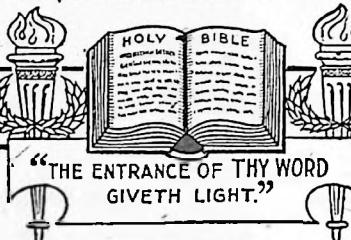


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DEFEATING A MODERN LIE

A GREAT victory was won by the church when it gained a strong position in the Roman Empire and in countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. Then came the years when the faith of Christians was tested by the fanatical beliefs of Mohammedanism. Sweeping around the southern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, Mohammed's hordes brought terror to peaceful citizens. The churches struggled against ruthless competition for many years. Eventually, where once many Christians lived in happy fellowship, only those who honored Mohammed could gain standing in the community. Church buildings were neglected and fell into ruins. In those years the Christian faith suffered the greatest geographical retreat in all its history.

I.

While many were gloomy about the church's future, some were preparing their hearts for new missionary endeavors. Within the younger churches of Europe, especially in the islands now called Great Britain, new ways of reaching the unsaved were planned. Great victories then began to add many to Christ and to banish gloom.

In some ways we stand at a place in history similar to that at which the church stood when the Mohammedan faith threatened it. However, the enemies of the church to-day are more subtle, even if not more ruthless. To-day the god of the church's opponents is organised materialism: a materialism supported by a strong theory, philosophical reasoning and an economic system.

II.

Since the theory of evolution can give some account of the beginning of man, and the Freudian philosophy of psycho-analysis can set out human behaviour in terms of sex, and dialectic materialism can show how history develops, there is no need for God nor for Christian teaching! That is the gospel of materialism which is challenging the gospel of Christ. Instead of man being the offspring of God, and the glorifying of God being the chief end of man and God being the driving force in history, we are being told that man's beginning and end can be explained in terms of materialism.

The zeal with which that doctrine of materialism is being spread can be compared with the fatalistic passion of the early Mohammedans. We can expect continued or-



ganised opposition to the Christian gospel, and also a sullen disregard for all spiritual ideals.

The common people may not be fully aware of the nature of this materialistic doctrine, but it reaches them through popular literature, art, films and the gossip of those more or less indoctrinated with such false theories.

There is a drive and passion in the propaganda and methods of the disciples of this pagan materialism which suggests it has a demoniacal origin. Here may be the lie to which Paul referred when he spoke of the time coming when people would fall away from God and be allowed to believe a lie because they refused to heed the truth (2 Thess. 2: 11, 12).

III.

The method of attack upon this modern paganism must be like that used again and again by the disciples of Christ. Men must go back, or rather to Christ, and live with him in secret and in intimate fellowship. There is a quality of character in Jesus which captures and dominates a man, making him a slave to his Lord. When men and women have returned to the Master and have come again under the spell of his personality, they become zealous missionaries. They demonstrate in action a faith more effective than the service of their opponents. To-day we need a revival in worship, prayer and private devotions. Because the church is weak in these duties, it is hesitating in the world to-day.

We believe that where men have gone back to Christ, then they have found the missionary spirit aglow in their hearts. If there were to-day a return of church members to Christ, they would by some means make contact with others and would quicken in unbelievers a love for Christ. Instead of the church being a hospital in which sick souls are being nursed, it would then become an army. If the church were an army, it would give more earnest heed to the commands of Christ. Obeying Christ, Christians would go into highways and byways, and into all the world, compelling men to enter the kingdom of God.

There is no time we can afford to waste. The day is already late. If church members in Australia rally to Christ's cause, and close with the enemy, fighting with the sword of the Spirit, by truth and love, then we shall hold back the forces of darkness and defeat the enemy of this world.

CHRIST THE HOPE OF LIFE

*W. J. Thomson, of Wagga, N.S.W., writes of
the Christian hope of life beyond death.*



THE night was cold, crisp and clear. Outside the church building one could feel the frost hardening on the grass and hear it crunch beneath the feet. The footsteps of the few pedestrians that were about rang sharply on the pavements so that the belated attendant at the prayer meeting was easily heard as he came up the path and on tip-toe entered the chapel. He sat in a pew at the very back of the building. He was a man of about forty-five, neatly dressed and of fitting proportions. His hair was iron grey, and his personality such that, as I looked upon him, I felt he was a man I could have as a friend. He remained behind after the meeting, and as we talked he told me of his profession—a civil engineer. He had been sent to Russia by the British Government as a member of the White Army. His wife and small daughter had died in England. The depression had left him no alternative but to seek employment overseas.

I was deeply moved as he spoke of his small daughter, and even after the passing of nearly twenty years, I can see her as he described her. I tried to breathe some comfort upon his grief-stricken heart from the word of truth, but I found no hope within him. His experience in war and the inculcation of the new doctrines in Russia had brought down the iron curtain between himself and the hope that is in Christ.

We parted at the church gate with a warm handclasp; he would be leaving the town in the early morning. I never saw him again. I know I experienced something of the emotion that Christ must have felt when he watched the rich young ruler as he turned away, for I loved this man so many years my senior. But time has not effaced from me the dejection of one who sought hope and found it not.

It was a good experience, however. It taught me something of the destructive power of a new insidious doctrine that was taking hold of men. It made me take a firmer grip on the central truth of Christianity—"He is risen." How wonderful, wonderful is this fact! When Christ was laid in the tomb all the cherished hopes of his disciples were buried with him. But when he rose their hopes, their joys, were resurrected also. With what a burning pen Peter could write, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

And what a magnetic pull that hope has! Is the way hard and difficult? Have you found yourself in the fogs and mists of the valley of sorrow and not felt the upward tug of divine help in the very truth that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? Mere wishful thinking may give you hope in the witchery of the early morning; but like the gourd under which Jonah rested, it withers at noonday. But

that knowledge, born of faith, speaks boldly in the heart, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," and pulsating through the very being of men sends them out into strange and fearful places that "life and immortality through the gospel" may be given to others. A mist never drove a mill, nor does a fog drive a ship across an ocean. "How is it," said Robertson, of Newington, to a blind Scotch boy whom he saw flying a kite, "how is it that you can enjoy flying your kite when you cannot see its white wings as other laddies can?" "Na, na," said the boy, "I canna see its white wings, but I can feel its tug." We cannot reach forth our hand and feel the nail-prints as Thomas may have done, or hear him speak as he spoke to Mary in the garden or to the two on the way to Emmaus, but we can feel the tug from above.

Has your faith in the resurrection of Christ grown dim? Then read again the lovely story of that great morn as given in John 20. For a demonstration of the power of simple words in description, it is unsurpassed. As an account of the most stupendous fact in all the world, it is supreme. And if you still have doubts and need logical arguments to dispel them turn to 1 Cor. 15, for this is logic set on fire. Paul has not hesitated to face the conclusion of man's parlous state if Christ had not risen. One by one he knocks the props away. If Christ be not risen both preaching and faith are vain. Those who preach the gospel are false witnesses; we are yet in our sins. Those who have fallen asleep in Christ shall not rise! How poignant the cry that, if these things were so, we are of all men most miserable! (Think of those included in "all.")

How well do I remember a woman who had lost all her own, telling me of her new minister (denominational) who had preached a sermon calculated to give such revelation that the hope of the resurrection was needless. With tears streaming down her face and hands thrown out in pathetic appeal, she cried, "If they take away Christ, what have I got left?" And that is just what Paul says of any one of us. If Christ be not risen, if you are without this great hope in him, if ever you have cause to cry, "They have taken away my Lord," you are of all people to be most pitied.

As many writers point out, there are three things worshipped as gods to-day; they are the state, mammon and science. We have all, no doubt, met worshippers of these deities. The misery of men is a complete answer to such polytheism. In Sir Philip Gibbs' book, "Darkened Doors," Adrian Mallard, K.C., a brilliant though sceptical lawyer and sportsman, who finds that he is a victim of angina pectoris, is chatting with a friend, Professor Boyd, a distinguished psychologist. The professor is singing the praises of the open mind. "Is that good enough?" asked Mallard rather impatiently. "An open mind is all very well, but it doesn't get you anywhere. I'm beginning to want *certainty*." Boyd is amused. "Certainty," he replies, "certainty! I'm surprised at you. What do you want to be certain about?" Mallard answers without flippancy, "About life—about death—about what happens afterwards. What's the good of you scientists if you can't tell us that?"

There are many such men in the world today who would give all they possess for the assurance that the simplest child of God possesses in "knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dieth no more." Having been dead with him (in baptism) we believe that we shall also live with him (Rom. 6: 8, 9).

The only foundation for the "hope of life" is the resurrection of Christ. Thanks be to God that the grave could not hold him. He arose a victor o'er the tomb. There is no better established fact in history than the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. And this resurrection is the basis of our hope. "Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14: 19).

"Look up, look up, ye sorrowing ones,
And be ye glad of heart;
For Calvary day and Easter day,
Earth's saddest day and gladdest day,
Are just one day apart."

Lord of All Life

*L*ORD of all being, throned afar,
Thy glory flames from sun
and star;
Centre and soul of every sphere,
Yet to each loving heart how near!

Sun of our life, thy quickening ray
Sheds on our path the glow of
day;
Star of our hope, thy softened light
Cheers the long watches of the night.

Lord of all life below, above,
Whose light is truth, whose warmth is
love,
Before thy ever-blazing throne
We ask no lustre of our own.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

The Australian Christian

Victorian Conference Report

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE

THE division of the State into six areas, with one or more members of committee attached to each as "key" men, has borne fruit. The absence of two of these brethren at the World Convention in America, viz., R. Enniss and A. D. Leng, has curtailed their activities somewhat, but their overseas experience will be invaluable in the future. The chairman, B. J. Cambridge, the secretary, and members of the committee, have sought to keep in touch with the churches in their widespread undertakings, to help with conferences, meetings of inspiration, and have given ready assistance in seeking to solve local problems. The churches—not limited to those financially assisted by the committee—have availed themselves extensively of this service, and the committee feels this has been one of its worth-while features.

CHURCHES STANDING COMMISSION ON HOUSING

R. Enniss and W. Gale have represented the committee and the churches on this important Commission, which works in close association with the Government Housing Commission and the Victorian Building Directorate. It is representative of the Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, Salvation Army and churches of Christ. The Victorian Building Directorate has requested the Commission not to sponsor new church buildings, church halls or alteration or extensions, as for the present no permits for same will be issued by the Building Directorate, in order to conserve materials and labor for the many houses now awaiting completion.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

The year's statistics show a membership of 9042 scholars, 1539 teachers, being a gain of 64 scholars, and a gain of 34 teachers. The additions to the church through the school were 252. The annual scripture examination attracted 1079 entrants, and resulted in 40 prizes, 141 honors, 249 merits, 455 passes. Victoria gained 4 Federal first prizes and 1 Federal second prize.

In May, 1947, the Board of Christian Education was formed, the following being appointed, with power to add: W. R. Hibbert, L. A. Trezise, F. T. Morgan (chairman), B. F. Huntsman and E. Lewis (treasurer). The board is in its initial stages, and permission will be sought at Federal Conference, 1948, to constitute it a Federal committee.

V. C. Stafford was invited to become director, and served in a part-time capacity until Dec. 1, 1947, when the appointment became full-time. At present the director assists in Victorian State work.

FOREIGN MISSION DEPARTMENT

In March, beloved and honored workers, H. R. Coventry, Dr. and Mrs. G. H. Oldfield and family were heartily welcomed home. Mr. Coventry has relinquished service as missionary and is now engaged in an active ministry at Carnegie. The brotherhood extends thanks and congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Coventry for their splendid services as pioneer missionaries. Many monuments in "Our India" stand as evidence of their work, the most outstanding being the reclamation of Criminal Tribes; a great number were reclaimed, and about 100 became Christians.

Dr. and Mrs. Oldfield are on extended leave, and are now engaged in a suburban private practice. The churches are grateful to these workers for pioneering our medical work at Dhond.

★ *Selected items from interesting departmental reports to the 1948 conference held at Lygon-st. chapel are given for information of our readers.*

The long promised visit of Federal secretary, A. Anderson, to the Indian field and to China took place in the latter part of 1946 and the early months of 1947. He returned home last March. His contacts with the missionaries, seeing and studying the work on the various stations first-hand, have been a guidance to the board and State committee. His addresses on the various phases of the work, movie and still pictures, have helped the churches to see the needs of our own fields. In the light of complex missionary problems arising in a rapidly changing new India, Far East and a new Pacific, the visit was made at a most opportune time.

Desiring to render practical aid to our building programme in the New Hebrides, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williams and family, of Kaniya church, proceeded to the Islands last April. His practical experience, and the equipment provided by his home church, enabled him to organise and train natives to saw and prepare timber, resulting in the erection on Aoba of a splendid group of buildings for hospital purposes. Prior to his return home recently, he assisted missionaries and native helpers to erect a Quonset Hut on Pentecost as a home for Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Other practical assistance was given, and the missionaries were inspired by his presence, and helped by his advice and experience.

PROPERTIES CORPORATION

New buildings were not allowed during wartime, nor has the position been much easier since. The department has secured five permits to build, but the securing of contractors and materials has been a most serious problem. It is hoped that by the time this report reaches conference a start will have been made on some buildings.

ABORIGINES COMMITTEE

Carnarvon has been faithfully served by Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Hammer in the burdensome work of establishment, contending always against pressure on accommodation; by Miss Betty Schurmann in children's work—for which she voluntarily delayed her college course by 12 months; by Miss Elsie Roxburgh in teaching the younger children; by Miss Margery McDonald, who came to the permanent staff after a brief period at Norseman; and by Mr. Melville Jones, as a missionary helper. Temporary service, in a voluntary capacity, and without cost to the brotherhood, has been given at Norseman by Miss C. Taylor, Mr. Lake, sen., and Mr. Caldicott; and at Carnarvon by G. Moignard.

The Federal Board has oversight, largely through the Victorian committee, of the work of Mr. Edwin Atkinson at Mooroopna, and of Mr. Douglas Nicholls at Fitzroy. These brethren are in close contact with the committee meetings, Mr. Nicholls as an honored member, and Mr. Atkinson by his regular and heart-moving reports. As pastor of the native church, Mr. Atkinson is ably supported by his wife. The Federal Board, on our recommendation, recently increased his subsidy to £3/10/- weekly. He has been shown uncommon honor in the local community. Of a different type, but by no means less important, is the city work of Mr. Nicholls. In the midst of a busy life, he

makes time to be a true ambassador for his race, reaching the whole community by his manifold and constant efforts, his forceful preaching and labors abundant. We are planning for these two splendid brethren to represent at conference a race which has been for too long forgotten.



SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

850 parcels sent by bulk consignment to Great Britain towards the close of last year reached their destination, and have been distributed. With the withdrawal of the freight-free concession by the British Ministry of Food, we changed this year to sending parcels to individual members. Over 800 names were supplied from our Social Service Committee in Great Britain, and most of these have been adopted by the churches in Victoria. It is safe to estimate that in addition to 350 parcels sent by the department, some thousands have gone forward from the churches. Numerous letters of thanks have been received. There is still a great need, and churches are asked to continue sending parcels as regularly as possible, or to send donations to the department.

The year has shown little development so far as the buildings and accommodation are concerned, due to post-war difficulties. The home is filling a real need, and still maintains a high standard of efficiency. The matron, Mrs. Ross, and staff are not governed by statutory hours or services, but "the need is the creed." So long as duty calls, for matron particularly, by night and by day, the willing service is provided. Had we been able to proceed with the preparing of our other property at Murrumbeena, relief which is badly needed would have been provided. Temporary accommodation has been provided for another nine guests at the Murrumbeena home. We are fortunate in having obtained the services of Mrs. A. G. Sanders as matron, and a competent staff to assist her. We have a fine property here which we are confident will bring much satisfaction to our churches and blessing to many who will become our guests.



COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTION OF CHRISTIAN UNION

The committee has endeavored to promote understanding in the brotherhood of the movement expressed in the World Council of Churches. Australian churches of Christ are affiliated with the council at its headquarters in Geneva, and in accordance with the resolution of Federal Conference, 1946, took steps to secure our affiliation with the Australian section of the council. Our financial responsibility for affiliation is £120 for the whole of our Australian brotherhood, and this committee sought to raise this amount.



COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

The securing of the services of K. A. Jones is cause for gratification. Taking up duties from the end of January, he will serve as organising secretary. Mr. Jones is a graduate of Glen Iris, and is well known to our Australian brotherhood. His fellowship with the students and faculty, his encouragement to young men and women who may be recruited for service, and his contacts in gaining the co-operation of the churches, will greatly aid the college in its service.

Diplomas were awarded to Messrs. J. B. Baker, S. F. Davey, N. Gavros, R. H. Hillier, N. Kingston, H. M. Long, R. S. A. McLean, D. A. V. Thomas, R. W. Vautier, P. R. Whitmore, and a certificate to Miss J. Waterman.

The L.s.d. in Missions

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMME FOR MAY

Prayer.—Eternal Father, who seest thy children everywhere, and claimest the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession, we thank thee for the courage and devotion of all who have been the heralds of thy love to distant peoples, and for the inspiration of their word and example. Bless, we pray thee, those who have given their lives for thy service, and honor their work with fruitfulness. Make us glad to pray for them, generous in giving, and if the call should come to us, ready to serve; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymn Book No. 23, "God is Love! His word proclaims it."

Scripture.—John 11: 47-54.

Prayers for all our missionaries; the children for whom we are responsible; the Bible-women and other native workers; all the youth of the world.

The weary ones had rest, the sad had joy
That day; I wondered "how";
A ploughman, singing at his work, had prayed,
"Lord, help them now."

Away in foreign lands they wondered "how"
Their single word had power;
At home, the Christians, two or three, had met
To pray an hour.

Yes, we are always wondering, wondering
"how?"

Because we do not see
Someone, unknown perhaps, and far away,
On bended knee.

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymn Book No. 337, "Jesus shall reign where'er the sun."

Some little time after she had learnt to know and love the name of Jesus Christ, an African school girl was heard to make this prayer. "O thou great Chief, light a candle within my heart, that I may see that is therein, and sweep the rubbish from thy dwelling place."

Surely we should echo that prayer. To set ourselves to the task of mission work at home or abroad requires clean hands and a pure heart. We must be prepared to burn away the rubbish—the trivial outlook, the self-complacent attitudes, the little selfishnesses. In their place let us put enthusiasm, interest and vitality, that spark that lights up the most prosaic task. Someone has mentioned that the lack of interest in missionary work is due to the fact that "to very many foreign missionary service means a dull meeting or a request for subscriptions."

If we were to burn away the rubbish from our hearts, we would see that L.S.D. are only names for Love, Sacrifice and Devotion, and need not refer to money at all. A deeper knowledge of the situation, a real sense of caring, an answer to the call "Follow me," and our hearts would be afame for the victory of the cross. Victor Hugo said, "Greater than an army is an idea when its time has come." The time for God's idea—a world church—is now!

In this task to which the hands of Christians of all countries must be set, we need the enthusiasm and vitality of the young. They can bring freshness and vision. Perhaps they can more readily than those who are older reach out without prejudice towards the youth of every land. Much of their folly is due to a feeling of lack of security, and is often only a facade covering a deep yearning for the eternal truth. Let us help them to learn the lessons of the Christian way of life, and in partnership with them in all countries of the world accept the challenge of our day and generation. We have entered into the heritage of our faith, built up for us by those who trod most difficult paths to preserve it intact. Let us be true to

the faith with love, sacrifice and devotion, even unto death.

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnbook, No. 463, "Faith of our fathers, living still."

Prayer.—"Teach us, O Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Business.

Address.—The World Church (Missionary and Youth).

Hymn.—Churches of Christ Hymnbook No. 362, "In Christ there is no East or West."

Benediction.—Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



EXECUTIVE NOTES

Victoria.—At first meeting for the year Mrs. Washfold, president, occupied the chair. Devotions were led by Mrs. McDowell, and the speaker was Mrs. P. W. Steel, her subject being "Belief in God." The following visitors were welcomed: Sisters Whitmore, F. Manning and W. Saunders, also Sister Berlin, of Brisbane, and Matron Scirving, of Launceston, who both responded. A cheque for £45 was received from Sunraysia District Women's Conference towards cost of a refrigerator for our living link in India, making a total to date of £175. Mrs. Saunders reported having £1/11/- to send to Mooroopna for milk for aborigine children. This amount was increased and more promised. The president brought greetings from North Central Women's Conference. After reports from several superintendents of committees, the meeting closed with prayer and benediction. Mrs. Washfold presided at March meeting, and leader of devotions was Mrs. Don Thomas. The president welcomed home Mrs. Kemp after her trip abroad, and Mrs. McGregor, returned from Tasmania. We were particularly happy to have fellowship with Mrs. Theo Fisher, American wife of a graduate of the College of the Bible at present on vacation in Melbourne. Mrs. Fisher spoke on women's work in Indianapolis, U.S.A. Mrs. Kemp brought greetings from missionaries in India. With her husband, Dr. Kemp, she had paid a hurried surprise visit to the mission stations. Reports from superintendents of committees were received. Mrs. Ward, Social Service, reported that Mrs. Ross, matron of Guest Home, had been forced to resign owing to ill-health. Mrs. Lawson, on behalf of Swanston-st. ladies, handed treasurer a cheque for £14/3/- for Mooroopna milk fund for aborigine children. As this was last meeting before conference, the president thanked all those who had helped her during her term of office.

Tasmania.—Monthly meeting of Women's Conference Executive was held on Tuesday afternoon, March 2, in Collins-st. chapel. The president, Mrs. Boxhall, was in the chair, and Mrs. F. R. Burtt led devotional. Miss Ferguson, a missionary in India for over thirty years, gave the address. To bring conference year to a close, Mrs. Boxhall and the secretary, Mrs. Watkins, entertained executive at afternoon tea. Mrs. Watkins and Mrs. Madel-Cole, on behalf of executive, thanked Mrs. Boxhall for her successful leadership over past year as State president.

South Australia.—The meeting on March 4 was presided over by Mrs. Fox in absence of the president. There were 73 delegates present. It was reported that Mrs. Crump (Croydon) and Miss Walkley (Beulah-rd.) recently received the home-call. Miss Grant led in prayer for bereaved. A letter was received from Mrs. Coventry (India), asking for prayers on behalf of Indian Christians. F.M. Committee during the month visited women's meeting at Colonel Light Gardens. It was decided to hold an all-day conference at Grote-st. on April 8, and a young married women's evening on April 13 or 22. Mrs. C. Verco, superintendent of home missions, led devotional session, Mrs. Shipway led in prayer, and Mrs. Brooker read the scripture. Speaker for afternoon was Mr. W. Beiler, who spoke about several home mission fields, his subject being "Urgency." Offering amounted to £6/13/11.

Queensland.—At brotherhood farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood on February 25, Mrs. Mills presented a beautiful gold-set pendant to Mrs. Greenwood as a farewell gift from Queensland sisters. At auxiliary meeting on March 4, Mrs. Payne led devotional session. Mrs. Mills presided over business session, and welcomed Mrs. Smillie from W.A. Mrs. Smillie brought greetings from Western Australian Women's Conference and also sang a solo.

New South Wales.—At the meeting on Mar. 5, Mr. Albert Anderson gave an appreciated address about his visit to India and China. Mrs. Greenhalgh led devotional session, and Mrs. Acland presided over business. Plans were finalised for conference. On behalf of Women's Conference, Mrs. Acland spoke words of appreciation to Miss E. Verco, and presented her with a small gift on her retirement as manager of the bookroom.

Western Australia.—First meeting of Women's Auxiliary for 1948 was held in Lake-st. chapel on February 3. Devotions were arranged by Isolated Committee and Narembeen sisters. Mrs. Hillier, from Victoria, was welcomed. The meeting stood in silence for a few moments in remembrance of late Mrs. Henry Wright. Fifty-eight sisters answered roll-call. Financial statement showed balance of £872/18/3. The president wished Mrs. Smillie a happy holiday in Eastern States.

INDIAN WOMEN

DURING the visit of Mr. Norman Goodall (secretary of International Missionary Council) to Australia, he held a one-day conference in Sydney with the National Missionary Council of Australia. The subject of morning session was India, which Mr. Goodall had just visited.

Of interest to church women in Australia was his emphasis upon the different status of women in India to-day. He spoke of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, governor of the United Provinces; Rajumari Amrit Kaur, a gracious woman, who is Minister of Health for Dominion of India; Mrs. Pandit, Ambassador to Moscow and delegate to United Nations.

In conversation after the session, he was asked what the reaction of the general community towards women taking such places was compared with Australia. Mr. Goodall pointed out that in the new constitution of India there was equality of the sexes, and that in some countries "we need to watch our step; they (Indian women) are ahead of us."

"Be but faithful, that is all;
Go right on, and close behind thee.
There shall follow still, and find thee,
Help, sure help!"

South Pacific Islands Missionary Conference

THIS important missionary conference was held at Morpeth, N.S.W., from Feb. 23 to 28 at the well-known St. John's College (C. of E.). Away from the beaten track, it was ideal for such a gathering, and the delightful atmosphere of the college and surroundings insulated its members from a world of tension and unrest. Adequate dormitory accommodation was available, and suitable arrangements had been made regarding meals. The planners had chosen wisely and well, and the organisation was perfect.

Personnel

Never in the history of the Christian church in Australia had such a gathering been held. It had representation from all responsible mission boards interested in mission work in the South Pacific. Undenominational boards were not represented, since they are not members of the National Missionary Council. The only major board not represented was the Baptists, not because of lack of interest, but because they have no mission work in the Islands.

Bishop Cranswick, of Sydney, and Bishop Kempthorne, of Polynesia, were amongst the noble company from the Anglican body. Bishop Kempthorne has a vast knowledge of mission work in the Islands, having just completed his 25th year as Bishop of Polynesia.

Apart from mission board representatives, several missionaries from the various Islands were present—New Guinea, Papua, New Britain, the Solomons, Fiji, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, and the Loyalty Group. Samoa and Tonga were the main islands represented by missionaries. A French pastor from the Paris Missionary Society working in the Loyalty Group sat side by side with a German Lutheran from Papua.

A preacher (Ramsey R. Deoki, B.A., L.Th.), a Fiji Indian, represented the Indian church in Fiji. Mr. Deoki is a man with a fine command of English and a wide Christian outlook, and was a contemporary and dear friend of John Bairagi, our missionary associate at Baranati, India. It will be recalled that John Bairagi was born in Fiji and became a Christian there, and was associated previously with the Australian Methodist Church of which Ramsey Deoki is an esteemed member. Mr. Deoki was extremely interested in the fact that we were able to give him firsthand information of his old friend, John Bairagi.

Overseas visitors were represented by Mr. Norman Goodall, of the International Missionary Council (Great Britain), and by representatives of New Zealand boards who have work in the Pacific.

The Australian Government, not unmindful of the importance of such a conference, had an official observer who was distinctly sympathetic to what missions were doing for Island peoples, and advised at times how Government and missions could co-operate to the mutual advantage of both and the Island peoples.

Approximately 45 people were in attendance, quite a proportion being women, some of whom were missionaries.

Fellowship

The conference revealed that there was more unity in the things which were common to all than the things which keep us apart. It was rich in fellowship, brotherhood and friendliness.

Bishop Cranswick was chaplain, and with a desire to unite us in the spirit of Christ, a communion service was held every morning at 7.15. Though held at this early hour, few missed the opportunity of being present every morning. Here around the table of the Lord

we felt more than ever the common tie which binds us and the common task we all face. An outstanding feature of the communion services was the fact that they were held in the chapel at St. John's, which is high church, and attended by a congregation of whom few were its actual adherents. This is probably one of the most outstanding concessions made in Australia in the interests of unity.

Time and time again during conference Bishop Cranswick made use of the words, "The great church is coming." Around the table of the Lord at Morpeth, we felt it was nearer than we could have imagined a decade or so ago. World privation and suffering, and common problems draw us very close together.

Midday and evening devotional services were also a feature of conference.

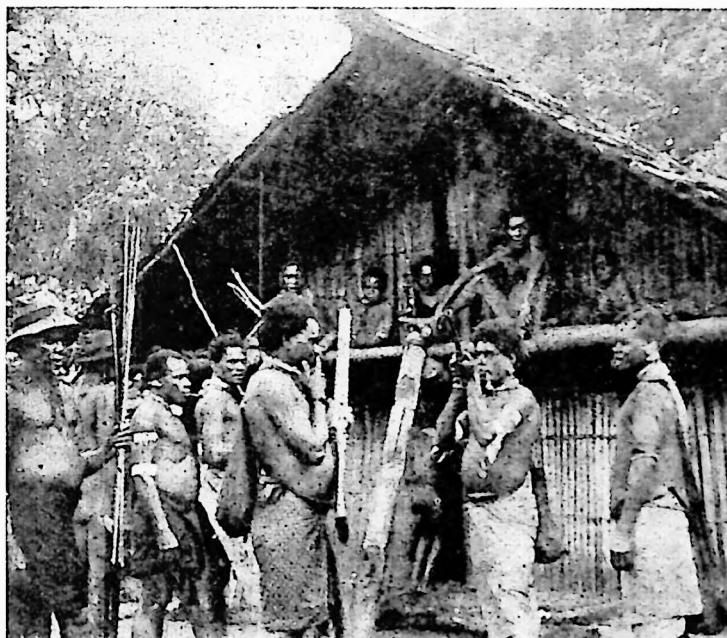
Aims

Ten papers had been written on various subjects; these were introduced and discussed at length, and arising out of the discussions certain findings were expressed and resolutions

known; but a countless host of native Christians had given their lives because they refused to deny Christ. A missionary who returned to New Britain two weeks after Australians had re-occupied the land, stated that the Japanese had sought to wipe out all evidences of Christianity. Despite persecution native Christians met for worship in trenches and tunnels. The speaker stated that after questioning he was satisfied that they had demonstrated that their faith was the faith of the first Christian martyrs. When at last these native Christians were able to emerge from hiding, their first concern was not to rebuild their homes but their churches, which had been ruthlessly destroyed.

Even the establishment of a Union Christian University was not overlooked, though to many it was something for the distant future than an immediate possibility.

Summing up, it was felt there was a spirit of urgency in all our mission work; and there was pressure coming, and the likelihood of world conditions worse than in the years round about 1930. *Our churches must face the task realistically in sacrificial giving.* This was the decisive hour, and as we disbanded we went away feeling that we were not alone in the task; that, firstly, we had a common Lord and Leader; and, secondly, as brethren in the Lord we had a common united task to perform.



Bushmen of the Pacific Islands.

made. These resolutions when brought together will be extremely helpful to home boards and missionaries on the fields.

Apart from the above papers, full surveys of the Islands and work carried out were prepared by experts. The whole work entailed a tremendous task in preparation, and even the time allowed was insufficient to fully cover the ground.

There was a feeling among all that there should be closer relationship between missions as they face the task of training men and women as pastors, teachers, doctors, nurses, etc.; a common understanding regarding language and text books; the place of the younger churches in the post-war world, and the handing over of responsibility to the younger churches of the Pacific.

Some missionaries emphasised the fact that the younger churches had earned the right to fuller responsibility and leadership because of their sufferings and persecution during the Japanese occupation. In some areas missionaries had lost their lives. Their numbers are

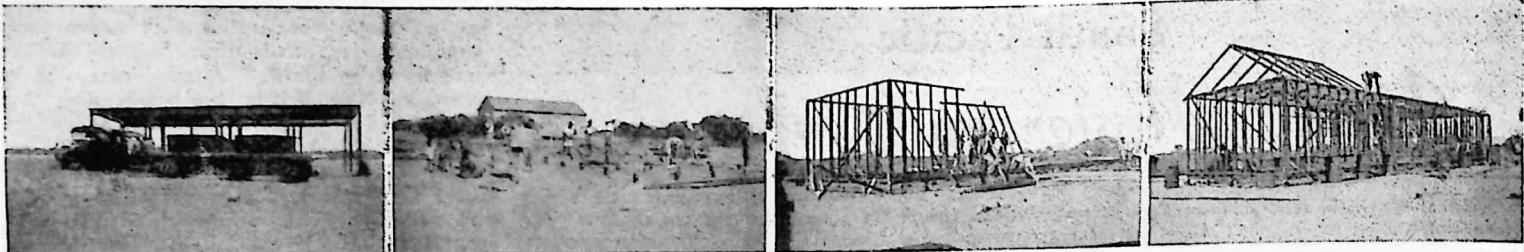
The words of the Government observer have peculiar interest for us all. To a group of us he said, "I have never seen a group of men who knew more what they were after and were determined to unite to bring it about."

TRUE FREEDOM

"This must be purchased with a great sum: we shall not have it or keep it unless we are worthy of it. The absolutely free man is he who has learnt to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."



This department is conducted by A. Anderson, secretary of our Overseas Mission Board, 261 Magill-rd., Tranmere, S.A. M.O.'s should be made payable at Adelaide.



Catchment Roof and Tanks, 488 Mile.

Ground Stumps for First Dormitory. Diningroom-Kitchen in Distance.

Second Day.—Walls going up. All stumps and bearers laid in both

Dormitories.

Achievements at Carnarvon, W.A.

IT was thrilling and inspiring. Excluding travelling time and Sundays there were sixteen working days. An estimate from the prices authorities as to the cost of the buildings if we called tenders gave a minimum figure of £2450 for our two dormitories, and £750 for the school, total £3200. These three buildings were erected by our team ready for occupation in the sixteen working days.

Here is the team: S. Gale, I. Smith, J. Christie, E. Chadbourne, F. Mogridge, M. Hall, P. Devenish, L. Thornhill, H. Seaby, J. Braeside, B. Seaby, H. White, W. Allen, H. Johnson, R. Bailey, C. Hyer, F. Day, M. Bell. To these we must add D. Hammer, M. Jones, Mrs. L. Thornhill and the missionary ladies mentioned elsewhere.

Meal arrangements planned en route, and an overnight stay at Northampton worked according to plan. Forty miles out of Northampton the road runs north through "station" country, and only one homestead is seen in the whole of the journey, another 272 miles. Roof catchments, with tanks supplying water for travellers, have been set down by the government. Our picture (No. 1) shows ourselves and another traveller having a meal at the 488 mile tanks.

Full gratitude of the brotherhood is extended to Ivan Smith, who freely and unselfishly gave the use of his 3-ton V-8 truck, not only to transport the men with their tools and equipment, but also to take building materials to and fro and make the necessary trips into Carnarvon. The distance totalled more than 2000 miles. Taking advantage of this service, we arranged an overhaul of the mission truck while operations were proceeding.

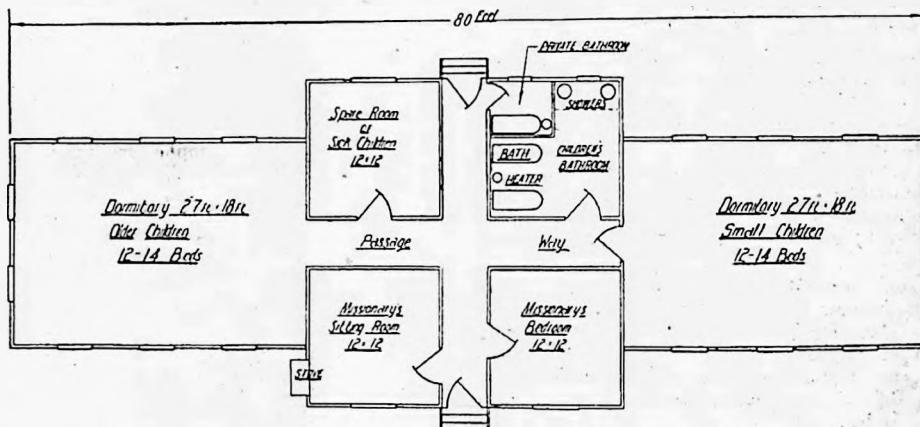
The party arrived on time, enjoyed a well-prepared meal and attended breaking of bread and evening services at the mission.

Monday morning Mr. Gale soon sorted out the men into respective positions. Our photo. (No. 2), taken 9 o'clock on the first day, shows the location of the first dormitory, with the dining-room-kitchen in the distance. By Monday evening all stumps, bearers and floor joists for both dormitories were down. Picture No. 3 shows the wall going up early the second day. By the end of the third day, the first dormitory had some roof rafters pitched (picture No. 4) and the second dormitory most of the wall sections erected.

★ A. M. Bell, hon. secretary of Federal Aborigines Board, tells the encouraging story of new building programme.

Chronic shipping shortage had taxed the overland transport, and more than 20 tons of our materials were still in Geraldton railway yards. A conference of leaders decided the writer should fly back to Geraldton, locate the materials

school building was immediately commenced. By Saturday the school was practically finished, in 5½ days. It was occupied by the teacher and children immediately the team left—the fourteenth day from commencement. All wood work had been oiled and painted with two coats. Our three pictures show the school and school children and the unique design of the building. Front and end walls where blackboards will be fitted all "Narco" louvres are placed high, giving abundant blackboard space and no light shining in the children's eyes. Some of these louvres are of asbestos shutters for this purpose. Clear glass in lower "Narco" louvres



Ground plan of dormitories, showing missionary private rooms and bathroom, and ample bathing facilities for children.

in the railway yards, and insist with the transport people the absolute necessity for delivery by the week-end. The plan worked successfully, and picture No. 5 shows one of the road transport trains bringing the materials into the mission after the 300-mile journey. It is creditable that, in the railway and road journeys, not a stick of timber was lost nor a sheet of asbestos broken. Our delivery arrived at the mission early Monday afternoon, and the

gives the teacher ample observation of the playgrounds on both sides of the building. The north wall, from which direction prevailing heat comes, closes off the heat as far as possible. The south wall, from which direction the prevailing freshening breezes come, has an abundance of light and air flow. "Narco" windows give ventilation through the whole of the area, top to bottom. They have small panes of glass to replace if one happens to be broken. Their upkeep is negligible as compared with orthodox box frame windows.

Our ground plan diagram and pictures show the facility given by the dormitories. Children are divided into age and sex groups with no more than twelve to fourteen in one dormitory.

The Australian Christian

Page 138

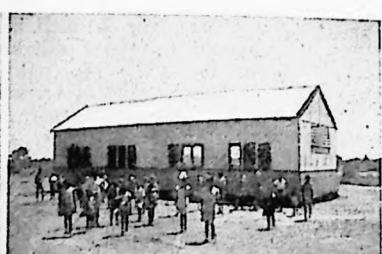
March 30, 1948



Road Transports take Materials 300 Miles.



School Building Commenced Monday Afternoon. All but finishing touches completed Saturday.



Rear View of School, showing abundance of soft south light through clear glass Narco Louvres.



32 School Children. School holds 50.

The missionary supervising the dormitory has two rooms, lined and ceiled with plasterite and fitted with "Narco" windows, opening to the south and sea breezes. The third room may be used, in case of an epidemic, to hold three or four sick children, or in the case of a married couple, for extra accommodation. A private bathroom, bathheater and shower give tropical convenience to our missionaries in each dormitory. Each children's bathroom has two baths, a central bathheater and two corners with showers. The whole layout has proved a most efficient and economical plan.

During operations, the washhouse-laundry building was transported on rollers to a position just behind the diningroom, thus centralising and co-ordinating house work, laundry work and kitchen work.

It was no mean task for our ladies to provide the numerous meals required for 20 men working so hard and such long days in trying hot weather. But in addition, they had the usual care of 32 children. Nevertheless, meals were excellent throughout. A happy spirit of co-operation prevailed. Many willing hands assisted with such duties as clearing the tables and washing dishes. Excellent service was given by Mrs. Hammer, Mrs. Thornhill and lady workers.

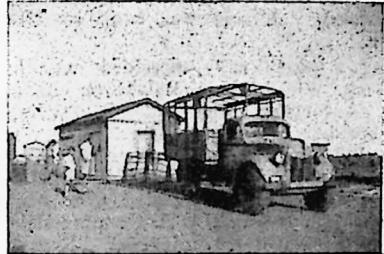
The workers shared the conducting of Sunday and week-night meetings; some had their first experience presiding, reading and giving Endeavor talks. Morning devotions were conducted by the team at the breakfast table.

There were specific reasons for air travel by four or five. Two of these stayed extra time

to finish up the painting, battening and other touches. The rest of the team commenced the return journey before daylight Friday morning, and travelled almost continuously until 5 o'clock Saturday, with an overnight stay at Dongarra. There was a great welcome home after such a successful and outstanding achievement.

Although each of the men gave his service for Christ and the native cause, it is hoped that the Australian brotherhood will recognise a big debt of gratitude to this grand band of workers and missionaries, who so efficiently and rapidly established this accommodation at Caronarvon mission.

The people of the district, both those in sympathy and those out of sympathy with native mission work, cannot now dispute the conclusion we are there to stay to help the natives.



Removing Laundry on Rollers with Mr. Smith's 3-ton Ford V-8.



One of the two Dormitories. Cover batten since fitted.



The Team.



Sunday Morning Meeting.

Discussions on World Outlook in Queensland

Reports of interesting addresses are given by P. C. D. Alcorn, B.A.

THE following is a summary of an address delivered at a citizenship meeting in Brisbane by Dr. J. W. Burton.

We are living between two worlds—one dead and the other powerless to be born. The bomb that fell on Hiroshima was a mere Chinese cracker compared with the ones they can make now. We also see again the ancient struggle between Authority and Freedom. There are now only two world powers—America and Russia. America has political freedom (except for her negro population), but not economic security. Russia is the richest country in the world, and has every material necessary for her purpose, but not political freedom. And we want both political freedom and economic security. There is also moving slowly but surely the rising tide of color. The rift between China and Japan is not permanent. They have too much in common—a common hatred of the white race which has exploited them. The colored races in the world will rise in wrath against the white people.

What is our hope? There is the United Nations Organisation, and every decent man should get behind it. Either that must succeed or catastrophe will overtake the world.

There is a better sense of justice. We are beginning to realise that the unequal distribution of wealth is unchristian, and that there should be equal opportunities for all.

The church must get a better understanding of the working man and his way of thinking. The religion of Jesus is simple, and his call to men was, "Follow me."

We must think and we must pray.

The Plight of Germany

Mrs. Margaret Watts, of the Society of Friends Relief Services in Berlin, gave us a pathetic account of conditions in Germany. So great is the debris in several cities that if a thousand tons were removed every day, it would take thirty years to clear the streets. One hundred and fifty thousand homes in Dusseldorf have no doors or windows. With the temperature 20 degrees below zero centigrade

the plight of the people in their miserable dwellings is terrible. Children under six get one quarter glass of milk a day, but there is none for those over six. People wrap hessian round their feet to serve as shoes. Mrs. Watts made an appeal for dripping and fat, dehydrated bananas, clean clothing and shoes with at least six months' wear in them, and for money which is definitely used to help the people. She suggested that we might adopt carefully selected German children, and bring out to Australia German women between the ages of 18 and 30 to work in hospitals.

The hope for the future of Germany is: (1) In her young people who, mentally and spiritually starved, are flocking to the churches; and (2) In the capacity of the German people for hard work.

The Training of Preachers

Dr. Ross Mackenzie, principal of Brisbane Boys' College, in an address, "An Elder Looks at the Training of Ministers," suggested that students for the ministry serve a year's apprenticeship with an older minister so as to be able to see church problems from his viewpoint; pay attention to voice control and culture; study dramatic art; develop qualities of reasonable, tactful leadership; develop right habits of study; and learn to train adolescents in the service of Christ. He warned against cynicism.

The Church and the Working Man

A Brisbane minister is planning a quarterly series of services to show that the church is interested in the life of the working man. Recently he had a service for tramwaymen in which a tramways motorman preached, another motorman sang a solo, and conductors took the offering. Special services for school teachers and workshop men will be held in the future.

The Australian Christian

News of The British Churches

STUDENTS of Overdale College are devoting part of their Easter vacation to a crusade which will take them to the Potteries, Merseyside and the Midlands. They have a double purpose, viz., the quickening of the life of churches and urging the claims of the Christian ministry on young people. From Scotland comes news of a Glasgow preaching team of seven young men who are visiting churches in Fife during February and March, visiting the North-east of Scotland in the Spring. To carry out their "briefing" members of the team leave home in the early hours of Sunday, travel across country to Fife, preach twice, conduct Sunday school, make contacts between school and evening service, and return home about midnight. Baptisms are already recorded. The Notts District Fellowship of Youth Commando Team is doing much the same work in the churches of that area.

Birkenhead's missionary Sunday was made memorable by the announcement that two members of the church, J. Pierce and his wife, had been accepted by the missionary committee for service overseas. The missionary committee is concerned at the latest news of Miss Esther Halliday, who returned to Siam after furlough, following internment by the Japs. She has developed serious eye trouble, a result of her sufferings during internment. From the mission station at Nyasaland comes news that E. Gray has published a manual, "Mapanziro a Klasi la Ubatiso—Instruction for the Baptismal Class."

James Gray and C. K. Green, warden of Overdale and treasurer of the college Jubilee fund respectively, are visiting various parts of country in interests of college, and especially of the Jubilee fund for the new Overdale. News has been received that three American ladies are contributing one thousand pounds each to this fund.

The Publishing Committee, owing to rising costs of printing and paper, has been compelled to increase the price of the "Christian Advocate" to threepence weekly.

Miss Alma Rutter, daughter of the late secretary of Wandsworth Bridge Road, London, has been awarded the M.B.E. for services at the India Office.—G. J. Hammond.

Here and There

"Hinrichsen mission at Wentworth Falls, N.S.W., had splendid meetings on Sunday (March 21); nine adults decided."

At the women's session of the Victorian Conference in Lygon-st. chapel, Wednesday, March 24, large congregations enjoyed fellowship, planned future work, and elected conference officers.

Owing to holidays, it was necessary for paper to go to press on March 25. All news items received by that date were published. In next issue reports covering the Victorian Conference will be included.

At evening meeting at Wagga, N.S.W., on March 21, a young woman confessed Christ and was baptised. J.C.E. is functioning well under leadership of Colin Willis. Young people's club has spent two evenings in repairing and painting kindergarten chairs partly destroyed during recent fire. Arrangements are well under way for district conference. Ladies' Aid held an enjoyable meeting in memorial gardens on March 14 in form of an American afternoon.

All branches of work at Reservoir, Vic., continue helpfully, and attendances are very good. Girls' clubs (Good Companions and Phi Betas) meet alternate Wednesdays, Young Explorers and Kappas for boys on Fridays. An enjoyable musical evening was held in school hall on March 18. On March 21, J. Plummer spoke in morning. In evening building was crowded, when a Palm Sunday service was held. Choir gave Easter message in song, and an excellent commentary was given by Mr. Burns. Special lighting arranged by A. H. Thodey added to beauty of service. Choir was led by Mrs. Plummer.

The "Evangelical Press Service" of Bielefeld (Jan. 14, 1948) writes that huge mass-transports containing Germans who have been ejected from the Russian-occupied part of East Prussia have arrived in the Eastern Zone of Germany. It is expected that all the Germans will shortly have evacuated the Königsberg district. The fugitives were unanimous in reporting that in Kaliningrad (Konigsberg) and district regular church services were being held without any interference from the Soviet authorities. They were frequently attended by Russians.

Final feature of Bible school anniversary at Earlwood, N.S.W., was picnic at Bronte on March 13. Reports at annual business meeting on March 21 revealed a substantial credit balance, but serious decrease in scholars, teachers and staff. Owing to resignation of W. Thomson, N. Matthews was elected superintendent, with A. Graham, sen., assistant. Position of secretary, vacant through A. Smith's removal to country, is in abeyance. After several years of faithful service, A. Gabb was re-elected treasurer and Miss Tumulty kindergarten superintendent. R. Greenhalgh gave a stirring address at teachers' tea and at gospel service. Fellowship has been enjoyed with Miss Connelly (Fremantle, W.A.), Miss Tuson (Canberra), L. Yelds, who exhorted church on March 14, and others.

At North Fitzroy, Vic., T. Hagger conducted three pre-anniversary services on March 9, 10 and 11. Meetings were well attended and addresses helpful. One young married woman decided for Christ. These services led up to the seventy-fifth anniversary day on March 14. Three great services were held, speakers being A. W. Stephenson, R. Enniss, and E. L. Williams. At morning service Miss Barnden sang an appropriate solo. In afternoon Mrs. C. G. Taylor sang two solos and Mrs. Winsor-Coe gave two recitals; these items were greatly appreciated. Choir under leadership of Mrs. Haigh sang anthems at all services and assisted largely in success of the gatherings. There was a fine attendance at morning service, and

afternoon and evening the chapel was filled to capacity. Two hundred members, old-time members, and friends assembled for dinner and tea in school hall, and a happy time of reunion and fellowship was spent. Everything contributed to the success of the seventy-fifth anniversary. Thanksgiving offering for the day amounted to £152. On March 17, a public meeting was held, a feature of the programme being presentation by lantern slides of the foundation of the movement in the United States, and of earlier workers at North Fitzroy. Tokens of appreciation were presented to Mrs. Haigh and Mr. Lord, who had done much to make the anniversary services so successful. At close of J. Turner's address on March 21, a young man decided for Christ.



J. Holloway,
Victorian Conference President.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS, FREMANTLE, W.A.

CROWDED meetings on Sunday morning, March 7, and Wednesday evening, March 10, with much enthusiasm, characterised the 50th anniversary celebrations of the opening of the chapel for public worship, which took place on March 6, 1898.

Many were present who were in membership at Fremantle over 50 years ago, including Mrs. Anderson (widow of the builder), Mrs. Etheridge, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. C. A. G. Payne, Mrs. S. Thomson, Mrs. W. Vinicombe, Mr. and Mrs. J. Vinicombe and Mr. J. W. B. Robinson, names remembered with esteem throughout the Australian brotherhood.

A veteran group, comprising F. Vanstan (48 years), H. Cole (46), and W. Meyer (45), presided at the Lord's Table, and S. G. Taylor (46 years) gave the address.

At the Wednesday evening meeting, a time of inspiration and of social fellowship, past preachers of the church, still in the West, C. H. Hunt, R. Raymond and S. G. Taylor, took prominent part, and greetings were received from past preachers still living, T. Hagger (Frankston), W. R. Hibbert (Emerald), Dr. A. J. Saunders (Camberwell) and D. R. Stirling (Geelong).

The great contribution of Fremantle church to the work of the ministry was stressed, and the following former members, now in the full-time ministry of the gospel, were gratefully remembered and their words of greeting enjoyed: Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Robinson (Bendigo, Vic.), Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Saunders (Bramber-nd., Vic.), Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie Thomson (Wagga, N.S.W.), Gordon Stirling (Youth Director, S.A.), Cliff Taylor

(Brighton, Vic.) and Kath. Taylor (Baramati, India).

A time of social intercourse and supper concluded a memorable occasion.—O. Fieldus.

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL NORTHERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE, S.A.

ON March 9 and 10, churches in northern district of S.A. held fifty-fifth annual conference at Balaklava, following churches being represented: Balaklava, Long Plains, Owen, Avon, Kadina, Pt. Pirie.

On Tuesday afternoon the men met in Methodist church hall. H. Lawrie had charge of devotional session, after which W. J. Marshman took the chair, and J. B. Baker delivered an address on "How to Reach and Retain Youth for the Church." A profitable discussion followed. A solo was sung by Mrs. J. B. Baker.

In evening a youth rally, presided over by A. P. Russack, was held in Balaklava chapel, which was comfortably filled. G. R. Stirling, B.A., was speaker. Musical items were rendered by Balaklava mixed quartette, Avon young people, and Misses F. and J. McLachlan. On Wednesday, J. Gibson presided over business sessions. In morning A. E. Cremin (Balaklava) gave a devotional address. Reports from churches showed steady progress. The presidential address was given by J. Gibson. Representatives of State committees briefly outlined work of departments.

The following officers were elected: K. W. Barton (president), H. Lawrie (vice-president), J. B. Baker (secretary), E. Long (treasurer). Two new preachers were welcomed: J. B. Baker (Long Plains-Owen) and A. E. Cremin (Balaklava). After over six years as preacher of Balaklava church and secretary of the Northern Conference, A. Hutson left for his new field, Naracoorte, just prior to conference.

J. Gibson, at evening session, introduced incoming president, J. B. Baker. On behalf of conference Mr. Baker handed a copy of God's word to the retiring president. Ray Vincent, of Prospect, delivered an interesting address. Musical items were rendered by Balaklava choir and male quartette, and H. Lawrie and L. Marshman sang a duet.

Sisters of Balaklava church had charge of catering arrangements throughout conference. It was decided to hold conference at Pt. Pirie next year.

Sisters' 30th annual conference was held on Tuesday afternoon, the president, Mrs. G. Rootes, presiding. Speaker was Mrs. W. Green, president of Sisters' State Conference. Officers elected: Miss F. McLachlan (president); Mrs. A. E. Cremin (president-elect); Miss V. Wilton (secretary); Mrs. G. W. Bennett (treasurer).

FOR THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN

"Henceforth," by H. A. Evan Hopkins. A handbook on how to proceed in the Christian life. 3/2.

"Every Man a Bible Student," by J. E. Church, M.A. What the Bible as a whole teaches on the great themes. 5/6.

"The Faith of a Christian," H. M. Cundy. 3/2.

"Doctrinal Outlines," by Robt. Lee. Outline studies on the fundamental doctrines of our Christian faith. 7/9.

"The Life of the Christian," by Dr. Campbell Morgan. A fine exposition of Christ dwelling in the believer. 7/3. (Postage extra.)

KESWICK BOOK DEPOT.

For Everything Evangelical,
315 Colling St. Melbourne.

The Australian Christian

News of the Churches

Tasmania

Dunalley.—A mission extending over six Sunday nights has been conducted by minister of church in Dunalley town hall. Meetings commenced with singing of favorite hymns, assisted by choristers of Dunalley church and friends from Copping. The mission concluded on March 21, and seven persons made the good confession. Services are still being held at Bream Creek, Carlton and Sorell. Sunday school work is progressing, and scholars are showing keen interest.

Western Australia

Fremantle.—Golden Jubilee celebrations on March 7 and 10, commemorating 50th anniversary of opening of chapel for public worship, were an outstanding and inspiring success. Large numbers of veterans returned to the scenes and memories of their youth with a wonderful renewal of fellowship. Mr. and Mrs. Sprigg have been transferred from church at Carlisle. Dorcas and Church Aid has recommenced activities, Mrs. Gordon, wife of minister of church, becoming the president, succeeding Mrs. Gracie, who has held that position for the past two years. "Living Link Fund" has again passed the aim of £100, and stood at £106 at the end of February. The "Living Link" year ends in April.

Northam.—Splendid meetings were held during past month. Particularly helpful were addresses of Capt. Gates, Indian missionary, on Feb. 22, and of S. Davey, State youth director, on March 7. P. R. Thickins has been on holidays, but returned for harvest thanksgiving services on March 14. There was a wonderful display of harvest goods in chapel. These were later distributed to local hospital and to Wooroloo Sanatorium. P. R. Thickins' addresses were very helpful. Girls' Club commenced on March 5, and a Y.P.S.C.E. is planned. Ladies commenced Dorcas Society on March 3 with encouraging attendance; Mrs. C. Beavis was elected president for ensuing year. Repairs to manse have been completed, and church has now a fine residence for preacher.

Queensland

Boonah.—Annual business meeting was held on March 10. All reports were encouraging and showed a year of progress and loyal service for Christ in community. Deacons elected: C., F., H., and A. Muller, C. Jenner, W. Vogler, F. Warwick, G. Willey and A. Jenner. Special reference was made during meeting to the faithful and valuable service rendered to church during the years by T. F. Stubbins, a pioneer member. On Oct. 14, Mr. Boettcher conducted impressive induction service for new board of deacons. Church rejoices because of improvement in C. Stubbins' health after recent accident.

New South Wales

Kingsford.—On March 21 L. G. Read conducted morning service. Doug Nicholls, of aborigines church in Melbourne, in evening preached to one of the largest meetings for some time. At this meeting fellowship was enjoyed not only with Mr. Nicholls and his family, but also with several aborigine Christians from La Perouse mission. One of these gave his testimony and another sang a solo. These brethren and sisters were given an opportunity of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls at supper after service. Church regrets that ministry of Mr. Read is drawing to a close, but looks forward to association with Mr. Ladbrook, who will commence his service on April 4.

Canley Vale.—On March 14 Mr. Saunders exchanged with E. Davis, of Burwood. At gospel service on 21st, film slides showing events leading to crucifixion were used to illustrate sermon. On morning of 20th, ladies conducted street stall, raising £10/5/- for manse fund. Nearly £20 has been given by Ladies' Church Aid to fund this year. Framework of manse has been completed. Mrs. Saunders has taken over Girls' Club. On March 16 Mrs. F. W. Stimson gave a first aid talk to girls.

South Auburn.—A happy time was spent on March 13 and 14. Thanksgiving service to mark liquidation of church and manse debt was held. At 5.30 p.m. on 13th, in hall, 140 past and present members partook of an excellent banquet catered for by Ladies' Guild, during which Ald. N. Crook (Mayor) gave a word, and greetings were given by Mr. Morris (conference president) and R. Greenhalgh (youth organiser). A. Webber extended a welcome to visitors, and Ald. W. Younghusband presided and gave a silent toast in honor of departed members who aimed at the day now reached. Among the many remembered thus was late F. Burns, whose love for Christ and the church and generous bequest of a considerable sum brought service of thanks much earlier than otherwise possible. At close community singing, further greetings, and a social evening closed a happy time, to be followed on Sunday, when at 11 a.m. communion, with 92 present, there were prayers of thanks, address by Mr. Laney, of Burwood, and anthems by choir. E. W. Taylor, the new preacher, was introduced. At 3 p.m. open Bible school, Mr. Taylor gave a talk. At 7 p.m. service four were baptised. R. Greenhalgh was speaker and special choir pieces were sung. E. W. Taylor commenced his service with church on March 7; February services were well maintained, an average attendance for day being 87.

South Australia

Edwardstown West.—Mr. Blanden was elected deacon late in 1947, and at annual meeting on Feb. 24 (Mr. Williams, chairman), Messrs. Williams and Fisher were re-elected. Messdames Moss, Starkey and Tabe were elected deaconesses, and Mr. Williams was re-elected organist with Mrs. Sincock assistant. Annual report showed a year of steady work, and a discussion regarding work for 1948 followed. Church feels absence of Mr. Fitzgerald, and prayers are offered for his complete and quick recovery. During his absence some brethren who have not previously assisted have helped with addresses. D. C. Harris brought a message from S.A. Alliance on evening of March 7.

Queenstown.—Increases in attendances were features on first two Sundays in March, 88 and 100 members breaking bread respectively. Mr. Ewers returned from holidays on March 7. Three were received by transfer—Mrs. Halliday, sen., and Mr. and Miss McGuire, from Stirling East church. Harvest thanksgiving services were held on March 14. J. Cain exhorted members, and Mr. Ewers preached at gospel service. A young man made his confession and was baptised following Sunday evening. There was a good display of goods. Perishable goods were taken to Escort House, and other foodstuffs are to be packed by sisters and sent to Platbridge church of Christ, in England, to be distributed amongst members there. At an evening offering £4/4/6 was received to cover cost of posting parcels. J.C.E. elected officers for year. Mr. Myall continues as leader with Ivor McGuire assistant. Attendances are getting back to normal, averaging about 37. Society members enjoyed a mystery hike along beach to Largs Bay on March 13. Bible school is practising for an-

niversary. At sisters' bright hour monthly meeting, Mrs. Fox visited and gave an address.

Cheltenham.—Church services have been well attended. On March 14, two young people confessed Christ, and were baptised following Sunday. Mr. Cornelius and brethren have been working well, assisting each other in services morning and evening. Mr. Mitchell is away on holidays, and Mr. Young has been away. Junior C.E. is going along well; meetings well attended. Sunday school is preparing for anniversary. There have been several visitors. Harvest thanksgiving was held on March 21 with a beautiful display of gifts. Fred Best, who is at Darwin, is now well after an attack of malaria. Mr. Cornelius is working full time, making several contacts, and visiting members.

Kilburn.—Church is indebted to young ladies of Maylands for giving an excellent concert on March 16 in aid of kindergarten chair fund. Kilburn ladies afterwards entertained artists at supper. A. Roberts, of Prospect, is thanked for conducting anniversary practice during absence of Mrs. Kelly on holiday at Newcastle. 104 attended 10 a.m. Bible school on March 21, including three new scholars. 11 a.m. service was conducted by J. Manning, when 24 adults and 28 young worshippers were present, it being harvest festival. F. Collins gave an excellent address, and a splendid response to appeal for food for Britain was displayed. At conclusion of 7 p.m. gospel service, Airdrie Mann, a Bible school scholar, made the good confession. Those present afterwards travelled to Prospect church to witness F. Collins baptism. J. Manning.

Flinders Park.—New scholars have been enrolled in Bible school and kindergarten. Attendance has improved during past few weeks; 76 scholars present on March 14. March 6 was break-up social; over 50 attended. Games were played and films shown by Mr. McLean. A busy bee was held on March 13 to prepare the basket-ball court. March 14 was harvest thanksgiving. In morning 61 attended. 76 scholars attended Bible school. In evening 63 were present. Several younger girls and boys gave items. All goods brought were given to Protestant Children's Homes, Magill. Work is progressing favorably under leadership of Mr. McLean. Sports Club is improving. It is hoped to have two basketball teams competing. W. Walladge has resigned from officers' board, having transferred to Cottonville. Youth Council has young people's interests well in mind. A house-to-house visit of the district is planned.

Victoria

Lower Heytesbury.—Church welcomed W. Gale to a combined service at Curdies on Feb. 29. His address was much appreciated. At harvest thanksgiving service (March 7) there was a fine display of produce. Following evening an enjoyable social was conducted by T. V. Weir, when produce was sold. At annual business meeting held at Curdies, satisfactory reports were presented in afternoon prior to social. All office-bearers were re-elected, and an increase in salary was voted to the preacher.

Stawell.—On Feb. 15 campers from Hall's Gap took charge of gospel service. Mr. Barnett, of Warracknabeal, conducted meeting and asked three questions, three young people giving answers. Items of song were also enjoyed. Mr. Mudford and Mr. Hibbert are giving helpful service. A new fence is being put around chapel, and other work to building is about to commence. C.E. Society meetings are well attended. New scholars have been added to Bible school. Beth O'Neill has recovered from operation and has now left hospital.

Hampton.—Services to mark twenty-fifth anniversary of opening of chapel concluded on evening of March 22 with a church social at which an enjoyable programme included an address by D. Wakeley, first full-time preacher of church. Among visitors was Mrs. G. Delaney, of Wellington, N.Z.

Geelong.—Bible school anniversary services were continued on March 21. Mr. Stirling preached in morning. Afternoon service was well attended. Kinders, under leadership of Mrs. Carr, delighted with special items. Each kinder and cradle roll scholar received a prize. Mr. Innocent, of Fenwick Memorial Church, was speaker. At night scholars again delighted a large audience with their singing. Mr. Barker, of West Geelong Salvation Army, gave the address.

Essendon.—On March 10, at church business meeting, encouraging reports from all auxiliaries were read. Mr. McIlhagger spoke at all services on March 14 and 21. Mr. Edwards (North Essendon) presided on morning of March 14. Mr. Boxhall, from East Malvern, was welcomed into church. In evening choir sang an anthem. Collection for food for Britain was taken. At conclusion of Mr. McIlhagger's address, a married man decided for Christ. A large gathering assembled in school hall after evening service to bid farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Carnaby and family, who have gone to reside at Rosanna. At evening meeting on March 21, members of choir sang a quartette. Mrs. Hambridge (sen.) is absent from meetings through illness. Two tennis teams have entered winter competitions. Both cricket teams have been successful in semi-finals, and now enter finals.

North Essendon.—At annual business meeting on March 18, all auxiliaries gave glowing reports, a feature being recently-formed Young Women's Fellowship with membership of 39, which has already raised £60 toward kindergarten extension fund. Deacons elected: R. Thompson (treasurer), H. Hillbrick, F. Funston, R. Edwards, J. Alves, D. Ploog, M. McNicol, G. Conning and W. Mason (secretary); organist, R. Dobbs; assistant, Mrs. L. Dugay; deaconesses, Mesdames H. Reardon, D. Shannon, W. Mason. Splendid services were held on March 21. To mark commencement of second year of Mr. Wright's ministry, an "every-member-present" service was held in morning. Occasion was also taken to set aside newly-elected deacons to service. Attendances morning and evening are improving, and are helped by loyal attendance of recently received members by letters. Choir is a definite help to evening meetings.

Hartwell.—Large attendances at all services have been well maintained in recent weeks. The ministry of D. Wakeley is appreciated. All church auxiliaries are functioning, and Mr. Wakeley is readily associating himself with their activities. C.E. has commenced meeting on Tuesday evenings. Mrs. Wakeley has succeeded Miss D. Bond as leader of Girls' Good Companions' Club. Bible school held Graduation Day ceremony on Feb. 15. Church officers attended, and R. Watt gave a short address. Annual picnic was held on Feb. 21 at Mordialloc, almost 200 attending. Bible class has resumed meeting with D. Wakeley. Men's Society has planned a campaign to have all men in church as members. To that end a questionnaire has been distributed. Cricket club concluded season with two social matches, one against a team from Camberwell church, the other between single and married men of church. Social evening was held on Mar. 6 to enable older members to meet new members who have recently transferred to Hartwell. Eastern Suburban Youth Fellowship held P.S.A. service in chapel on March 7. R. Edgar was speaker, and over 140 remained for tea. C. Kimber and Miss Thora Bennett, from college of Bible, are in fellowship and render assistance in Bible school. During absence of D. Wakeley at Ballarat on March 21, L. Smith was speaker at both services.

ADDRESSES

K. J. Patterson (preacher Ivanhoe church, Vic.)—26 Locksley-rd., Ivanhoe, N.21. 'Phone, JX3093.

G. P. Pittman.—25a McMillan-st., Victoria Park, W.A.

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A thousand sweet memories
Are holding him here,
In our home that he blessed
With his presence so dear.
How dearly we loved him,
How dear to us still;
But in grief we bend
To God's holy will.

THOMPSON.—In loving memory of Mary Thompson, late missionary of Harda, Central Provinces, India.

—Inserted by Mrs. H. D. Black, of Toorak Gardens, South Australia, on behalf of all the family.

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

The family of the late Agnes Martin sincerely thank all kind friends for the many expressions of sympathy received in their recent bereavement. Will all please accept this as a personal expression of gratitude?

BAMBRA RD. CHURCH OF CHRIST BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.

Sunday, April 11, 11 a.m., Mr. V. C. Stafford.
3 p.m., Mr. W. W. Saunders.

7 p.m., Mr. R. Muller.

Sunday, April 18, 11 a.m., Mr. W. W. Saunders.
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The Australian Christian

Obituary

Mrs. E. M. Crump

THE church at Croydon, S.A., was deeply moved by the sudden home-call of Mrs. Crump on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Her health had been failing for some considerable time, but no one expected the end to come so soon. Our sister was baptised many years ago by the late W. C. Brooker at Queenstown, and from that time onward she served her Lord faithfully. For some time before transferring to Croydon she officiated as church organist. Upon arrival at Croydon Mrs. Crump became a member of the choir, and loyally served over a long period. More recently she had devoted herself to the work of the Dorcas Society. In this connection her expert help will be greatly missed. Mrs. Crump was associated with the Sisters' Conference in this State, gladly assisting where she could. Morialta Children's Home, connected with the S.A. Conference, also benefited by the labors of our sister. Besides this, Mrs. Crump found time to give to the Children's Hospital and the Red Cross Society. Her kindly and practical Christian service, particularly among little children, won the esteem of a very large circle of friends. Her body was laid to rest in Cheltenham Cemetery. W. N. Bartlett conducted services at home and graveside. We pray that God's comfort may be the portion of the husband, daughter and son who mourn her loss.—W. N. Bartlett.

Martha Johanna Jackwitz

WHEN the messengers of God swiftly called Martha Johanna Jackwitz, Rosewood church, Qld., suffered a loss which will be hard to replace. Her life truly manifested the spirit of the Lord she so dearly loved. Mrs. Jackwitz was born in 1884, but not until 1928 did she become a member of the churches of Christ. Both she and her husband were formerly of Lutheran belief, but on attending special meetings conducted in Rosewood chapel by W. Campbell, both confessed Christ and were immersed. It can be truly said she loved her home, for always the writer felt that here was a Christian continually expecting the sudden appearing of the Lord himself. She loved her church, caring for the flowers, and many other little duties. For sixteen years she occupied the position of treasurer for the Sisters' Conference of West Moreton circuit. It is with sadness we report that she had just finished her final statement to the annual conference of the circuit on March 13, when she collapsed and was swiftly taken to higher service on March 14. Indeed she loved her Lord, never absenting herself from the Lord's Table except in times of sickness. Her worth in the community was evidenced by the great number who filled the chapel for the service conducted by the writer. At the graveside Mr. Larsen officiated and paid tribute to her Christian character and influence.—A. C. Caldicott.

Mrs. H. Klease

JEAN NASH began her association with the church at Bambra-rd., Caulfield, Vic., as a tiny tot in the Sunday school. The ensuing years of Christian teaching and companionship, and the godly influence of a Christian home, bore fruit in her decision for Christ, when ten years of age, in the Baker-Brooker mission, during the ministry of C. Schwab. Through the succeeding years the reality of this decision was witnessed to by a life of active Christian service in J.C.E., I.C.E., Y.P.S.C.E., P.B.P. and Bible school. After passing through the Bible school classes, Jean became a teacher in the kindergarten, and soon after was appointed secretary of that department. In this office she continued until three years before her death. Her talents and growing experience made her of splendid use in young people's work, and found an

effective and valuable outlet in the arranging of many Bible school anniversary concerts. Amongst Jean's talents was the gift of a fine voice which was freely used for the Lord, particularly in service with the choir, of which she was a foundation member. In May, 1946, Jean was married to Herbert Klease, of Queensland. Some months after her marriage she became ill, and her loved ones were given the tragic medical verdict that her illness would prove fatal within two years. From that time Jean fought a courageous but losing battle for health. After a long and wearisome 18 months, during which her loyalty and love and faith toward her Saviour shone brightly, she passed from this life on Feb. 16, 1948, at the early age of 33 years. Services were conducted at the home and Box Hill cemetery in the presence of large companies of sorrowing friends—fitting testimonies to the love and esteem in which Jean and her family have been held. Opportunity was taken to pay tribute to Jean's life and service, and the patient, devoted, self-sacrificing ministry of her loved ones. Throughout her illness they did not spare themselves to meet her every need and fill the little time that remained with all that was good and helpful. To her husband, parents, sisters and brothers, and all other relatives, loving sympathy is extended.—W.W.S.

Sarah Elizabeth Readhead

THE was a gentle lady, a gracious soul, kind in all her ways, sweet in all her thoughts, patient in all her suffering, a light, an inspiration, a Christian—such was our tribute to our sister who was called home on Feb. 4, at the age of 91 years. Born in Sunderland, England, she came to Australia with her parents whilst very young, it being on board ship that she learned to walk. Her early life was spent on the goldfields at Lamplough and Ararat, Vic., until she came to live at Havelock some 80 years ago. Our sister was an ardent worker in the church at Bet Bet, and will be remembered by many ministers and students who visited Bet Bet up till a few years ago, when she came to live in Maryborough, as a good woman full of faith and the Holy Spirit. We are certain that our sister has gone unto "the land that is fairer than day" of which she loved to sing. We commend all sorrowing ones, particularly her only surviving sister, Mrs. M. Lunn, of Gardenvale, and her devoted niece, Miss S. Richards, of Maryborough, to the presence of God.—F. B. Alcorn.

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A Hymn to Analyse

★ F. J. Funston has selected for April hymn
No. 375, listed for April 11.

TO-DAY'S hymn is one of the newer ones and, to many, another answer to the query whether any modern hymns are equal in standard to "the old favorites." In one respect at least—that is, in the sustained balance and parallelism of the ideas verse by verse—the hymn "Dear Lord who sought at dawn of day" is perhaps unexcelled by any other hymn, ancient or modern.

In each of the four verses we find a new title for Jesus—Lord, Master, Christ and Pilot; we meet him at four different times—dawn of day, noontide, eventide and midnight hour; he seems to be everywhere—the solitary woods, the market-place, the mountain side, the sea; he goes through a wide range of human feelings—solitary, kindly, wearied, strong; his activities are broad in their sweep—praying, mixing with men, communing with God, working miracles; our prayer is that he should meet us in a variety of circumstances—the daily task, when mingling in the throng, throughout the coming week, adrift in storm and dark; we ask of him a whole series of blessings—guidance, the smile and song of brotherhood, his presence, skill to direct a course.

We have made seven comparisons verse by verse and there are probably others. Surely no other hymn could be analysed like this; yet, lest some think it can be "analysed to death," we hasten to add that the whole hymn presents a full, beautiful and compelling picture of Jesus' earthly life and his present ministry for us.



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