, a lot of hymns express emotions which seemed natural enough to our great-grandfathers, but which are not acceptable to 20th century worship. On T.V. this year in England, an Anglican leader declared that many of the hymns in his book are "ghastly."

Some of the hymns in our book are "ghastly," like "Beyond the frost-chain and the fever." Some are embarrassing, like "Oh, that will be glory for me," and "It is well with my soul." There may be nothing inherently wrong or false about the sentiment of these hymns, but most people today prefer hymns which seek more directly to glorify God and to express the concern of the church for the souls of others.

As I don't know what the hymnbook committee is up to, I cannot reveal any of their plans, but it is safe to assume that many of the present hymns will be dismissed and replaced with hymns that are alive with meaning for the church of our day.

Maybe the committee will also remember that hymns have music as well as words, and that men as well as women will sing them. It is embarrassing when the only active participation of men in worship is ruined because the tune (or the organ) is pitched too high!



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

Elizabeth Verco, Marilyn Lane, Chatswood, N.S.W.

Mrs. Heathcote, Albury, N.S.W.

Ann McAulay, Norelle Yeaman, Hornsby, N.S.W.

Wendy Small, Bill DeBruhn, Morawa, W.A.

Dianne and Peter Fitcher, Paul Sayers, Gregory Millen, Mayfield, N.S.W.

Mrs. N. Lindan, Patricia Tranter, Janice Beeson, Daniel Byrne, Subiaco, W.A.

John Fox, Burwood, N.S.W.

Gail Wootten, Margaret Brown, Peter Looney, Graeme Cockerill, Miss Y. Cockerill, Mr. Cockerill, snr., Mr. and Mrs. V. Cockerill, Hamilton, N.S.W.

Brian Archer, John Clapp, Midland, W.A.

Vicki Kemp, Beverley Jones, Unley, S.A.

Ray Thomas, Bevan Barron, Rosemary Thomas, Noel Grundy, Mrs. Benjamin, Lynette Bullen, Midland-Mt. Helena, W.A.

C. Dollman, Rodney Lloyd, Chadstone, Vic.

Wayne Clinton, Bayswater, Vic.

Tony Dove, Albury, N.S.W.

Miss P. Hair, Mrs. E. Jessop, Murwillumbah, N.S.W.

Mrs. Johnson, Ron Johnson, Graham Condron, Norman Woodward, Jennifer Neville, Oakleigh, Vic.

L. Brady, Prahran, Vic.

Shirley Kirk, Perth, W.A.

Membership

Graeme Bannan, Hamilton to Malvern, Vic.

Mr. Heath, from Maylands; Mr. Venus, Edwardstown Baptist to Unley, S.A.

Mrs. Dollman, from Oakleigh; Mr. and Mrs. Miller, from Clayton, to Chadstone, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. Jolly, Loxton to Walkerville, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, Red Hill, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. Donnan, Albion, Qld. to Oakleigh, Vic.

Marriage

Jennifer Young to John Pearson, Middle Park, Vic.

Janette Smith to Graeme Wright, Malvern, Vic.

Thelma Taylor to John Towers, Preston, Vic.

Leslie Isaac, South Perth, to Eric Hogben, Wembley, W.A.

Fallen Asleep

Mr. Cousins, Maidstone, Vic.

Mrs. E. T. Rowland, Unley, S.A.

Robert Cahill, Preston, Vic.

Mrs. Troy, Wembley, W.A.

H. R. Coventry, Chadstone, Vic.

QUEENSLAND

Chinchilla (B. Reid). — Church hall has been extended, and Ladies' Fellowship organised concert on Nov. 2 to mark its opening. Nearly 100 were present and enjoyed a varied programme and supper. Stage and hall were decorated by ladies. Fellowship tea is held first Sunday in every month, when as many as 70 enjoy fellowship. C.E. is growing and C.W.F. creating interest. Chinchilla and Hopelands ladies visited Dalby for lunch and fellowship afternoon.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Midland (E. B. Clapp). — Three welcomed into fellowship following baptism. Guest speaker at youth tea on Oct. 20 was G. Francis. Two Y.P. professed Jesus Christ as their saviour. Two baptised prior to gospel service. Mrs. Wells on visit to Melb. to be present at graduation of son. Bryce from C.O.B. Mt. Helena B.S. anniversary, Oct. 27, addressed by Dr. L. E. Jones (Perth). Working bee held Nov. 2. One baptism, 3rd, and two on 10th. Midland B.S. anniversary on 17th, with L. Donaldson (Fremantle) as speaker.

Subiaco (G. Smith). — C.W.F. journeyed to Kalamunda for fellowship. Ladies catered for morning tea at Ministers' Fraternal to meet Dr. Jauncey. Senior Y.P. visited B.H.P. Rolling Mill, Kwinana. G.L.B. held successful camp, followed by church parade, at which several members accepted Christ. Leederville S. Army Band conducted concert in aid of New Hall Fund. Mr. Booth (B. and F. B. S.), Messrs. Thomas and Vin-

cent, speakers during absence of minister. Mrs. Pennington and family back in fellowship, also John Spreadborough from Canberra. Mrs. Whitaker and Mr. Mulvaney recovering from illness. Congratulations to Dr. Donald Reid on success in recent examinations.

Wembley (H. R. Fitch). — Garden party held at home of Dr. G. Hall raised £107 for medical work at Dhond Hospital, India. Miss Maureen Elsegood (Living Link) has been sharing in worship with church during holidays from Carnarvon Mission. Sympathy extended to family of late Mrs. Troy. Church gladdened to have D. Manning and A. Ware in fellowship after illness. Mrs. Curtis progressing following accident. Church assisted in Hunger Doorknock Appeal with other local churches, following morning service. C.W.E.F. appreciated visit from Mrs. Plaistowe, who spoke on Claremont Mental Hospital welfare work. H. Fitch and R. Ellis (Maylands) gave challenging messages during Spring Crusade. Those who shared and assisted in these meetings received a blessing, although attendances were much lower than anticipated.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Earlwood (F. Elliott - R. Craig). — Increase in youth attendance at gospel meeting, Nov. 3, and several youthful visitors, including Misses E. and J. Jarvis (Wanganui, N.Z.); Barry Zambra (Kingsford) was soloist. At annual business meeting of church on Oct. 30, N. Matthews was returned to eldership. Deacons are R. Carrick, F. Strickland (sec.), A. Walker, J. Werner, G. Hudson, J. Morris. Reports manifest splendid service. Thanks to C.W.F. for consecrated giving in various directions.

Epping (H. M. Long). — In preparation for church anniversary, 5 area cottage meetings were organised. In each area two husband and wife teams were appointed as "area shepherds," who introduced Friendship Evangelism to their group meeting, supported by film strips. Church members visited many contacts to invite them to anniversary services. On weekend Oct. 18-20, anniversary services were held, guest speaker being J. Ridley, M.C. Church was greatly blessed, and there were 21 decisions for Christ and 17 reaffirmations. All who responded have taken on four assignments of follow-up lessons. The 5 areas, with their respective shepherds, are carrying on as part of the normal "functional" church.

Tamworth (F. D. Craig). — American Teen Team provided splendid programme at Y.F.C. meeting on Oct. 18, when hall was crowded. C.M.S. had model train exhibition on 21st. Theme of B.S. anniversary on 27th was *Go Forth and Tell*, beautifully depicted on a scroll with a herald on one side and world overshadowed by the Cross on the other. School sang well, under direction P. Belford. E. Watson (O.A.C.) was speaker. B.S. tea on 29th, followed by demonstration by school and prizegiving. Members attended united service on evening of Nov. 3. Mrs. R. Taylor in hospital.

Georgetown (R. B. Elbourne). — Superintendents for 25 years, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Fraser, were recipients of gifts from staff and school at Silver Anniversary services. Mr. and Mrs. N. Thompson have purchased bus to transport boys and girls to school, clubs and youth outings. Picnic to boat harbor was one of the best yet.

Hornby (R. Hilford). — B.S. held picnic on Oct. 19 at the Boys' Home, Pendle Hill. Boys' Brigade took part in Founder's Day parade in city on 27th. Church supported tent mission at Belrose on two nights. Minister conducted combined prayer meeting with Asquith at Bingley Hall on 30th. Soloists have been Mrs. Laidlaw, Mr. Glazier and Miss Torode.

Marrickville (M. J. Bedwell). — B.S. anniversary was thrilling time. Singing excellent, under supt., L. Thomas. Building packed both Sundays. Morning speaker on Nov. 10 was Samuel (New Hebrides), who was also guest of honor at an after-church farewell, when C.W.F. presented him with a transistor gramophone for use in New Hebrides, and the church a gift of money. Night service taken by A. Dalton assisted by T. Long and boys from Pendle Hill Boys' Home. Youth group entertained them at a fellowship tea. Sympathy to N. Moore in passing of his father. R. Maxwell in hospital.

Inverell (R. Powell). — C.W.F. journeyed to home of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, Delungra, on Oct. 30, for "a day on the farm." Ladies from Delungra were also present. Mrs. Hamilton led devotions and gave interesting talk on "favorite hymns." Table tennis was enjoyed after lunch, followed by tour around the farm. Teen's Fellowship held "progressive tea" on Nov. 8, visiting a number of church families during evening. Boys' and girls' club enjoyed film evening, 10th, when Mr. Powell screened some Parables from Nature filmstrips.

Padstow (A. Surtees). — Highway to Victory crusade, conducted by A. Leane, proved time of rich fellowship, and church rejoices in decision of one young man. B.S. anniversary services well attended, speakers being

Messrs. Freckleton, Surtees and Theobald. Four scholars were counselled at the close of the final meeting. Successful car drive was organised in Oct. by C.M.S., also a bowls and barbecue evening. An evening of music was organised by C.W.F. Gligandra Y.P. joined with local Y.P. for their annual "Padandra" camp, held at C.M.S. building in Katoomba. Guest speaker for weekend was Ais Pormes (Indonesia). Baptismal service held Nov. 10, when two girls were immersed.

Murwillumbah (G. B. Davis). — Baptismal service held on Nov. 3, and two women were received into fellowship on 10th. During absence of minister in Sydney, services were conducted by D. L. Bartrim, D. K. Thompson and R. F. Goode. Members supporting Bangalow mission. A. Bartrim, sr., and Mrs. C. Harry in hospital.

Albury - Wedonga - Lavington (D. Oldfield - P. Kavanagh). — One decision Nov. 3. A. Morris (W.A.) visitor 17th. Number of members ill, including Messd. Combridge, McEachern, Kavanagh, Fassant and John Combridge. P. Kavanagh will commence joint ministry on completion of his holidays.

Burwood (Dr. A. G. Elliott). — C.W.F. "open night" was appreciated, when Mr. Wilson screened films of American cities. Guest preacher, Nov. 3, was Roland Brown (U.S.A.), representing Camp Farthest Out Prayer Movement. T. Long was guest at youth tea and youth service in evening. Youth choir sang under direction of Mr. Hayward. Baptismal service on 10th well attended. C.W.F. visited Pendle Hill for combined prayer meeting on 12th, and on 14th day of fellowship was enjoyed at garden party at home of Mrs. Marshall.

Hamilton (W. D. Howard). — B.S. anniversary held Oct. 20. Kinders rendered items at afternoon session, when Mrs. Carpenter (Salv. Army) was guest speaker. Senior school demonstration held at evening service, when speaker was Major Carpenter (Salv. Army). Baptismal service on Nov. 3, when two young ladies were baptised. D. Brown was soloist. During the service eight new members were received into fellowship. Numerous visitors welcomed.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Loxton (O. R. Clark). — B. and F. B. S. had special meeting at Berri. Ministers of Upper Murray had fellowship with ministers from Sunraysia district and visited Gerrard Mission in afternoon. Special programme by Gerrard Aboriginal Mission folk who visited on Oct. 20 appreciated, singing in national tongue and playing on gum leaves. Sing-song and supper

followed. Table tennis team won shield by defeating Loxton Methodist. Youth parade of 70 present for screening of film, *Angry Jungle*. Two members transferred to another district. Successful B.S. anniversary held Nov. 3, with K. Horne (Conf. Pres.) speaker. Attendances were: 148 afternoon; 155 p.m. Communicants for month averaged 40, B.S. 60, G.L.B. 48. Members attended youth night at Barmera, Nov. 1, and Upper Murray Conference on 2nd.

Lenswood (A. J. Ingham). — Three were added to church by baptism during year. Many visitors at B.S. anniversary. K. Horne (Conf. Pres.) was guest speaker. Mrs. Lawrance (Women's Conf. Pres.) distributed prizes. B.S. came 4th in Efficiency Campaign. School picnic at Willamstown Oval was great success.

Murray Bridge (H. Cave). — Bowls teams and wives shared in a dinner at hall, waited on by the young ladies of church. Church building is on main highway, and attracts visitors from all over Australia. In last few weeks fellowship has been enjoyed with several journeying families and others staying in the town. Mrs. Williams (Merbein) is welcome visitor. J.C.E. enjoyed written exchange meeting with Mannum Baptist J.C.E. Juniors sponsored family social to raise funds for State C.E. Project, Londua. Offering was £8/8/-; total gift from group, £14/3/-. I. Roberts conducted programme, which was very enjoyable. C.W.E.F. took part in evening service on 10th. C.M.S. meeting on 13th had Mr. Broomhead speak on Mission work in the highlands of New Guinea. C.W.A.F. election of officers on 12th: pres., Mrs. Cave; vice-pres., Messd. P. Harper and G. Bywaters; sec., Mrs. Reu; treas., Mrs. G. Harper. Mrs. F. Mitchell slowly progressing back to health in hospital.

VICTORIA

Black Rock (P. Payne). — B.S. anniversary held Oct. 13 and 20 with good attendances at the three services. Miss J. Canterbury (Oakleigh) speaker at Kinder service, and R. Brooker at Primary service. Minister led singing by senior school and spoke at final service. Y.P. had fellowship with C. of E. (Hightett) at home of W. White. Y.P. produce church paper monthly. Holiday working-bee saw good results. District prayer rally in chapel on 6th. Members attended South Bayside District Conference on 2nd.

North Fitzroy (J. Turner, B.A. - C. Heier). — B.S. held 90th anniversary Oct. 20 and 27. At 3 p.m. on 20th a capacity congregation, including many past-teachers and scholars, saw a pageant on the growth and development of a scholar's life in the school, as portrayed by teachers, kinders and

senior scholars. Reunion tea held at 5 p.m. Evening service was addressed by A. W. C. Candy (East Kew). On 27th, John Birt was afternoon speaker and then presented awards to scholars. J. Shaw (Springvale) spoke at p.m. meeting. Ladies held successful sale of work at home of Mrs. Davies.

Castlemaine (A. C. Mudford). — Family services and tea held, with good attendances. Mrs. Macdonald soloist at evening service. Church parade of basketball team on Oct. 13. Barbecue held on property of M. Brumby. Sympathy extended to Misses McKindley in loss of a brother. Attendances during past month have shown improvement.

Dandenong (A. R. Lloyd). — B.S. annual meeting on Nov. 3 appointed A. Smith, supt. Social afternoon held by ladies of Hospital Committee to collect gifts for hospital distribution. Special screening of children's films on morning of 9th. Church extends sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Sharp at passing of Mrs. Sharp snr.

Drumcondra (R. Banks). — C.W.E.F. had as guest speaker, Mr. Duff, who showed precious stones, and spoke on their history. Ladies attended birthday afternoon at the Terrace. Good attendance at father and son fellowship tea on Oct. 27. J. McCulloch was guest speaker, and showed slides of Scotland. W.M.E. current missionary project is Regions Beyond Missionary Union, and F. Manning (Aust. sec.) addressed meeting on 30th. J. Edwards (New Hebrides) preached on 27th. G.L.B. were guests of Norlane Brigade on Nov. 5. C.W.E.F. conducted meeting of Norlane group same evening. Representatives of C.M.S. attended men's breakfast in Melb. B.S. showing increase in numbers. Number of Y.P. received into fellowship Nov. 3.

East Preston (T. Lane). — Discipleship classes conducted by minister have proved fruitful; as a result 10 persons were baptised during a morning service, and then welcomed into fellowship of church. C.E. film night raised £15 for Mission Hospital. Thirty members of midweek Fellowship recently visited St. Patrick's, where priest explained symbolism and doctrine. Documentary film, Africa and Dr. Schweitzer, screened during evening service was well received.

Essendon (V. Quayle). — W. W. Saunders (Conf. Sec.) speaker a.m. Oct. 20. Film, *Serving Christ*, screened at p.m. meeting. At close of service church shared in combined meeting in Presbyterian Church, organised by local Ministers' Fraternal; speaker was W. W. Saunders. Young Adult Fellowship enjoyed visit from Hartwell Y.A.F. on 22nd. Boy's Sunday observed Nov. 3, lads taking part at both services; a.m. speaker was R. Baldry. 50 fathers and sons sat down to tea, at which speaker was B.

Cheatley. B.S. picnic at Hanging Rock, Nov. 5. Sympathy is extended to Mr. Moss and family, Mrs. Musgrove and Mrs. Stringer and family in loss of loved ones.

Maryborough (R. Pritchard). — B.S. has commenced another year, with A. Kennedy (supt.). Greg Lindsay, Dennis Davies; Helen Sing and Janice Branton have graduated from Teens section to teaching staff. Y.W.F. held successful evening on Nov. 1, and drama group presented the play, *Scrambled Eggs*; proceeds for New Organ Fund. On 3rd, church was host to approx. 70 Guides and Brownies for their monthly church parade. Junior choir sang. Four Y.P. confessed Christ as Saviour.

Swan Hill (D. G. Beanland). — B.S. Teacher dedication service held on Nov. 3, with 22 members of Church School and Kinder staff taking part. C.W.F. annual fete on Nov. 1 very successful, with proceeds exceeding £140. B. Pryor (Echuca) exchanged pulpits with minister for both services on 17th.

St. Klida (L. Baxter). — Y.P. visited the "Age" newspaper offices. Church regrets the passing away of Miss Lilly Bates, who had been a faithful witness for several years. Ladies enjoyed fellowship with Malvern group on Oct. 21. Y.P. enjoyed outing to Alphington sports centre on 1st.

Box Hill (L. S. Dewberry). — On Oct. 16, L. V. Shannon (Tottenham Baptist) was speaker at Y.P.C.E. On 20th, C.E. groups attended meeting at local Baptist church. Joy Duffin and Norman Wurst honored prior to marriage and their leaving for missionary service in N.G. Junior Good Companions held surprise night on 24th, and seniors a trampoline night. Youth service held on 27th, with cricket club members attending. D. H. Smith (Dept. H.M. and Evang.) was speaker at Y.P.C.E. on 30th. Special meetings for Boy's Sunday, Nov. 3, with boys taking part. A father and son tea was also held. B.S. picnic held on 5th at Belgrave Heights. Av. attendance Oct.: a.m. 194; p.m. 93; comm. 136. Mrs. Dewberry snr. (Sydney) has been visitor.

Springvale (J. G. Shaw). — Annual business meeting, Oct. 16, elected new officers, A. Wilson and G. Peers. B.S. anniversary well attended; G. Setzman addressed both services on 27th. Church regrets passing of Mrs. Stocks. Mr. and Mrs. Tarr have been ill.

Ashburton (P. Andrews). — Kinder anniversary on Oct. 6 took form of a normal kinder session, very much appreciated by parents. C.Y.F. had service day around property, clearing up grounds and making barbecue to be used by clubs. Church and B.S. anniversary and Temple Day held on 27th; speakers, G. Brown, P. Andrews

and E. S. Sanders. Temple Day offering, £763, exceeded target.

Bendigo (G. J. Andrews). — Ninety-seventh church anniversary celebrated Nov. 10. A.M. service broadcast over 3BO. Guest preacher for day was A. R. Haskell (Conference President). D. Marr (Spring Gully minister) presided p.m. service, when young lady from that area was baptised and a young man decided for Christ. Choir work, under C. F. Houston, appreciated. After-church fellowship hour featured audio-visual Call From the Queensland Churches to 1964 Federal Conference and soloist, Miss Joyce Kear. Annual combined B.S. picnic (Short-st., Kangaroo Flat and Spring Gully) held at Ravenswood, Nov. 5. I. Baker (B.&F.B.S.) introduced and screened film, *Aboriginal Genesis*, at C.Y.F. open night, 7th.

Carlton (R. J. Duckett). — Church extends sympathy to Miss N. Snooks in Home call of her mother, also to relatives of late Mrs. Noble. October box opening for 1963 Missionary Appeal saw thermometer rise above set target to £1,504. 109th homecoming and anniversary, held on Nov. 3, was a grand day of fellowship. 170 present a.m., and over 100 at afternoon and evening meetings. Regret was expressed at sudden illness of minister, necessitating surgery from which he is now recovering. Guest speakers for day were J. E. Brooke, D. Chipp, M.H.R., and W. Clack. Vocal items by R. Meadows and Misses V. and Y. Ward were appreciated. A. Johnson, N. Haddow and Miss E. Currie are still ill. B.S. picnic held at Parkdale on 5th. J. P. Harrison has had charge of midweek prayer and Bible study session in absence of minister. B. Greenwood and R. V. Merrett were speakers on 10th.

Chelsea (C. G. V. Thomas). — Members attended District Conference at Toolgarook. P.M. service, Oct. 27, conducted by C.Y.F.; John Taylor presided and J. Lowrey (C.O.B.) was preacher. After-church fellowship held at Seaford. C.E. heard Mrs. Manning speak on *The Congo People* on Nov. 1. Men's and boys' tea, Nov. 3, attended by 80. Girls in saris served tea and most dishes were of Indian origin. 4 teenage boys made their decisions at p.m. service, when T. Lane (East Preston) spoke to congregation of 98. Some Y.P. attended camp same weekend, with Dr. King as camp chief and Mrs. Page as camp auntie. Memorable service p.m. 10th, when eight believers from Seaford were baptised. After-church fellowship in hall and farewell to J. Lowrey (C.O.B.) followed. C.W.E.F. enjoyed floral art demonstration at local Presbyterian on 6th.

Dunolly (D. Andrews). — Men erected new fence on property and undertook general working bee. B.S. anniversary held Nov. 10. Speaker was P. Perry (Chadstone); many visit-

ors present. Church farewelled student minister (D. Andrews) on 10th. J. Lowrey will commence student ministry in 1964. Guild met at home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Scott, Newbridge. Some members recovered from illness. Church appreciates use of members' cars in connection with church activities.

Hartwell (Dr. G. A. Whiting, B.A.). — B.S. anniversary services commenced Nov 3. Speakers, E. L. Williams, Dr. Whiting, P. Andrews (Ashburton). Kinder and primary dept's. took part in special session on afternoon of 10th led by Miss P. Horsborough; p.m. speaker was T. Turriff (North Balwyn). Large attendances all services enjoyed singing led by R. Cleland. On 5th, 27 cars conveying 110 people, travelled over mystery route, stopping at Maroonah Dam for lunch and happy time of fellowship during afternoon. Prayer and Bible study group visited East Burwood church on 6th for H.M. prayer rally. Hospital Sunday offering. £37/10/-.

Hawthorn (H. A. Hunt). — Overall improvement in attendances. Splendid attendance at morning service of Nov. 10. Number of visitors present including H. Hargreaves, who was a.m. speaker.

Morwell - Traralgon (L. G. Armstrong). — Morning speaker at Traralgon on 3rd, P. Sommer (Bentleigh). Morwell Explorer Club held father and son tea on 3rd, after which slides of camp trips were shown. Club took active part in gospel service. One man was baptised at service on 10th, and afterwards G. Cann (Mission to Lepers) told of work of Mission, with aid of movie films.

Norlane (B. White). — C.W.E.F. had inspiring evening when Miss Storfer showed slides and told of work done by European Christian Mission. Evening of happy fellowship also spent with ladies from Drumcondra. J. Edwards (New Hebrides) speaker p.m., Oct. 27. Annual meeting of church on 30th, preceded by tea. Reports from all depts. very encouraging. F. Smith welcomed to Officers' Board. One decision Nov. 3. Exchange of platform with Belmont, a.m. 10th. Confession of faith of married woman at night.

Ormond (R. C. McKenzie, B.A.). — Successful B.S. anniversary services concluded Nov. 10. Ladies continuing morning prayer meetings in members' homes. C.W.E.F. raising money for "living link" per medium of morning coffees, etc. Y.P.F. holding car rally, also doing odd jobs for members. Proceeds to help Christian Education Centre Fund.

Portland (A. C. Male). — Good attendances being maintained in all depts. of work, chapel being full to its capacity at morning services. Work on new hall and church extensions commenced on Nov. 9 with Turning

of the Sod ceremony and a pet's parade. Much enthusiasm shown by voluntary helpers preparing for contract work. Ministers and members taking active interest in proposed appointment of chaplain for Portland High School. Rex Moody home from overseas; Mrs. Sprigg at church again after surgery; Mrs. Goldsworthy, snr., still in hospital.

Reservoir (F. B. Alcorn). — Church held Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 3. Services were well attended. Evening session addressed by Mrs. V. M. Morrison (pres., C.W.F.). Musical arrangements greatly appreciated (choir and quartette). Thankoffering was £174. Attendances have been excellent at all services over past months. Fellowship groups meeting Tuesday evenings. Cricketers progressing well; junior and senior teams competing. Debbie Falke welcomed to services after illness.

Balwyn (L. F. Barker). — Church indebted to H. Steele for services during absence of minister at Drumcondra for three weeks, also to Messrs. Evans and Gilmore for morning addresses. C.E. gave night's entertainment to old members in their homes, also helped C.W.E.F. entertain Elderly Citizens of Canterbury, P.B.P. entertained residents of Onkleigh Guest Home and C.W.F. held service at Emmaus. Students' pre-examination service held Nov. 10, with panel of teachers, students and student's father taking part. Ward sisters rendered vocal items and D. W. Hibbert was speaker. Explorer club held parade on 3rd. Messdames, Jones, Murray and Hall, snr., recovering from surgery after accident.

Burwood (H. J. Patterson, M.A.). — Kinder, primary and senior school combined to provide interesting programme for B.S. anniversary. R. Brooker speaker for second p.m. service. Annual fair up to expectation; £250 raised toward debt reduction.

Ladies raised £11 at hairdressing demonstration. Church was host for H.M. prayer rally, Nov. 6. Explorer club boys capably conducted evening service for Boy's Sunday. This is a strong auxiliary, capably led. Messrs. Barton and Story (U.F.M.) speakers at recent services. Film on N.G. Missions was screened by Mr. Story.

Middle Park (J. Weldon). — B.S. anniversary held Nov. 10. Scholars gave splendid presentation on The Bible in Song and Story, under leadership of Miss Lowson. A. Matheson and J. Weldon were speakers. Mrs. Lumb in hospital. Mrs. G. Hartvigsen and Mrs. Fahey discharged from hospital.

Chadstone (P. R. Perry). — 22 members attended Church Life Conference at Monbulk, Oct. 25-27. Second series of house church commenced recently, being supported satisfactorily. C.M.S. Nov. sports night proved enjoyable evening. Church extended sympathy to Coventry family in passing of elder, H. R. Coventry. Three new members welcomed by transfer, and two by faith and baptism.

Red Hill (M. D. Keatch). — B.S. anniversary held Nov. 10. Speaker was Mr. Betram. Stewardship programme has been successfully launched. Good Companions held weekend camp at Flinders, 15th. Two received into fellowship, 17th. Offerings taken for Hospitals and Freedom From Hunger.

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MARRIAGE

DUNN - CHISWELL. — The marriage of June Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Dunn, 44 Bossington-st., South Oakleigh, Vic., to Mervyn Arthur, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Chiswell, 12 McMahon-st., St. Arnaud, was celebrated at Oakleigh (Vic.) Church of Christ on Sat., Nov. 9, at 11 a.m.

BIRTH

HENSBY (Hayward). — On Nov. 15, to Lorraine and Clifford, God's gift of a son — Phillip David, 16 Vista-st., Greenwich, N.S.W.

GOLDEN WEDDING

ABERNETHY - LANE. — Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Abernethy give thanks to God for the 50th anniversary of their wedding, celebrated in the Polkenmet (Vic.) Church of Christ, on Nov. 26, 1913, by G. B. Moyssey.

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OBITUARY

H. R. Coventry.

H. R. Coventry, of Chadstone, Vic., missionary, preacher, church elder, friend to many, husband and father beloved, was called of God to Higher service on Oct. 24, after an illness of some duration.

As a boy he lived in the hill country outside of Adelaide, but at the age of 19 went to Hindmarsh, where he contacted the church, and under the ministry of Ira Paternoster, there made his decision for Christ. Then he joined the young men's training class in Adelaide, and later, having a mind for missions he entered the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, in 1913.

He was strong and vigorous in body and mind and possessed from the outset a desire to serve well the Lord. Because of his being an Overseas Missions student, and because of an insistent call to him to go to India, at the close of his theological studies he immediately went out. This was in the early part of 1916 in difficult war years. Because of urgent needs on the field, and before she had completed her nursing training, Miss Ethel Warmbrunn joined him on the field some nine months later and they were married.

It was a difficult period for missions in "Our India," and it seems that we owe much to H. R. Coventry that we are still there. He served and managed in various capacities, and I suppose in none better than in the work with the criminal tribes settlement people. His was an outstanding and meritorious service recognised by the Government and rewarded with the Kaiser-I-Hind medal with which he was presented. Few, if any, have served the church better than he in missionary work. His years of service extended from 1916-1947.

Reg. Bolduan, who was associated with him in India over very many years, at a service in the Chadstone church (of which in latter years Roy was a member) paid a most eloquent tribute to the work and worth of his sincere man of God. Bruce McIntosh, who conducted the service, and H. J. Patterson also bore testimony to his memory as a man within the congregation and as a friend and fellow student.

H. R. Coventry was always a solid, dependable fellow, full of faith and courage, loyal to our movement for which he maintained a very keen interest so long as health permitted.

The very large assemblage in which were very many former missionaries, paid a fine tribute to his memory. The writer conducted the service at the graveside at Berwick, in which town he had, in student days, spent much time.

The sympathy of all goes out to Mrs. Coventry and daughters, Mar-

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garet (Mrs. McIlhagger), Vera (Mrs. K. J. Patterson), Muriel, and Janet (Mrs. Thoday). We shall miss him much, for he was loved by all who knew him, either overseas or at home. —H.J.P.

Mrs. Elizabeth Roberts.

The church at Fairfield, Vic., recently lost one of its oldest and most esteemed members in the person of our late beloved sister. She came into the church 36 years ago and remained in fellowship with us over that entire period. She lived in the district the whole of her life and was a devoted mother to her family. During the past seven years she had been in our Social Service Home, where she found great comfort and fellowship and was always appreciative of the attention which she received. She died in her 90th year and was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery after a service in Ferguson's Mortuary, Northcote. The writer officiated in each instance. To her family and friends the church tenders its sympathy. —T. A. Fitzgerald.

William Vere Cousins.

W. V. Cousins decided for Christ when he was 22 years of age in the old Paisley-st. Chapel, Footscray, 1902. He married Alexia Jenkins in 1904, the late Principal A. R. Maln officiating. For many years he served on the Official Board of the Footscray church. Among his activities were those of choirmaster and Bible School teacher. He also used his musical talent to train many school choirs. In 1949 he became a foundation member of the Maldstone church. Since then he maintained his active interest in all the work. On Monday, November 4, he passed quietly to be "forever with the Lord." The large representative gathering which filled the Maldstone chapel bore testimony to the high esteem in which Mr. Cousins was held and the wide range of community as well as church interests in which he actively shared for so many years. We commend to our heavenly Father, Mrs. Cousins and the large family circle, sharing with them the realisation that our sorrow is but for the moment and the certain knowledge that through the resurrection of our Lord we who trust him fully have eternal life. —D. A. V. Thomas.

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NOTICE

OVERSEAS MISSION meeting is planned for Dec. 11, to welcome Mr. and Mrs. B. V. COVENTRY and Mr. and Mrs. W. J. EDWARDS, at 8 p.m., in the Swanston-st. church,

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