

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

CIRCULATING AMONGST CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH AND NEW ZEALAND

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Is It Well?

A. L. Haddon, B.A., Organiser, N.S.W. Bible Schools and Young People's Committee.

Elisha's urgent inquiry of the Shunamite woman—"Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?" (2 Kings: 4)—presents a characteristic that is Christ-like. The man of God is always concerned for the welfare of others. We might well take from this ancient incident a motto for our more modern messages. "Is it well with the child?" It is significant and suggestive that Elisha recognised that the welfare of the home and of the adults involved the welfare of the child. It involves a great deal more besides. In answering the question, "Is it well with the child?" we give the answer to another—

Is it well with mankind?

With a frequency that has fathered familiarity, outstanding thinkers of our time have uttered pessimistic prophecies concerning the continuance of our civilisation. They bid us look upon the sombre spectacle of a gathering gloom upon humanity's horizon. As they read the records of the race, or ponder the progress of personality, they see that several civilisations have trodden the pathway which we pursue, to reach the pinnacle parallel to that which we at present occupy and then to fail. Some of these social structures were not one whit behind our own in governmental genius, military might and magnificence, or comprehensive culture, but each era of advance has alternated with the apparently inevitable day of decline and decay. By what power do we propose to follow further than all others the pathway of progress? Thus men inquire. A few less fearful, more faithful of the fathers bid us harbor our hope in the thought that men may yet seek and secure a spiritual basis for society; men may yet, in a spirit of brotherhood, recognise that the race is one, and in this unity find strength.

In other words we are told to turn to, and trust for our triumph, the gospel of Galilee. It is the good Samaritan who will build the ages yet to be. The Christ-spirit is the divine dynamic which will determine the deeds and destiny of the days unborn. Two possibilities lie ahead. Either European civili-

render a humble and homely service, at times a monotonous ministry. But each head has a halo when rightly viewed. The task glistens with a glory all its own when we see it as the prime power in preventing the salvaging of our civilisation, and in the building of a better world.

Is it well with the child? With the answer is connected another query:

Is it well with the nation?

The child is father of the nation. The differences between decadent Spain and vigorous Japan, militaristic Germany and more brotherly Britain, prohibition America and wine-loving France, the strong honor of early Rome and the professional craftiness of the criminal tribes of India, represent significantly distinct standpoints in the schooling of years gone by. If we wish for a peaceable people, honest and sympathetic, just and merciful, powerful and compassionate, demonstrating a manly Christianity in life and faith, zealous in the propagation of the gospel, we need to sow virile seed in the fertile soil that awaits us on every hand.

Our question involves at least one more of interest to us:

Is it well with the church?

Her task—her one reason for existence—is the evangelising of the world and the Christianising of those won. Her most loyal friend could not contend that she is rapidly doing her duty. Even in the homeland the Christian forces are losing ground numerically in comparison with the increased population. In New South Wales 500,000 young people are untouched by any Sunday School! Are we content to continue to help develop a practically pagan people?

The alternative is to tremendously increase the extent of our field, the impetus of our evangelism, the efficiency of our teaching. People to-day, we are told, are

The Golden Gate.

"The Sunday School is the hope of the church. It is a builder of churches and the defender of the Bible as the all-sufficient Word of God; the under-gird of all Christian activities; the best missionary agency at home and abroad; a live wire, thrilling with its abundant life all who really touch it; it pays the largest dividends of any investment of the church, judged by its results; and is the largest and best organised army that ever marched under one banner for the Christian conquest of the world. The Sunday School is the Golden Gate to the church's promised land."—Marion Lawrence.

sation is to be allowed to follow its predecessors to the dust, or else men of our birth and breed will embody the life of the Lord of love and struggle up from an unsatisfactory, narrow-minded, national partisanship on to the firmer foundation of an international Brotherhood swayed by a Universal Fatherhood. Which is it to be? That all depends on the boys and girls. What are they to be? That largely depends on what they are being trained to be. The teacher in the class, the parent in the home, the superintendent in the school, may appear to

The One Hour.

P. E. Thomas, B.A.

extremely difficult to interest, to win, and to hold; but this does not apply with equal force to the young people. They are easily linked up, and parents rarely refuse to have it so. And where their treasures are, there will their hearts be also.

Of all ages of life, the school period is that in which the soul is most easily won for Christ. "We dare not forget that the close of later adolescence marks the *danger line in religion*. From various studies it seems clear that there is a time of special religious interest at twenty. But less than one-sixth of the conversions studied took place after twenty. One half of these, again, were before twenty-five. The chances were a thousand to one against conversion after thirty."

Again, those who make their decision in the days of their youth, prove the most loyal members of the church. Statistics gathered in connection with continuous mission work reveal that of the permanent gains a far greater proportion come from the Bible School. Failure to recognise the critical importance of these facts, and what they involve, "accounts for much of the failure of churches and Sunday Schools in dealing with their young people. We have discovered that the new birth of the soul comes most naturally in connection with the new birth of body, mind and social consciousness which occurs during adolescence. Adolescence is, or should be, essentially a new birth into a larger life, out of the natural selfishness of childhood with its narrow sympathies, shallow experiences, and limited knowledge, into the full development of the mature life. This new birth is life's supreme crisis. All phases of it are vitally important, and all are essentially religious. Religious leaders have to recognise that the church's responsibility for its young people must include consideration for their social hungers, their intellectual ideals and their physical needs as well as their spiritual visions and decisions."

Let us focus on this fascinating and challenging task. Let us plan for this greater evangelism, for better homes, a stronger nation, and even see in our faithful service a necessary link in the chain which is saving mankind.

This is our business.

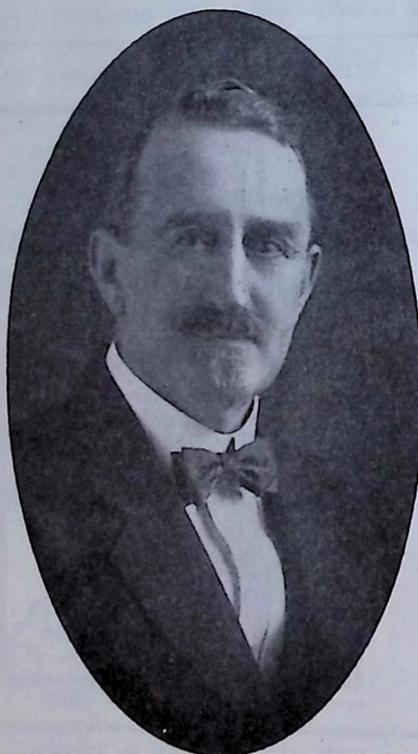
Should we raise £500 on May 6th?

Fathers of Salem.

(From the "Westminster Adult Bible Class.")

If there is not enough of masculinity in our churches the fault may lie in the failure of fathers to follow the example of certain men in the days of Jesus. We read of some who brought their children to the Master for his blessing. The general supposition is that it was women who did this, and all the artists have painted pictures of mothers holding up their little ones for his benediction. But a reference to the Greek text will show that those who performed this lovely service were women and men, possibly with emphasis upon the latter. Let the men of to-day take the lesson to heart, for fathers have been all too negligent in the matter of bringing their sons and daughters into fellowship with Christ. They have been placing the responsibility upon mothers, and the church has become two thirds feminine in its membership.

If the mission of the church is to bring men into right relationship with God, it will be readily seen that Bible School work is of paramount importance. In dealing with those who have hardened in self there is the process of changing the heart, but with the child it is not so much a matter of changing as that of developing day by day into life with God. With the one it is build-



W. C. Pearce, M.A., Associate Secretary of the World's Sunday School Association, honored and loved by Sunday School workers everywhere.

ing only, but with the other it is demolishing as well. We are forever being told by medical men that "prevention is better than cure," and the truth holds good in our religious work.

In the life of the child there are a multitude of influences at work making it something. Those influences are not always the kind we want—in fact more often do they sway in the other direction. When we come to analyse them, and carefully compare all other influences with that of the church, we begin to understand the tremendous task that faces us.

Out of the 168 hours of the week the Bible School has the child for only one. The public school claims him for twenty-five, and the street for at least fourteen (allowing a minimum of two hours per day). Should he be a picture-goer—and most chil-

dren are these days—and goes but one night a week, he is there for three hours. The school is concerned in intellectual development, and to some extent in the physical, but it has nothing to say in the greater things—the moral and spiritual side of life. What the child learns on the street and at the pictures is of a doubtful nature; certainly very little that will lead into a life with God. Some children are blessed with good home-training, but these are getting to be the exception rather than the rule. This leaves us to face the fact that for a large percentage of our boys and girls the Bible School is the only influence bearing upon them to bring them into right relations with God. And the point for concern is that the public school, with its twenty-five hours, has twenty-five times the chance to influence the child than the Bible School with its one. Likewise the ratio is fourteen times for the street, and three times for the picture show. Combined it is forty-two to one.

That, I believe, is the challenge to the church. It means that we spare nothing to make that one hour count. Everything that can be done to help to enthuse, to encourage, should and must be done. It also means that the church must extend its activities beyond the one hour, and interest itself in the life of the children.

In the past what has been done has been done by the few. But we cannot expect twenty teachers to do full justice to the two hundred scholars of the school. If the burden were shared by the hundred members of the church more would be done, and more effectually, in developing those boys and girls into life with God.

God is There.

The Bible can be to every soul who will use it a blazed trail to God. None who possess it and read it need cry, "Oh, that I might find Him." He is in its beautiful poetry, in its sweet and tender idylls, in its burning words of condemnation of hypocrisy and greed, in its stories, its proverbs, its parables, its letters, its visions, its dreams. He is in its greatest characters from Abraham to Paul. He is in Christ—in every word and deed of a glorious life—in the trial and agony of a terrible death. He is in the cross and the garden. How much one loses out of life who, having in his hand this guide to God, misses Him through carelessness or indolence, ignorance or prejudice. Amidst the crushing weight of the overwhelming problems of our day, and surrounded by the little personal problems that loom large because so near, does your spirit long for understanding, for strength, for courage, for love great enough to heal the world's pain—and your own? Do you want God? Open the Book. God is there.—Margaret Slattery in the "Church School."

Seed Time.

"We will never forget what we knew when we were boys; we forgot a great many things we are supposed to have learned as men."—George Barr McCutcheon.

Magnifying the Teaching Ministry.

W. B. Blakemore, B.A.

President Harding said a little while ago, "The future of the nation cannot be trusted to the children unless their education includes their spiritual development. It is time, therefore, that we gave our attention to the religious instruction of the children . . . to extend religious teaching to all in such a form that conscience is developed, and duty to one's neighbor and to God is understood and fulfilled."

This is one of many like statements that might be quoted from prominent statesmen, editors, educators, and social workers who recognise how absolutely essential the proper teaching and training of the young is to the future welfare and security of the national character.

Whose work?

But who is to do this all important work of teaching and training the young people in matters religious? Whose task is it to teach religion to the childhood of the world? Whose is the privilege of telling them about the Christ? There can be but one answer to these questions. It is the work of the church of Jesus Christ. W. C. Pearce said when he was in Australia last year, "The teaching of religion in an adequate way is the responsibility of the church; it can't be shifted on anybody's else's shoulders." The teaching function of the church is clearly set forth in the programme of Jesus and the apostles. Our Lord himself is known as the Great Teacher and gave to his followers the injunction to teach.

The agency.

There are various ways whereby the church might do the work of teaching, but the most effective and successful way is by means of the Bible School. Here it is possible to gather the largest numbers, and if the school is well organised and well staffed to do the work most effectively. The church school or Bible School comes, then, to be of urgent importance. Dr. D. L. Ritchie recently wrote, "The facts of the modern world would make it plain that in her schools the church must find the secret of future prosperity. Recent investigations in church and school life, and modern discoveries in child life, and especially in the growth of a child's mind through many stages to maturity, powerfully emphasise all that old wisdom has taught in regard to early training, its power for good or ill, and its urgency."

The feet of little children.

Mr. Herbert Hoover, who became widely known during the Great War through his work as organiser of Belgian relief, sent out a striking message last year in connection with "Children's Week" in America.

He said, "Humanity moves forward on the feet of little children." What is true of humanity, in this instance, is true of the church. The church's hope is in the child. Her prosperity and influence to-morrow will be determined by the paths in which the little children walk to-day. More of the world's children are in the Sunday School than in any other organisation in existence. The Sunday School army is the largest army in the world. According to the report of the World's Sunday School Convention held in Tokio in 1920, there are 28,000,000 of the world's young people in the Sunday Schools of to-day. A half-million new scholars are coming in every year, and five thousand new schools are being opened annually. Think what it is going to mean for the world and for the cause of Christ in the next generation if only the two-and-three-quarter million Sunday School teachers are faithful to their high calling! If only that great army of young people could be won for Christ!

The hope of the world.

"Is it possible," some one asks, "to overstate the case for the Sunday School?" It would be difficult to do so. None can deny that the hope of the future centres in the child of to-day. That is why Jesus laid emphasis on the importance of the child. From "the child in the midst" will come the future workers in all departments of Christian service. The child is the hub of the wheel of all Christian activities. Foreign missionaries, workers in the home fields, Sunday School teachers, church officers, preachers, Christian statesmen of the next generation will all be recruited from the great army of

boys and girls who are in our Bible Schools to-day. There are 10,000 of them in our Victorian schools. What an asset to the church! What a field for devoted and efficient teaching! What an opportunity for evangelism! It is a task worthy of the best thought and talent the church can put into it. It is the work that brings the richest and most satisfactory returns. Of the total number added to our Victorian churches last year by faith and baptism, excluding five churches where tent missions were held, 60 per cent. were from the Bible School. Ten thousand scholars and thirteen hundred teachers are in our schools in Victoria. If every one of those teachers could lead a scholar to Christ this year, we would more than double last year's additions to the church. Is it too much to pray for and to work for? Surely not. Finally, the church must recognise the greatness of the task and in her plans make place for this work of teaching and training the young. We must give the Bible School its rightful place.

W. C. Pearce said, "We must magnify the teaching ministry of the church. The Bible School is worth while. There would be a wonderful revival in Australia if the church was the first to touch the home after a baby was born. Let us magnify the Sunday School until it becomes a veritable church school. Let us magnify the teaching ministry. God honors the teacher of his Word as much as he honors the preacher of his Word. We have not magnified the one too much, but the other too little."

"Yes, home will sweeten in the coming days.
When widening love shall warm these human ways—

When every mother, pressing to her face
Her child, shall clasp all children of the race—
Then will the rafters and the oaken beam
Be laid in music and the poet's dream;
Then earth, as far as flies the feathered foam,
Shall have in it the friendly feel of home."



Girls' Club, St. Kilda Church (Vic.).
Miss Lily Braden, the leader of the Club, is in the centre.

The Hope of the Church.

The Larger Opportunity.

A. J. Fisher.

Child welfare work appeals to all classes of people, but the work of imparting Scripture teaching to the young has a special appeal for all who adhere to the simple New Testament form of Christianity. Our Bible School Committee is to be commended upon its progressive policy. The need for increased activity is evident from the following facts:—

1. In New South Wales there are approximately 700,000 children under 18 years of age.

2. Of this number about 400,000 are receiving secular education in public, private, and charitable schools.

3. Only 150,000 children are enrolled in all the Protestant Sunday Schools of the State, and only 3000 children are attending our own schools.

Think what this means! Without interfering with any other Sunday School Department, there is a big opportunity and need before our Committee. 250,000 public school children never enter a Sunday School, and there are 550,000 children in the State not yet reached by Sunday School teachers. This means that for every child we have in our schools, 180 children are yet to be reached. What a challenge this is! What a need is represented! What a responsibility must be faced! What a tremendous opportunity for aggressive service!

Brethren, the Committee calls to you. Help it to reach this vast army of young people, and to enlist them in the army of the Lord. In doing this you will be acting upon the principle laid down by Theodore Roosevelt when he said, "If you are going to do anything permanent for the average man, you have got to begin before he is a man. The chance of success lies in working with the boy, not the man."

You will also be giving due attention to the words of our Lord when he said, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones. . . . It is not the will of your Father which is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

"Review and Preview."

H. G. Payne,

Chairman, N.S.W. Bible School and Young People's Committee.

Unanimity and optimism were the dominant notes in the recent New South Wales Conference. Progress was predicted along the lines of evangelistic preaching and the fostering of work among the young.

In the new constitution adopted by Conference a broader vision, a bigger scope, and an added name were apportioned to the Bible Schools' Committee, which is now the Bible Schools' and Young People's Committee, entrusted with the care of Bible Schools, and the welfare of our young people. Bible Schools are to be established, fostered, developed; Y.P. work initiated, consolidated, expanded. This programme includes aid to existing organisations with provision for new work.

For this big job one of the strongest committees ever elected by Conference for any purpose has been appointed.

A big policy has been outlined, the big man for the directing of operations having been obtained in the person of the newly-appointed Organiser, Bro. A. L. Haddon, B.A.; big things are expected. Add another big factor to the combination. A big offering on May 6, £500 being needed. The importance attached to Bible Schools' and Young People's work among our religious neighbors is seen in the type of men they are appointing as directors of these departments. The question is so vital that they stint neither men nor money. Their

problems are ours, to cope with which the Conference has appointed the Committee.

In the person of Bro. Haddon we have the man, in the Bible Schools' and Young People's organisations we have the machinery, in the pockets of the church members is the money. Man plus machine, plus power, equals the welfare of our work among the young.

Conference enthusiasm, which is evanescent, is as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal, but that which crystallises into cash is related to the love which endures.

Always above every human device and resource is God. We work for Him, with Him, through Him. May He bless the Committee, the Organiser, the Brotherhood, that these trinities of causes may produce a blessed unity of successful service.



Clive L. Romeril, of the St. Kilda School (Vic.), who has an unbroken record of ten years' attendance, was presented with a gold medal by the Victorian Bible School and Young People's Department at the Conference Demonstration. Miss Elsie Downs, of the Montrose School, also received a gold medal. We wanted to introduce her also to our readers, but were unable to obtain a photo.

A Plea for the Best.

A. H. Webber,

Secretary, N.S.W. Bible Schools' Committee.

All nature testifies to the truth of Christ's words, "First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear." In religious matters we often try to reverse the process, and we spend all our energy reaching after the "full corn in the ear," when we would be much more profitably employed were we caring for the "blade" and leaving the result to the great Lord of the Harvest.

The Bible School makes an effort to work in harmony with God's plan, and the church is gradually awakening to her great opportunity where the child is concerned. A few years ago anything was good enough for the school, now the feeling is gaining ground that only the best will do. Only the best of buildings, of equipment, and especially of teaching, will enable the school to do the work it should do in renewing the church. Like the plant that constantly needs renewed life to war against decay, so the church needs the young, enthusiastic, vigorous life that only a well developed Bible School can supply. The Bible School is not antagonistic to evangelism; on the contrary, the young life of the church is evangelism's strongest support. No school will ever do its proper work unless it is enthusiastically evangelical and missionary both at home and abroad.

Our appeal on Bible School Day is thus not merely an appeal for the school, but for the church in all its activities. We desire to be a great help and strength to the church, and we confidently look for the financial support of the brotherhood to help us achieve our aim.

Prizes for Schools.

J. Ewers.

For many years a dissatisfaction has been apparent in the system of prize distribution by which a number of individuals gain for themselves prizes while others who have worked as hard have missed that reward by a few marks. This state of affairs will probably exist as long as competitive examinations are held, but a great improvement could be made by placing before the pupils the honor and position of the school as the matter of supreme importance. The examination would accomplish more if it were a matter of competitive schools rather than competitive scholars. With this idea the Western Australian Bible Schools Committee last year offered a number of prizes for schools, in the way of shields, banners and Bible School equipment, for various competitions. One of the most interesting competitions was that for the best training class or special coaching class for the annual examination. Each school kept a record of the attendances of pupils who attended special classes preparing for the examination. The school having the best record in comparison with its size was presented with Bible School equipment to the value of five guineas. In each school which entered there was thus a special class undergoing an intensive study in the quarter's lessons, which must have been of great benefit. An improvement was made last year in the method of deciding the premier school in the examination. The total marks gained by the candidates of each school were divided by the number of scholars in the school capable of taking the examination (i.e., over eight years of age) and a percentage obtained. This gives a better test of the thoroughness of the teaching, and acts as a special inducement to each school to get as many pupils as possible to take the examination. It is hoped that these special school rewards will act as an incentive for all the schools to enter more heartily into the annual examinations.

W.A. Facts About the Funds.

F. D. Pollard.

3/6	Daily Expenditure for Committee's work.	
	Average weekly 1922 cost of State work.	£1
£10	Annual value of expenditure for encouragement of scholars "Training for the Exam." Classes.	
	Books, Certificates, and Prizes to encourage the scholars to know God's Word.	£15
£30	Yearly balance on land purchased to extend in "New Bible Schools' Movement."	
	Approximate expenditure for all sources in 1922.	£60
£100	Minimum Bible School Day Offering to enable a Sinking Fund for Bible School Organiser to be commenced.	

Will you all consider these facts thoughtfully, and then entrust to your Conference Committee a consecrated share of your funds?

"The sweetest lives are those to duty wed,
Whose deeds, both great and small,
Are close-knit strands of an unbroken thread,
Where love ennobles all.
The world may sound no trumpets, ring no bells;
The Book of Life the shining record tells."

A Mother's Gift to Her Son.

Sixty-three years ago a lad was starting out to face life with its dangers and temptations. A fond mother wanted to throw about her boy every defence possible. Out of her heart of hearts she gave him a Bible, and with it the following beautiful lines. That lad was B. J. Kemp, widely known to-day and greatly esteemed in our Victorian brotherhood. He has served for many years on the Home Mission Committee, and is the Treasurer of the Bible School and Young People's Department. The spirit of the mother lives in her son.—W.B.B.

A MOTHER PRESENTING HER SON WITH A BIBLE.

Remember, lad, who gave thee this,
When other days have come,
When she who had thy earliest kiss
Sleeps in the silent tomb;
Remember, 'twas a mother gave
The gift to one she'd die to save.

Your mother sought a pledge of love,
The holiest for her son,
And from the gifts of God above
She took this holy one;
She chose for her beloved boy
The source of light, and life, and joy;

And bade him keep the gift, that when
The parting hour should come,
They might have hope to meet again
In an eternal home;
She said his faith in that would be
Sweet incense to her memory.

And should the scoffer in his pride
Laugh the fond faith to scorn,
And bid him cast the pledge aside
That he from youth had borne,
She bade him pause and ask his breast
If he or she have loved him best.

A parent's blessing on her son
Goes with this holy thing;
The heart that would retain the one
Must to the other cling.
Remember, 'tis no idle toy;
A mother's gift, remember, boy.

Sept., 1860.

Our Appeal Is for Their Sakes.



What Will Their
Future Be? !

"Full Circle."

F. D. Pollard, B.Sc.

It is very often that one hears the curious expression that the wheel has at last come "full circle." Of course, the wheel is the wheel of fortune, and the one who has turned it is dear old Dame Fortune, who is so fascinatingly fickle.

The idea of a cycle is satisfying, and to say the least a popular one. It seems to convey the impression that what has been adverse and unfortunate has passed away, and another set of experiences are ready to pass upon us. No gloomy foreboding for the passing of the circle in its never-ending career comes to disturb our peace, and everything seems to give unalloyed pleasure.

May I very heartily write that the wheel is rotating to full circle in spiritual things over here in the West?

Men with fixed ideas, and innovators, we have had in plentiful measure, pressed down and running over; but men with vision have always been exceedingly rare.

Therefore it is the more gratifying to us all to have men like T. Hagger, D. M. Wilson and W. R. Hibburt—to mention only three—urging the high spiritual tone of State enterprise—throwing open the windows of a stuffy edifice to allow our eyes to rest on the vision of *to-morrow's service*.

And all the blessing of such a vision comes at an extremely opportune moment! With twenty-five very happy and eventful years culminating in

a record Conference gathering, the vision will have time to be "printed," "developed," and "fixed," and our workers (particularly those on State Committees) will have the *open fields* and the *Master's call* always before them in the year upon which we are just entering.

The very definite hindrance to State Bible School work has been undoubtedly the yearly change of the personnel of the Bible Schools Committee, but, with the entering into this field of Bren. W. R. Hibburt, J. Ewers, and the writer, and the certainty of a notice of motion for 1924 Conference, whereby the British Conference method will be almost certainly adopted, continuity of purpose and achievement will at last be ensured.

Probably, if I were asked to put my pen upon the chief points which are so satisfactory here at present, I should write *State-wide vision*, and the intelligent quest for the leaders of to-morrow amongst our young men. It needs no further words to the thoughtful amongst us to joyfully agree that the wheel is coming "full circle" in the West.

May God grant that each individual may have a share in these years of spiritual progress, either by talent, or money consecrated to that most noble of all purposes, "in His service."

Girls' Class Engages in Real Service.

The Loyal Daughters Bible Class of the South Church of Christ, of Toledo, Ohio, can always be depended upon for any kind of church service. Mrs. Eva Slavin has been the teacher for the past four years.

These girls gave 65 dollars to the special Easter offering, and practically every member gave 15 dollars on the day the church mortgage was lifted.

At their annual Christmas party, each girl brought a doll, which she herself had dressed, and these were given to the Salvation Army for the poor.

These girls have fully equipped a nursery, and conduct this each Sunday morning. They always assisted in relief work among the needy each winter.

Three of its members are Bible School teachers, and one is the Bible School organist.

Each Sunday the girls take up a special collection, which is put in a Christmas Savings Account. When they receive the cheque they bank the money for any need which arises. They have many good plans for their class and school, and are a class of which the church can be proud.—"Front Rank."

But this we know—

We drop a seed into the ground,
A tiny, shapeless thing, shrivelled and dry,
And, in the fulness of its time, is seen
A form of peerless beauty, robed and crowned
Beyond the pride of any earthly queen,
Instinct with loveliness, and sweet and rare,
The perfect emblem of its Maker's care.

—John Oxenham.

Financing the Work.

"Childhood Shows the Man."

Ruby Wendorf,
Secretary, Queensland Bible School Union.

Every church member agrees more or less enthusiastically that Bible School work is important; but, they do not realise just how important it is. As Milton puts it, "The childhood shows the man, as morning shows the day." In childhood the mind is most open to impressions that are caught quickly and live lastingly. Do we realise that with us lies the responsibility of seeing that the impressionable child's mind is implanted with germs of virtues instead of vices, which will determine his character for life? Precious in the Saviour's sight are the children. "Little children who love their Redeemer are his jewels, his loved and his own."

Why do so many of our churches give liberally to every other branch of the work, and so stingily to the all-important Bible School work? We should, of course, give freely to Home and Foreign Missions. But sometimes we forget that our Bible School children of to-day are our future missionaries. If we lose our children, whence will come our recruits for future service?

Ever since the Bible School Union was formed in Queensland we have been handicapped through lack of funds. We cannot extend our work as we would like. As Spurgeon says: "We must be little fish while we have but little water. When our pond becomes the sea, we can swell as much as we like."

Other States have a big advantage in having an organiser to set the children's plea before the churches; but we are hoping that in time we also will have an organiser, and that the churches will respond so liberally to our annual appeal that our "pond" will speedily become a sea, and that great things will be done for Christ. Jesus asks us to "feed his lambs." May we not be found wanting in performing his will.



Queensland Bible School Union Committee.

Front Row (reading from left to right):—F. Enchelmaier, G. Cane (President), Miss R. Wendorf (Secretary), A. Rieck (Vice-President), L. Barnes (Treasurer).
Back Row:—F. E. Alcorn, Mrs. Hermann, O. Potter, T. Martin.
Absent:—E. P. Adermann.

Annual Offering for Bible School and Young People's Work.

May 6th, 1923

Queensland Asks for £100; Victoria, £350; N.S. Wales, £500.

Appeal to Queensland Churches.

W. L. Barnes, Treasurer, Q.B.S.U.

What are you doing to help Bible School work? Are you doing all that is in your power?

The financial statement of the Q.B.S.U. for last year shows a decrease in the annual offering made by the churches, compared with the previous year's figures. Taking into account the fact that five more churches contributed last year, it seems that the importance of training the young is not given first place in the minds of the people.

We know there are a number of appeals made during the year, but do we all know that the appeal of the Bible School Union is the most important of any? If we all had realised this fact, surely the offering last year would have exceeded twenty-five pounds.

At Conference it was decided that the Union aim at one hundred pounds for this year's offering.

With this amount to work on, we will be able to achieve great things—including the sending out of an organiser amongst the Bible Schools.

The one way you can show your desire to help is by doing something practical.

Now an opportunity will be given you to assist in a practical way on the first Sunday in May, when the offering for the Bible School Union will be taken.

We want you to give this matter earnest consideration, and if you do, we know you will not disappoint us.

The members of the Committee are doing their utmost, but all their enthusiasm counts for very little if they do not have the money to carry out their plans.

All we can do now is to trust in you to do your very best on May 6. Do not fail us.

Victoria's Aims.

1000 nett increase in scholars.
750 decisions for Christ from the schools.
£350 for Annual Offering.



A Banner Class.

To have an attendance of 100 per cent. for 26 Sundays is a record that any class might well be proud of. That is why the Young Men's Class of the Castlemaine (Vic.) School are looking so happy. They won the banner in an attendance contest conducted by the school last year. Mrs. Andrews, the teacher, is very proud of her class. What teacher wouldn't be? Needless to say, she is deeply interested in boys—she has six of her own; and out of her busy home-life finds time to hold and teach this fine group of young men. If there were a class like this in every school, we would not hear so many complaints about the boys leaving in their middle teens.

GET AND HOLD.

Last year our schools in Victoria gained 956 new scholars, but they lost 518, leaving a nett increase of only 438. We ought to have a nett increase of 1000 scholars this year. It can be done. The Committee is suggesting a working motto to the schools to go along with the aims for the year, "Get and Hold"—1000 nett increase in scholars, 750 decisions for Christ. It can be done if every school in the State will give itself wholeheartedly to the task and live up to the motto, "Get and Hold."

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Annual Bible School Examination, which is to be held early in July, will be based on April-June Austral Graded Lessons, Division II., the Easter lesson excepted. Questions set by a Federal Committee will be available to all State Committees desiring to use same. Particulars re the examination will be furnished by the various State Committees.

A FEW FACTS.

Total enrolment in Bible Schools, 11,326. This exceeds our total church membership. Nett increase last year, 438. Decisions for Christ, 410. Five new schools, total number of schools, 98, with an average enrolment of 125. One eighth of our church members are engaged as teachers and officers in our schools.

There are 27 Kappa Sigma Pi Clubs and 22 Phi Beta Pi Clubs in our Victorian churches, with a combined membership of 910.

There are 20 Y.P. Societies of Christian Endeavor, 2 Intermediate, and 39 Junior Societies.

The out-of-doors activities of the young people are being organised and supervised by Cricket and Football Associations and other organisations. Plans are well ahead for the formation of a Tennis Association. A Junior Choir competition is also being arranged by the Department.

To find our duty certainly, and somewhere, somehow to do it faithfully makes us good, strong, happy and useful men, and turns our lives into some feeble echo of the life of God.—Phillips Brooks.

New South Wales Conference.

The Annual Conference of the Associated Churches of Christ of New South Wales, which opened on Monday, March 26, and closed Monday, April 2, was one of the best yet experienced in this State. In point of view of numbers more could be desired, but the Christian spirit and optimism which prevailed right through made the meetings glorious times of happy inspiration. Most of the churches of the State were represented, including those away out in the country, and reports that were received told in no uncertain way that the cause in New South Wales is not dead or dying. We have never had more interest, nor has the way been ever brighter for a year of great progress.

A pleasing feature of the Conference was the welcome we were able to extend to three of our own boys who have been many years in other States. Bro. R. K. Whately, of Surrey Hills church, Victoria, an old Enmore boy, was our visiting speaker. Bro. A. L. Haddon has come back from Victoria as Bible School Organiser, and Bro. E. Davis from Queensland to work with the church at Mosman. We were pleased to have with us also Bro. H. R. Coventry, one of our missionaries from India, home on furlough. The messages and reports these brethren gave were very helpful and inspiring, and they contributed much to the happiness and success of the Conference.

The reports presented by the various committees spoke of the work undertaken and faithfully carried out. All of the committees felt they would like to have done more, but with limited funds they did the best possible.

Two of the outstanding events of the past year were the appointment of two organising secretaries. After seven years' service as Organising Secretary for Home Missions and Bible Schools Bro. C. C. S. Rush resigned. The Executive and Home Mission Committee then decided to appoint some one to act as Organising Secretary for Home Missions and State Evangelist, and Bro. H. G. Harward was chosen to fill the position. The Committee are to be congratulated on being able to secure the services of such an able and consecrated man. Since taking over the office, Bro. Harward has been busy in putting into operation his many ideas for the advancement of Home Mission work. He has visited most of the suburban churches, and has met the officers with a view to introducing duplex envelopes into the church to augment Home Mission funds, and also to forming evangelistic teams to help in the preaching of the gospel. Both these things are now bearing good fruit.

Bro. Harward's message to Conference on Friday night at the great Home Mission Rally was built upon the vision and call of Isaiah. He pointed out that the first step to a life of consecrated service was the upward look. Men must have a vision of God, for "where there is no vision the people perish." Then, having the upward look, there must be the inward look. Having seen God Isaiah saw that he himself was a man of unclean lips. A true vision of God will always reveal man's unworthiness, but as the seraphim cleansed the lips of the prophet and made him worthy, so Christ has made us worthy to tell the glad tidings of peace. The final step to a consecrated life of service was the outward look—the vision of others. "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest." Bro. Harward emphasised the necessity of these three "looks"—the upward, the inward, the outward—and beautifully applied them to the great work of Home Missions.

When Bro. Rush resigned, the Bible School Committee did some tall thinking. The opportunity to do something big presented itself to them in the way of setting aside a special man for Bible School work, and being men of abiding faith, they "launched out into the deep." Bro. Haddon being the best man available, was selected for the position. With the education and consecration he brings to the task, we feel sure that wondrous

things are going to be done for the children and young people within the next few years.

In his message, "Our Vanishing Victory," on Friday, Bro. Haddon said: "The flashes of evidence of the waning of our civilisation and the possibility of its decline in the steps of other world systems, form a challenge and an invitation to the church to faithfully present its message. We should form our plans with a thought for the whole community. It is not ours to hold the fort merely, but to storm the citadels of sin and spread the spirit of righteousness. But the figures before us show that our increase is not keeping pace with that of the State population. We are losing ground in proportion, and (unless we can be content to help build up a practically pagan population) this truth should not discourage, but inspire. We can do more in evangelising and in conserving its results, do more to gain the interests of new arrivals when the expected stream of immigration commences, and more to win and hold those best immigrants who are constantly being added within our own State. The young people are the church's greatest opportunity in evangelism. They are at the period of life most easily reached when entering new fields or homes, they are most easily impressed and won, and being won are most easily held. As a general thing five-sixths of those converted are so before the age of twenty, and accordingly a large proportion of our effort should be with those under that age." Bro. Haddon then appealed for hearty support of the Committee's programme of work, and outlined the principles it would follow. We feel confident that this will be given and that the Bible School will come into its own in this State.

The report of the Executive and Home Mission Committee showed the various activities undertaken by that department.

District rallies were held in various centres, and proved to be very helpful gatherings. Special men's and women's rallies were held at City Temple, and then recently an organisation has been formed for officers and other men of the churches.

The Committee has undertaken the publication of a church paper known as "The Christian Messenger," the object of which is to link up the churches with the different committees and their work; the churches with each other, and all with isolated brethren. This is a long-felt need, and we feel the paper will prove a great blessing to the work in New South Wales.

During the year several churches have been active in building. The Rockdale brethren have erected a very fine chapel, and have entered into possession. In May the Chatswood church will occupy its new building, which will mean much to the work in that district. The brethren at Lismore are pushing on with their new Temple, which will cost about £7000. Then the churches at Enmore and Hornsby have been able to liquidate the debts on their buildings.

As a special charge on the "Peace Fund" colportage work has been done by Bro. J. Mercer. He has visited from house to house, called at schools, and conducted many services. The work has been very worth while. The Committee hope that funds will be forthcoming for the carrying on of this important service.

The Book Depot has proved to be very serviceable to the brotherhood. The Committee ask for the support of all members of the churches, so as to make this venture even a greater success.

Conference, realising the importance of having a building of its own in the city in which to house its secretaries and other officers, and to conduct the business of the Book Depot, appointed a Committee to investigate the possibility of erecting or purchasing a building in the city of Sydney for that purpose.

The retiring Committee recommend that in the work of the coming year special attention be given to—

(a) Emphasising the need of a truer interpretation of the life of Christ, by strict devotion to

private prayer and Bible study, and regular attendance at the services of the church.

(b) Organising evangelistic teams in every congregation if possible, and so utilise the ability of the brethren in the edification of the church and the spread of the gospel.

(c) To further evangelistic-teams where practicable by forming training classes for study and preparation.

(d) Special evangelistic campaign in all our districts by means of tract distribution, open-air work, and volunteer missions.

The Temperance Committee reported a year of education and inspiration. Bro. A. J. Fisher is still giving his whole time to this work. The chief activity is among the young people of the State, and in this the Committee is working hand in hand with the New South Wales Alliance. Lantern and cinema outfits are placed at the disposal of the Young People's Campaign. During the year the lantern was used 23 times, reaching 2500 people, and the cinema 16 times reaching 1500, not including several Prohibition Fetes where the cinema was used.

A feature of this activity among young people is "The New Day Crusade." It is based upon a pledge and appeal emphasising (1) Abstinence; (2) Prohibition; (3) Citizenship, and includes the aim of 100,000 signatures from those 8 to 18. Our schools are being visited whenever possible, and already 11 schools have secured 264 signatures, and have contributed £5 to the "Mile of Pennies" Crusade Fund.

The retiring Committee recommended to Conference that the churches should organise more in temperance work by having a Temperance Committee in every church, by special prayer and organisation for referendum expected in 1924, by giving prominence to World's Temperance Sunday, Nov. 11, by having an Alliance Field Service, and by placing before the school and Y.P. Society the "New Day Crusade."

The Foreign Missionary Committee reported the best year yet. That the Churches of Christ in New South Wales are realising more fully the work of Foreign Missions, and are rising to the responsibility, may be judged from the fact that contributions to this work have more than doubled within the last seven years. In the year 1915-1916 the sum of £702 was given, but in 1922-23, £1530.

News from the fields in India, China and the New Hebrides tells of steady progress in the cause of Christ. The work amongst the Chinese of Sydney is being carried out by Bro. W. J. Phillips, and his loyal band of teachers.

It was a great pleasure to Conference to have Bro. H. R. Coventry, from Baramati, India, present. He told of the work that was being done there amongst the thieves' caste, and how difficult it is to get men to follow the Christ. He was very optimistic about the future of India, and said that the gospel was slowly but very surely breaking up the terrible caste system of that wonderful land. The Nationalist movement, although at first adversely affecting the missionary work, proved a blessing in disguise. The Indians were learning that missionaries were not "officials," and that of ficious officials were not messengers of the Christ.

The City Temple was crowded on Sunday afternoon, when Bro. R. K. Whately, junr., gave a splendid message on "This Liberty." Steps are being taken to have it published verbatim.

The election of the Executive and the Committees for the coming year resulted as follows:—

- President, J. Whelan.
- Vice-President, T. E. Rofe.
- Secretary, C. R. Hall.
- Assistant Secretary, S. Morris.
- Treasurer, W. H. Hall.
- Home Mission Committee:—Dr. Bardsley, J. Crawford, L. Roscell, E. V. Sauty, G. Stimson, J. Stimson, R. K. Whately, senr.
- Foreign Mission Committee:—J. Holt (chairman), W. R. Avenell, G. A. Corbett, J. Clydesdale, W. J. Crossman, W. O. J. Brydon, T. Jackson, W. I. Phillips, Quan Mane, G. Morton.
- Bible Schools Committee:—H. G. Payne (chairman), A. J. Fisher, S. O. Gole, A. Graham, C. C.

S. Rush, B.A., F. J. Siver, B.A., F. S. Steer, P. E. Thomas, B.A., A. H. Welber.

Temperance Committee:—L. D. Gilmour (chairman), F. Davis, G. Eager, W.K. Hunter, A. Lambert, W. J. E. Lewis, A. Mackenzie, A. E. Oldfield, W. J. Stow.

On Tuesday, March 27, the Sisters' Conference was held. The attendance was very good, and the interest keen. A splendid message was given by the President, Sister Mrs. R. P. Arnott. At the

evening session Bro. E. Davis preached an eloquent and helpful sermon.

During the year the sisters have supported a visiting sister in connection with the work at Erskineville, contributing 15/- per week for that purpose. From the Women's Missionary Society also, appreciative help has been given. These are practical works in the kingdom of God, and the sisters have the thanks of the brotherhood.—Percy E. Thomas.

Foreign Missions.

Conducted by G. T. Walden, M.A.

Welcome to New Chinese Evangelist.

On April 10, at the chapel in Queensberry-st., Carlton, Vic., the Chinese brethren held a tea and public meeting to welcome Bro. Au Quong Hon, who has come to assist the Chinese brethren in Australia, and to study with a view to returning later as a missionary to Canton. After an excellent tea, Bro. H. L. Pang took the chair, and addresses of welcome were delivered by Bren. J. I. Mudford, J. Pittman, Cheong (Church of England Chinese minister), J. McG. Abercrombie, D. Gow, R. Lyall, Miss A. Baker, and T. Bagley. Bro. Au Quong Hon made a suitable reply, speaking first in Chinese and then in English. The Misses Lambrook sang a duet, and the Chinese rendered a chorus in their own language.

A Busy Missionary.

Good News from Mary Thompson.

Harda, C.P., March, 1923.

Dear Friends,—

You would have enjoyed visiting one of our outstations with me last week. On the way there Sarahai and I did some work in one of the villages, but did not meet many people. There have been so many weddings lately that sometimes you will find a village almost deserted. Of course at other times you meet a great number of people through these weddings, but usually there is so much bustle and noise going on that one does not get very good attention.

The sister we went principally to see was suffering with ophthalmia, and was feeling very discouraged. Her husband had been down with fever, and both of them were very pleased to see us. They live on the bank of one of the sacred rivers, and there are several temples on either side of the river within a short distance of their home. It is a very pretty spot, and as one looks over the river in the moonlight you think of "every prospect being pleasing, and only man being vile." It is sad to know that so much wickedness goes on inside the temples. During part of the year numbers of Sadhus may be seen near these temples, and we have had some interesting talks with some who were willing to listen to us. After meeting those who have been with Chandra Loh one feels that there may be others who are groping in the dark like she was. After her conversion she was the means of leading many to Christ.

One hears the temple bells early in the morning, as the gods have to be awakened. We usually get up early, too, but as we were tired after our long journey the day before, did not go to Sunday School with our evangelist. Sarahai and I helped our sick sister with her work. I made porridge with meal I had taken with me, as the Indians usually mix indigestible things with their meal, and she said she enjoyed it, and would have it for breakfast instead of tea and stale bread.

We had three visitors the evening before, one of whom brought us corn, and another a piece of watermelon. While we were preparing our noon meal one of them came again, and I was glad to have a conversation with him alone, as he has been talking about becoming a Christian. He told me he was hoping his wife would become a Christian, and asked me to visit her. We did so

in the afternoon, but found she had not thought much about the matter, and although she has been visited by Christians, did not remember much of what she had heard.

We invited the young man to meet with us as we partook of the Lord's Supper. There were only five of us present besides him, but we had a happy time, and these small meetings mean so much to our Christians. One of our young men from another outstation was in here yesterday, and I promised if possible to spend the next week end at his home. While I was at home Mrs. Scott took my women's class in the Central Sunday School, and she is keeping on with it until she goes to the Hills next month. I get some one to take my other class, so can arrange to get away for the week end.

We only stopped in one village on our way back, and since then have been doing our regular work in Harda. We are grateful for your prayers and interest, as we realise that our mutual work is the Lord's work, and our dependence is on him. Yours in the Master's service,
Mary Thompson.

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Here and There.

Bro. Horace Jackel will labor as evangelist in the Brim circuit, Vic., commencing in June.

The address of J. Anderson, secretary and treasurer of the church at Pahiatua, N.Z., is 74 Main-st., Pahiatua.

The address of C. H. Johnson, secretary of the church at Northcote, Vic., now is "Kismet," 10 Woolton-ave., Croxton.

Bro. Gordon Andrews has accepted a brief engagement with the church at Collingwood, Vic., to commence on May 13.

With regret we received the following telegram from South Australia on Tuesday afternoon:—"Kadina mission postponed through sickness."

The Federal Foreign Mission Secretary deeply regrets to report the death of Mrs. Filmer on March 11, on Ambrim Island, New Hebrides. Rosa Filmer was our first woman missionary to the New Hebrides. Fuller particulars will be given next week.

Miss Vera Blake, who is returning from India on her first furlough by the "Naldera," will arrive at Fremantle on Thursday, April 19, and is due at Melbourne on April 25. Interested friends are invited to assemble at Port Melbourne pier to extend a hearty welcome.

Twenty-four young people—members of the Young Men's Club, Geelong church, Vic., and their friends—had a trying experience last weekend. On Saturday they had a picnic at Clifton Springs, journeying by motor-boat. They set out for home at 7 p.m., but in the thick haze lost their bearings. They spent the whole night in the bay, and reached home at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

We are indebted to Bro. W. B. Blakemore, B.A., Organiser of our Victorian Bible Schools and Young People's Department, for collecting the material for this week's issue. All the States were offered space, and invited to contribute articles, though one or two did not do so. We trust that the offering for school work in all the States will be helped, and interest in the work deepened by this special number.

The Treasurers of the New South Wales Home Mission Committee, the Foreign Mission Committee, and the Preachers' Provident Fund, have each received from the executors of the late Bro. J. F. Ashwood's estate the sum of £500, being half of the legacy bequeathed to these committees. To make these gifts of permanent benefit, a "J. F. Ashwood Memorial Fund" will be established by each committee, the interest alone being used in the work.

Bro. C. Young, preacher of Ipswich church, Q., writes especially to Victorian churches:—"Bren. Hinrichsen and Brooker are planned to commence an evangelistic effort in Ipswich, Queensland, about May 20, 1923 (D.V.). In our hour of need we appeal to you, not for money, but that you will pray morning, noon and night. Queensland is eight times the size of Victoria in area, and is weak in numbers, weak in churches and preachers, and dead in trespasses and sin. Will you form a prayer band right now, and kindly write and let us know?"

Mrs. F. Illingworth, for many years a much-respected and active member of the Swanston-st. church, Melbourne, passed away on April 16, after a brief illness. She was the daughter of the late William McGregor, one of the pioneers of the church in Melbourne, and wife of the late Bro. F. Illingworth, well known in Victoria and Western Australia as an active Christian worker and preacher. Sister Illingworth was always identified with the Swanston-st. church, except for a period when she resided at Perth, W.A., where she greatly helped to establish the cause in the Western State, and was a pioneer member of the Lake-st. Church of Christ, Perth. In that city, as well as in Melbourne, she will be remembered by many friends for her activities and devotion to the cause of Christ, and the help she rendered to brotherhood work.

At Hornsby, N.S.W., the best attended mid-week service and Sunday morning meeting for some considerable time were recorded during the last month. Three young men made the good confession on Sunday evening, April 15.

The following letter was received by the Mile End representatives at the College of the Bible recently:—"Please accept by the hands of Priscilla and Aquila (Bro. and Sister W. Smith, of Castlemaine) parcels from your brethren and sisters in Christ at Mile End. If your joy in receiving is as great as our joy in giving, then we are quite satisfied. Wishing you continued success in your studies, and God's richest blessing in your living of Christ. Yours in His service, Mile End Members."

The first meeting of the newly-formed Department of Social Service, elected by the Victorian Conference to control the work previously covered by the Anti-Liquor and Social Questions and the Benevolent Committees, was held on Friday last at the department's office, Anti-Liquor rooms, Melbourne. Bro. C. M. Gordon was elected President, Bren. Bardwell and Barrett vice-presidents, Bro. Bardwell treasurer, Bro. Burdeu secretary, and Bro. Nicholls superintendent of Benevolent work. Appreciative reference was made to the work of the late Benevolent Committee, the machinery of which will serve as the basis for a greater organisation of so important a branch of Christian work. Goods should be forwarded to Burnley Railway Station, addressed to the Church of Christ Benevolent Committee. Enquiries should be addressed to J. W. Nicholls, 8 Edgar-st., East Malvern, and general correspondence for the Department and Social Questions Committee to the secretary, C. Burdeu, 19 Goe-st., Caulfield, Vic.

Bro. R. K. Whately, junr., who was the visiting speaker at the N.S.W. Conference, comments as follows:—"Our annual Conferences are essentially occasions for the examination of brotherhood tasks and methods in order to greater efficiency in service. Delegates apparently approached the recent N.S.W. Conference in this conviction. They came in large numbers to deal in principles, not in personalities. Their speeches were brief and constructive. They asked impertinent questions in a polite way, and invariably received answers that satisfied. The President and other members of the Executive are to be congratulated upon the confidence in them which members consistently revealed. Lunch and tea on Good Friday were occasions of special note. Enmore schoolroom seemed to be filled with people who fully appreciated both the conversation and the fare. In the latter connection the ladies of the Sisters' Conference gave 'good measure pressed down'; in the former they 'bubbled over.' From the Bible School demonstration on the Monday night to the playing of the last game of rounders a week later everything was done with energy. The enthusiasm of Conference must surely have been generated by success of the past year, and the optimism displayed will no doubt be justified by the successes of this."

"The Christian Journal," published by Churches of Christ in Oregon, U.S.A., contains an account of the successful beginnings of the work of Bro. Clive Taylor, late of Carnesie, Vic., at Klamath Falls, Oregon. Bro. Taylor reports as follows:—"It's only six weeks since I took up the work here. During this time God has led and blessed my efforts in a most wonderful way. Three have confessed Christ. Two received by letter, and one fine young man volunteered for the Christian ministry. Shelton Memorial Day was held with marked success. A great money-raising campaign has also been organised, and launched with marvellous success. Plans were carefully made and forces well organised. Then on February 15, C. F. Swander, State Secretary, a prince among men, visited with us and put the campaign over the top in fine shape. We aimed at raising 4000 dollars, but we rejoice in reporting

that the total receipts have so far reached 4200 dollars in cash and pledges. Pledges are still coming in, and by the beginning of March we anticipate that our drive will reach 4500 dollars. Cash received for the day, 700 dollars. Forty members have yet to pledge. Church planning dedication services for September 16, and arrangements are being made for a great meeting in the fall."

Anzac Day.

A communication has been received from the Federal Government asking that all churches unite in the observance of this day by conducting appropriate religious services. As April 25 falls on the Wednesday this year, our mid-week service may profitably be used to emphasise the principles of enduring peace, to set forth the conditions of abiding national greatness, and to pray for a great spirit of revival throughout the Commonwealth. We commend this to our brethren in all the States.—H. G. Harward, President, Federal Conference.

Jubilee of Hawthorn Church, Vic.

Special services were held in Hawthorn from April 8 to 15, in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of our work there. On April 8, Bro. W. F. Nankivell, who on that day began his second year of work with the church, spoke on the subject "Our Glorious Heritage." Bro. T. H. Scambler's subject at the evening service was "The Acceptable Year of the Lord." The building was crowded at the conversazione on Tuesday, April 10. Interesting addresses were given by former members of Hawthorn, Bren. R. H. Bardwell, R. C. Edwards, W. Drummond, Bro. Bardwell, who, though not recollecting the event, had been present at the first service fifty years ago, gave a most instructive resume of the history of the church. In April, 1873, a number of brethren met for worship in the M.U. Hall, Burwood-road, among them Bro. W. H. Bardwell and Bro. and Sister Finger. In 1886 the chapel was built. The late Bro. D. A. Ewers was the first evangelist. Other preachers who have served in Hawthorn are A. R. Main, J. Stevens, P. A. Dickson, A. H. Bryant, J. A. Palmer, F. W. Greenwood and A. C. Rankine. The present minister is T. H. Scambler, who was called to Hawthorn in 1915. With him Bro. W. H. Nankivell is associated. On Foreign Service are Bro. and Sister A. T. Waters, of Oba, New Hebrides.

The crowning day of the jubilee series was Sunday, April 15. It was "Back to Hawthorn" day. Over 100 former members returned to enjoy the fellowship of the day. Great congregations gathered morning, afternoon and night. The speakers were Bro. J. McGregor Abercrombie, President of the Conference, and Bro. A. R. Main, M.A. At the afternoon service the cantata "Under the Palms" was rendered by choir and school, conducted by Bro. Nankivell. The Mayor of Hawthorn and councillors were present at the evening service, the Mayor reading one of the Scripture lessons. Some thoughtful person had placed a beautiful wreath upon the tablet erected to the memory of the late Bro. J. A. Palmer. A card on the wreath bore the inscription, "Lest we forget. In loving memory of Bro. and Sister W. Finger. Bro. W. H. Bardwell, Bro. Davidson, Bro. Robert Staggard, Bro. Arthur Staggard, Bro. Kefford, Bro. Bellett, Bro. Fielding, Bro. W. Hunter." The names of these and of many other members of earlier days (some of whom, as P. A. Davey, the missionary, and T. J. Bull, the evangelist, are still prominent in the work) were in the minds and on the lips of many people during the day.

Not the least important feature of the day's celebrations was the entertainment provided by the Hawthorn sisters. Meals were set in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Hall, and all friends old and young were freely invited. Upwards of 400 people partook of this hospitality. The social intercourse thus made possible added greatly to the enjoyment of this day of memories and inspiration.

The Family Altar.

J. C. Ferd. Pittman.

UNAUTHORISED DISTINCTIONS.

Amongst us, as a people, there seems little if any tendency to "make distinctions" in the house of God such as the Apostle James denounced. The many who possess but little of this world's goods are treated with as much consideration as the few who are wealthy. Christian courtesy is shown to rich and poor alike. Yet, looking at the religious world generally, it can scarcely be said that the apostle's protest is in all cases inapplicable to-day, for occasionally there does seem an unfortunate tendency to allot the good seats to the best clothed, and let the poorly clad take lowly places or shift for themselves. The latter may be rich in faith, but the rich in pocket procure the best seats.

Even with ourselves there is need of constantly being on guard against unauthorised distinctions. If, when views are expressed, we find that the "acid test" we wish to apply is whether or not those views are in harmony with our preconceived notions; if, when any new work is undertaken, we find ourselves asking, "Who proposed it?" or "Who is at the head of it?" our endorsement or disapproval depending on whether the answer is or is not in agreement with our own prejudices, we are, in a sense, either making unauthorised distinctions or allotting for ourselves or favorites the good seats whilst others are allowed to shift for themselves. To all such the apostle's rebuke and exhortation is peculiarly appropriate, for "if ye have respect of persons," says James, "ye commit sin."

MONDAY, MAY 7.

If "ye say to the poor man, Stand thou there, or sit under my footstool."—James 2: 3.

William Willberforce wrote in 1817 to his son Samuel (afterwards Bishop of Oxford), who was then aged 12: "I hope my dear Samuel remembers what I used to say to him of its not being enough to be good negatively; that is, not to be unkind, but that he was to be kind positively. Unless this is his endeavor, he will never be able to secure himself against actual unkindness. And how shocking must it appear to a holy God and to the Holy Spirit for any one to grieve his Saviour by being unkind to others, who is himself continually receiving marks of such kindness from a gracious providence."

Bible Reading.—James 2: 1-4.

TUESDAY, MAY 8.

Do ye not make distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?—James 2: 4.

"The age of the fagot and the axe is passed. The only flames of martyrdom to-day are those kindled by hot, burning words. It is with the breath of his lips or by the stroke of his pen that the modern Victor does his work."—New York Tribune.

Bible Reading.—James 2: 5-9.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9.

Hearken, my beloved brethren; did not God choose them that are poor as to the world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he promised to them that love him?

"Jesus, if still the same thou art,

If all thy promises are sure,

Set up thy kingdom in my heart,

And make me rich, for I am poor;

To me be all thy treasures given,

The kingdom of an inward heaven."

Bible Reading.—James 2: 10-13.

THURSDAY, MAY 10.

Do not the rich oppress you, and themselves drag you before the judgment seats?

Swift wrote, "Nothing is so hard for those who abound in riches, as to conceive how others can be in want."

Adams gave the following advice to the rich: "Let us make the poor our friends by our alms, not our enemies by our scorn. We had better have the ears of God full of their prayers, than heaps of money in our own coffers with their curses."

Bible Reading.—James 2: 14-17.

FRIDAY, MAY 11.

Howbeit if ye fulfil the royal law, according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well.—James 2: 8.

You must study to avoid giving offence. It is no excuse to say, "I did not think." Your business, as a Christian, is to think. It is the mark of a gentleman to be considering one another, and thinking how this or that will affect another."

Bible Reading.—James 2: 18-23.

SATURDAY, MAY 12.

Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself.—James 2: 17.

"It was an unhappy division that has been made between faith and works. Though in my intellect I may divide them, just as in the candle I know there is both light and heat, but yet put out the candle, and they are both gone; one remains not without the other; so it is betwixt faith and works."

Bible Readings.—James 2: 24-26.

SUNDAY, MAY 13.

Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith.—James 2: 24.

"True faith is never alone, but still joined with gospel-obedience; 'as ye have received, so walk.' He that would disjoin faith from obedience endeavors to walk with one foot, which is impossible. Faith and works, faith and holiness, are the two feet by which a man doth walk in Christ; and when the Spirit of Christ doth promote the one, He doth promote the other also. If a man should essay to go upon one foot, he could not walk, but only hop, which would be impossible for him to continue long in; neither can obedience be without faith, nor faith without obedience; but according to the measure of the gospel-walk."

Bible Reading.—Col. 2: 1-6.

PRAYER.

Gracious Lord, help me to be humble in spirit, content with lowly places and tasks. Save me from any desire to lift myself above others. Deliver me from pride or partiality. If prosperity be my lot, may I never despise the poor; if adversity be mine, save me from looking upon even that as a reason for self-esteem. Give me grace to be meek and lowly in spirit, like my Saviour, for his name's sake. Amen.

To follow Christ we all must tread
"The second mile"—for so He said—
Nor pause at *one*. And we must glow
With understanding love, to know
How best to reach each soul with "bread."

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Tasmanian Conference.

The Twenty-seventh Annual State Conference of Tasmanian Churches commenced with a splendid prayer meeting, led by the president, in the Collins-st. building, Hobart, on March 28. The beautiful spirit of this meeting pervaded the whole of the Conference gatherings. The Women's Conference held delightful sessions all day on Thursday, which were followed by the Young People's Demonstration at night—the Bible School and Christian Endeavor Unions combined. Bro. W. M. Cooper, president of the B.S.U., occupied the chair, and distributed the gold medals, Bibles and certificates to those who were successful in the recent State Union Examination. Bro. J. Warren, of Geveston, delivered a fine address relative to Bible School work, and Bro. W. H. Nightingale, president of the C.E. Union, spoke concerning Christian Endeavor work. The C.E. Societies provided musical items.

Bro. T. Cope, of Launceston, led the devotional service on Good Friday, and the Conference President, Bro. W. H. Nightingale, presided over the business sessions. Several of the delegates and visitors responded to the hearty welcome accorded them. Greetings were received from all parts of the State and Commonwealth. The Federal Conference delegates presented their report, and received the thanks of Conference for the services rendered. Reports were given from the Southern and Northern District Conferences, held at Tunnel Bay and Ulverstone respectively.

Conference rejoiced over the splendid progress made during the year. According to the religious census our membership has increased over 71 per cent. during the past ten years, which is more than double the progress of any other body. The statistical schedule revealed a growth from 1090 at last Conference to 1209 at this, a nett gain of 119 for the year. The Bible Schools report 95 teachers and 683 pupils, an increase of 1 teacher and 23 pupils. 53 pupils accepted Christ and came into the church.

Bren. H. Ball and D. Stewart conducted a number of volunteer missions during the summer months, with remarkable success. Old churches were revived, new ones built up in the faith, and many souls saved. Conference decided to place on record its highest appreciation of the good work rendered by these brethren, and to recommend that every church in the State plan for a mission this year. Our Home Mission preachers, Bren. L. A. Bowes, Ulverstone; J. Warren, Geveston; I. Durdin, Nuheena; and L. Drummond, Kelveie, all came from South Australia. These brethren delivered short addresses on Friday afternoon. Bro. P. Duff made an appeal during the afternoon to help reduce the Home Mission overdraft, with the result that £16/5/- was given.

Bro. N. J. Warmbrun presided over the Home Mission Demonstration at night. Miss M. Bradley, on behalf of the Women's Conference Shilling Appeal, presented the Home Mission Committee with £15/7/9. Bren. W. J. Campbell and W. H. Nightingale delivered appropriate addresses, after which the offering was taken, amounting to over £10 in cash and promises. Some fine vocal and elocutionary items were rendered.

The election of officers resulted as follows: A. E. Heard, President; J. C. Woolley, Vice-President; W. H. Nightingale, Secretary; G. T. Spaulding, Assistant Secretary; H. Woolley, Treasurer; J. Spaulding, P. J. Bvard, C. Hale, and J. Gindes.

On Saturday morning Conference discussed the report of the Bible School Union, which revealed progress. Bro. W. M. Cooner and Miss E. J. Sawford were re-elected President and Secretary. The report of the C.E. Union revealed growth. Bro. W. J. Campbell and H. Stevens were re-elected President and Secretary.

Conference granted the request of the Church Building Extension Committee to appeal to the churches for an annual offering of threepence per member; also loans free of interest, and bequests, in order to establish and maintain a fund for the purpose.

Conference decided to secure an Act of Parliament to incorporate the churches in Tasmania

when ways and means are available. Bro. H. Woolley was re-elected agent for State Book Depot. Reports from the churches and the Foreign Mission Committee were discussed during the afternoon. The following were elected to the Foreign Mission Committee:—P. Duff, President; W. J. Campbell, Vice-President; J. P. Foote, Secretary; H. Stevens, Treasurer; with Committee at Launceston.

The Temperance Committee is located at Ulverstone, with L. A. Bowes, President; A. J. Charleston, Secretary, and E. Snooks, Treasurer. Bro. P. Duff presided at the Foreign Mission Rally at night, and Bro. W. J. Campbell delivered a stirring address.

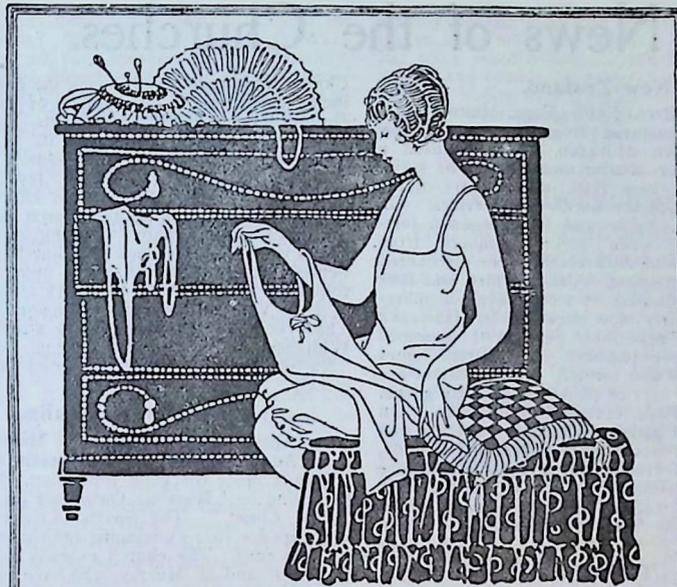
Bro. L. A. Bowes preached the Conference Sermon on Sunday afternoon to a large audience on the subject: "The Challenge of the Empty Tomb." It was a worthy effort on a great occasion.

The Conference Picnic was held at Lindisfarne on Monday, with ideal weather conditions. Bro. J. C. D. Green presided at the great thanksgiving service at Collins-st. at night. Bren. H. Wolley, senior, P. Duff, C. Pearn, and G. T. Spaulding spoke briefly. Bren. J. Jaap, J. Warren, R. Levett and the Collins-st. choir helped considerably with the music and singing. The 1923 Conference surpassed all previous ones.—W. H. Nightingale.

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News of the Churches.

New Zealand.

On Feb. 17 Bren. Noble, Page, Munro, Jones and Partridge motored from Hawera to New Plymouth, a town of 12,000, and organised a church with four charter members. The social room of the Workers' Hall, in the centre of the town, was engaged for Lord's day services. On March 11, Bren. Noble and Page began a fortnight's mission, when seven members from throughout parts of Australasia were discovered and enrolled by request. Also five men and four women were immersed. A strong adult membership of over thirty now meet, under Hawera's supervision. A new Bible School of nineteen scholars and three teachers, under Bren. James and Grundy, was also formed. Twelve names are on the quarterly service plan, including the gospel work of Bren. Page, Marshall and Munro. On March 24 a brief social and business meeting was held, when Bren. Goodacre, Wickham and Grundy, with Sisters Mrs. Hadler and Mrs. Grimmer, were appointed a provisional executive committee. Bro. F. Grundy, Box 142, is secretary and treasurer. Affiliation with the Associated Churches of Christ has been made.

Tasmania.

At Hobart the church sorrows with the relatives of Sister Mrs. Clara Daniels, who was called away suddenly last week to be with Jesus. Bro. W. Cooper exhorted on Sunday, April 8, and Bro. Nighthale preached the gospel. One young man confessed Christ, and four sisters were welcomed by letter. Good C.E. and prayer meetings.

West Ulverstone had good meetings on April 8. Harvest thanksgiving was held, and a fine display of gifts and flowers was made. The gifts were afterwards given to the Hospital, and the poor. A married couple and two of their daughters who recently confessed Christ and were baptised were welcomed into fellowship. A new baptistry, donated by the sisters, has lately been installed.

At West Hobart great times have been experienced. At Bellevue the Bible School held its annual picnic. The sisters held a sale of gifts, taking about £30 for building fund. One sister who recently confessed and obeyed Christ was received into the church. Much interest was shown at all Conference gatherings. April 1, Bro. Bowes, preacher of Ulverstone, presided; Bro. Campbell, preacher of Launceston, exhorted; Bro. Durdin, preacher of Nubeena, preached at gospel service. Visitors from all parts of State were present and took part.

The Sisters' Sewing Class connected with the church at Launceston have just concluded a useful year of service. Meetings have been held regularly. A good deal of work has been accomplished for the needy of the church and several poor families of the adherents to the church have been assisted. The members are to be congratulated on the amount raised by the penny-a-week fund, which totalled £11/10/-, and together with other offerings in kind, the following amounts were forwarded to the respective local representatives:—Home Missions, £5; Foreign Mission, £2/10/-; Bible Woman, £3/5/-; Orphans, 15/-.

Queensland.

Zillmere reports good meetings all day on April 1. In the morning E. A. Arnold, of Boonah, gave an inspiring address, and at the gospel meeting F. E. Alcorn, of Ann-st., spoke on the "Wonderful Saviour." April 8, splendid worship meeting. Bro. E. P. Adermann's address was much appreciated. At the gospel meeting his theme was "Lifting up your Eyes." Sunday School is in good form.

Two nice meetings at Brisbane on April 8. At the morning service Bro. Alcorn addressed the church on "Echoes of Conference." Bro. Wilminston, late of Toowoomba, was received into fellowship. At night Bro. Alcorn gave a fine gospel address entitled, "A Resurrection Message." A lady went forward to rededicate her life to

Christ. 130 broke bread during the day. Visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Jones, of Perth, W.A. Deepest sympathy is extended to Bro. Benner, who is in the hospital, seriously ill.

On April 4, at Ipswich, an elderly man was baptised. Bro. Young spoke on "Jesus' Habits of Prayer." Through the united effort of Bren. Neumann and Cumming, the church has a beautiful notice board. Sunday morning, April 8, seven adults were welcomed into the church. The Bible School is on the upgrade; seven new scholars enrolled on Sunday. The members are responding to Bro. Young's appeals to support the school. The evening service was largely attended. Bro. Whitehead (a new convert) sang with power, "Nailed to the Cross." Interest is growing weekly.

Western Australia.

On April 1, at Fremantle, Bro. Morrow, M.L.C., from Adelaide, addressed the church. On the 8th two ladies made the good confession, Bro. Mudge preaching on "Have we Outgrown the Christianity of Christ." The Spartan Cricket Club are premiers for 1922-23, winning the challenge match by two runs. The church extends sympathy to Sisters F. and M. Murray, who have been bereaved of their brother.

At Subiaco, in conjunction with the other churches in W.A., this month has been set aside for the special study and proclamation of the plea for a return to New Testament Christianity. Meetings are well attended. Bro. Illingworth, of Melbourne, gave a fine uplifting talk at the prayer meeting on April 11 on "Looking unto Jesus." Bro. W. Morrow, M.L.C., of South Australia, conducted the gospel service on April 1. The Girls' Club were pleased to have a visit from Mrs. A. E. Illingworth, who gave a much appreciated talk on "A Hive of Bees." On 10th inst. the young people gave a kitchen tea in honor of Miss Elsie Fishwick and Mr. Arthur Lushey, whose marriage takes place shortly.

Harvey church held its annual meeting on March 21. During the past year the work had been faithfully carried on by the local brethren. In October Bro. S. H. Mudge held an eight days' mission. The Sunday School under the able guidance of the superintendent, Bro. A. Maloney, has a roll of 40, with an average attendance of 28. The officers for the coming year are: Bro. P. Maloney, secretary and treasurer; Bro. A. Maloney, Sunday School superintendent; officers: Bren. G. Charman, C. Stanford, A. Stanford, A. Maloney, D. Fryer, and R. J. Wright. Bro. D. Fryer was elected song leader, Sister L. Rosener, organist, and Sister E. Sharp and Bren. A. Maloney and Wright, visiting sister and brothers. Deep regret was expressed that Bro. J. Johnstone was unable to continue in active service. For over eight years he has exhorted and preached the gospel, and has rarely been absent from the weekly prayer meeting. For health reasons it is imperative that he should rest. A motion was passed expressing the great appreciation and love of the brethren toward him.

Victoria.

At Warrnambool there were good meetings on 15th inst. In the evening Bro. Edwards gave a powerful gospel address on "Where there is no vision." The Bible School and J.C.E. showed a slight increase in numbers.

Parkdale had good meetings on Sunday. Bible School started with sixteen scholars and three teachers. At night there was another confession, Bro. Baker preaching. In the brief mission of seven days there were eight decisions.

Burnley had fair meetings on Sunday. Bro. Stephenson is doing a good work. He gave a fine talk on "Our Plea" in the evening. Sister E. Winch rendered a solo. All auxiliaries in healthy condition. The aged Sister Westermann was laid to rest on the 16th. Deepest sympathy is extended to the bereaved.

Bro. Kingsbury has made a good beginning with his work at Gardiner. Evening meetings were begun in College hall on April 8. Attendances have been good. On 15th inst. two sisters were received by letter from Bambraroad church.

Many visitors were at the morning meeting at Cheltenham on Sunday. Bro. A. W. Tucker, of Launceston, gave a kindly greeting from the church there. Bro. R. T. Pittman preached at the evening service, P. R. Baker being at Parkdale.

At Hampton annual business meeting, on April 12, all office-bearers were re-elected, and Bren. Kilborn and Storey added to the diaconate. Meetings on Sunday were good, and 90 broke bread for the day. Bro. Wakeley delivered good addresses, and at the night service a Sunday School scholar from Oakleigh made the good confession.

Helpful meetings at Lygon-st. on Sunday, when Bro. and Sister Gartside and son were welcome visitors. A. T. Eaton spoke at both morning and evening services, his subject in the evening being "Believing a Lie." The week-night meetings are well attended, and made brighter by the introduction of a solo, which last week was rendered by Miss Edna Bagley.

Good attendance at Maryborough on Sunday morning, April 15, and Bro. Baker gave a fine exhortation on "The Mills of God Grind Slowly." Bro. and Sister Robb and family, from Warragul, have come to reside in the district. The building was full at the evening service, when Bro. Baker delivered a splendid address. One young man made the good confession.

Middle Park reports great meetings on April 15. Two young women received into fellowship by letter, and two young men by baptism. Three new scholars for the Bible School, and a record attendance at the Bible Class. The choir, with "The King of Glory" hymns, is doing good service after the gospel meetings, rendering the messages in song in isolated homes.

The Bible School at Balwyn continues to increase, the membership now standing at 153. Five brethren were received into fellowship at the church last Lord's day morning, and a young woman confessed Christ at night. Bro. J. E. Thomas conducted all the services. Intending visitors during the tram strike are advised to travel by train to Canterbury, then walk along Balwyn-rd.

Swanston-st. last Lord's day had good meetings. In the morning Bro. Gibson was the speaker, and amongst visitors were Bro. and Sister Owen, from Taiti, Wellington, N.Z. Bro. B. W. Huntsman delivered an excellent gospel sermon at the evening meeting. The church very sincerely regrets the loss of Sister Mrs. F. Illingworth, who has been connected with us practically all her life.

All meetings at Coburg are well attended. A marked interest is shown at the gospel services, where Bro. J. C. F. Pittman is presenting the fundamental principles of a Christian life in a clear, concise manner. Two young ladies and one young man who had been baptised were received into fellowship last Sunday. The church has accepted the tender of Messrs. Hudson and Gairn for the erection of a church home.

Meetings continue good at North Williamstown. Last Lord's day Bro. Johnston spoke well at both services, his subject in the evening being, "How Men Show Disregard for God's Law." One boy confessed Christ. The Endeavor Society is making splendid progress. At the consecration meeting seven active members were received in, also one associate. The Bible School has commenced an aeroplane rally, which will continue for three months, the aim being 100 new scholars.

Reports at Warragul church annual meeting showed an advance in membership and finance. The church has lost the able assistance of Bro. Robb and family, who have moved to Marysville. Mr. Archie Pedersen, whose address is Gas Works, Warragul, was re-elected secretary. Mr. Charles Branstetter was elected treasurer. The former treasurer, Mr. C. Pedersen, and the organist, Miss Alice Russell, are to be married on April 28. Mr. E. R. Ruffell was appointed superintendent of Bible School.

On April 1 the Stawell church had Bro. Earl, from the College, for the day. His bright messages were much enjoyed. On April 8, Bro. Bagley delighted with his bright and happy talks regarding the work. Bro. Earl was again with the church last Lord's day. Bro. Pratt is to take up the work next Lord's day.

On April 1 Bro. Combridge, of Ararat, spoke both morning and evening at Geelong, and was greatly appreciated. Bro. Stevens concluded the study of Ephesians as a threefold epistle on Thursday evening. On morning of April 8 Bro. Stevens gave an encouraging talk on Conference, and at the evening service preached to an attentive audience. Last Sunday evening Bro. Stevens conducted an autumn service, preaching from the text, "We all do fade as a leaf." The church was attractively decorated with seasonable flowers and foliage, arranged by members of the Phi Beta Pi Club. Last Thursday evening Bro. Stevens commenced a series of studies on "First Principles." The two clubs enjoyed a happy picnic at Clifton Springs last Saturday, when a motor-boat was engaged for the afternoon.

Anniversary services of Blackburn Bible School were celebrated successfully on April 8 and 11. Singing by the children was excellent. Bro. F. A. Youens, from the College, was the speaker on Sunday, and fulfilled his part admirably. In the evening service he gave an excellent address on "A Mother's Vision, a Life's Reality." On Wednesday Bro. W. B. Blakemore, B.A., gave a very interesting talk to the children. The distribution of prizes took place, and every child received a prize. Two items rendered by Sister Miss Mahony, of Balwyn church, and Miss Gwen Adams, of Hawthorn church, were much enjoyed. Bro. Graham, who has been working earnestly for the past few months, and has now given up the work, was made the recipient of a small token of appreciation. His successor is Bro. Ward, from the College of the Bible.

The mission at South Yarra is progressing very satisfactorily, particularly for the first week, the attendance averaging over 300 per night. Last Lord's day the meetings were inspiring. The J.C.E. had an attendance of 76. At the worship service 108 broke bread. There were many visitors. Amongst them were Sisters Warburton (2), returned from their extended stay at Warnambool. Bro. H. Rasmussen presided, and W. H. Hinrichsen gave a fine message. The Bible School held their session in the tent, and benefited in numbers. At night every seat in both tents was occupied, and several hundreds were outside the tent, making an approximate attendance of over 550. Singing was very fine, with Bro. A. Searle organist, F. Lee pianist, J. Graham euphonium, V. Matthews violin. Bro. E. Hinrichsen gave a fine message on "The Supreme Question." One confession, making 13 for the week. Visitors from sister churches are thanked for their help.

South Australia.

Good meetings at Lochiel on Lord's day, April 15. Bro. Rootes, from Kadina, speaking at both services. The church was pleased to have Bro. E. G. Warren, from Wallaroo, on April 8. His messages were very uplifting. In the evening he spoke on "The Second Coming of Christ." About 70 people were present. The church looks forward to having a preacher every Sunday from now on.

On April 7 Queenstown Church Cricket Club held their annual social, an enjoyable time being spent. On April 8, good services. At Q.Y.P.M. Sister D. Watkins gave a talk on Point McLeay Mission Station. At worship the presence of Sister Chittleborough and Bro. Brooker, senr., after his serious illness, was appreciated. Bro. A. Coin gave a helpful exhortation. In the evening Bro. Brooker's sermon was good, a continuation of the series "God's Power Over Disease." The Bible School picnic was held at the Alberton Oval on Easter Monday.

Last Lord's day Wallaroo had good services. Bro. Alf. Dyer, of Kadina, gave a splendid address. At night Bro. Beard preached. On Tuesday night at the C.E. Mr. Williams, Congrega-

tion minister, delivered a helpful address on "Consecration." Monday night Bro. E. G. Warren was one of the speakers at the Methodist Church jubilee service, and spoke again at their camp meeting on the beach on Saturday. Miss Daisy Durden had a nice meeting with the J.C.E. on Sunday morning. Two more members have left for the city to look for employment. At night Bro. Warren delivered his final address of a series. He discoursed on "The Great Event of the Future."

On April 11 the church at Grote-st. held a meeting to consider the plan of a new chapel. The plan, which was the skilful work of Bro. Cutley, was much appreciated by the church. Lord's day, April 15, the morning service was fairly attended. Bro. and Sister Garnett, senr., were present. Bro. Bartlett was received into fellowship by letter from Strathalbyn. Bro. A. C. Garnett exhorted. At night to a good congregation Bro. Garnett was the preacher. At the close of a very earnest address two came forward to renew their faith in Jesus—an aged man and his wife.

New South Wales.

At Lidcombe on April 15, Bro. Browne exchanged with Bro. Thomas, of Belmore, for the morning's exhortation. Bro. Thomas's theme was "Winning Souls for Christ." Bro. G. H. Browne at the gospel service based his address on the record of Philip's preaching Christ at Samaria (Acts 8).

At City Temple, Sydney, last Lord's day morning Bro. Sivyer, from Enmore, gave a fine address on "Eternity" (Eccles. 3). He prefaced his remarks with a talk to the young folk. Bro. A. L. Haddon was present at night, and gave a magnificent gospel address on "Tested by God" (Dan. 5). The choir rendered a fine anthem.

At Lismore, Bro. F. R. Furlonger was presiding elder at morning worship on April 8. Sister Mrs. Meredith, of Burwood, Sydney, was present. At night Bro. P. J. Pond preached on "The Church's Challenge to True Manhood." Bro. W. T. Atkin has been appointed agent for the State H.M. monthly paper. Door and window-frames are being placed in position in new church edifice.

Since the opening of Rockdale building, meetings have been well attended, and a number of additions have been made to the church. A noticeable feature has been the number of strangers present. Bro. Clydesdale is laboring faithfully. Bro. Coventry gave a fine talk on the work accomplished amongst the "Criminal Tribes in India" to a combined meeting from Hurstville and Rockdale. Bible School is increasing in numbers under the faithful leadership of Bro. Coles, loyally supported by the teachers. On 14th inst. a farewell tea was given to Mrs. Clydesdale, who is going to France and Scotland by the "Largs Bay" on the 17th inst.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor is not responsible for the views of his correspondents.]

To the Editor of "The Australian Christian."
Dear Bro.—

At the risk of being misunderstood, I feel impelled to lodge a protest against the number of financial appeals the churches are so frequently receiving from organisations outside the immediate local work. Scarcely a month passes by without such appeal being received by the preacher or secretary, and the hint is gently conveyed to the former that if the appeal is not generously entertained, it will be because he has failed to work up the necessary enthusiasm, etc. By this morning's mail two letters have reached me, each containing directions concerning how I can set to work to create the desired atmosphere for a liberal response by the members in the interest of their several aims. I have sadly to confess that I have no heart for the business. The members of my congregation have undertaken heavy financial responsibilities. I now find it absolutely imperative to still further increase that burden by asking them to erect a kindergarten hall. How can they

possibly pay their way and be constantly subscribing to these other institutions? Surely the time has come when a halt should be called in this matter, and some supervision exercised over these different bodies with the view of eliminating unnecessary overlapping and the continual exploitation of the members. Yours faithfully,

H. Swain.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

VICTORIAN HOME MISSION FUND.

During the month of March the following amounts were gratefully received:—

Annual Offering.—Carlton (Queensberry-st.), £8; North Williamstown, £4/10/-; North Richmond, £9; Warragul, £5; Ivanhoe, £4/15/-.

Churches, per Collectors:—Footscray, £2/8/8. Churches, per Duplex Envelopes:—Bendigo, 10/-; Castlemaine, £2/16/2.

Individual Gifts.—Miss E. Currie, £1; J. Barnacle, £1/1/-; Mrs. Vaughan, 10/-.

Conference Fees (February and March).—Nth. Carlton, 5/-; St. Kilda, 10/-; Colac, 10/-; North Williamstown, 10/-; Doncaster, 15/-; Taradale, 5/-; Fitzroy, 10/-; Thornbury, 15/-; Carnegie (2 years), £1/10/-; Bamba-road, 15/-; Balwyn, 5/-; Boort, 10/-; Echuca, 5/-; South Richmond, 10/-; Mount Clear Sunday School, 2/6; Croydon, 5/-; Brighton, £1; Burwood, 5/-; Hawthorn, £1/5/-; Blackburn, 5/-; East Camberwell, 10/-; Pakenham, 5/-; Red Hill, 5/-; Windsor, 10/-; South Yarra, 15/-; Ararat, 15/-; Ballarat East, 15/-; Moreland, £1; Dandenong, 10/-; Malvern-Caxi-field, £1/5/-; W. Tree, 5/-; Lillimur and Serviceton, 5/-; Rochester, 5/-; Box Hill, 10/-; Boronia, 5/-; Ballarat, £1; Queensberry-st., 5/-; Harcourt, 5/-; Mildura, 15/-; Burnley, 10/-; Maryborough, 15/-; Footscray, 15/-; Bayswater, 10/-; Ringwood, 10/-; Bendigo, 15/-; Surrey Hills, 15/-; Essendon, 15/-; Dunmunkle, 10/-; Oakleigh, 15/-; Cheltenham, £1; Swan Hill, 10/-; Lygon-st., £1 15/-; Castlemaine, 15/-.

Miscellaneous.—Colac Mission Thankoffering (additional), 10/-.

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IN MEMORIAM.

HAYDEN.—In loving memory of our dear father, William James Hayden, who passed away on April 13, 1922, and our darling mother, who joined her loved one seventeen weeks later.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

—Inserted by their three daughters.

STICKLAND.—In loving memory of Joseph Stickland, who passed away April 18, 1917.

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—E.A.S. and family.

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COMING EVENTS.

APRIL 22 & 24.—Brunswick Bible School will continue anniversary services Sunday, April 22, afternoon and evening, Tuesday, 24th. Children's Demonstration in chapel.

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OBITUARY.

FREEMAN.—On February 27 the church at Echuca, Vic. was saddened by the decease of Bro. W. G. Freeman. Our brother was born near Strathalbyn, S.A., in 1847. Whilst still a young man he was baptised there, and then went to live in New South Wales, and afterwards in Victoria. He was a member of the Echuca church for about twenty-five years, and during that time he was a source of encouragement and help to many. He had a wonderful yet simple trust in his Lord and Master, and this, coupled with his beautiful character, made him loved by all.—J.T.

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