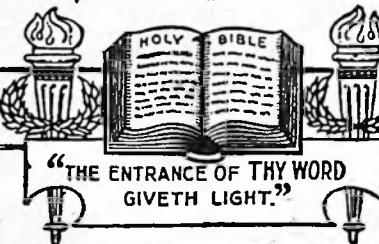


# The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

A Journal Representing



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THE proposal that Christians unite, with the New Testament as the basis, is commendable. As the existing co-operation and amiableness among denominations is compared with the bitter intolerance of one hundred and fifty years ago, we might well praise God. There has been abundant fruit from past labors, and the aim of churches of Christ has proved most worthy in the interests of the church.

The task is unfinished. The church is far from the unity desired. There is still much intolerance, misunderstanding and strife. There is still much wastage of manpower and money by overlapping. There is also much weakness in the attack against the powers of Satan.

The movement towards Christian unity known as "Churches of Christ" or "Disciples of Christ" has come to a very delicate period in its history. The situation is likely to encourage one of three alternatives in the witness we make to the Christian world.

In the first place I suggest that present conditions might easily induce the state of

## EXHAUSTION

With advancing years the work of sowing the seeds of Christian unity appears to become increasingly difficult. Various things contribute to this. There are rival movements and plans for church unity, some meeting with success of a more or less degree. Many Christian leaders, alarmed by divisions, are satisfied with the partial or potential success of these ventures. Then, again, the rank and file of our present-day population is not vitally concerned one way or the other—a nominal church membership with some denomination is all most want. The spirit of worldliness within the church and of indifference without has brought discouragement and a spiritual tiredness to many an erstwhile propagandist for Christian unity as the scriptures teach it. Some have transferred, to a denomination, and many have joined the great multitude that passes to and fro upon the broad-

## What Next?

T. D. Maiden,  
Narembeen, W.A.

way. Yes, the conditions of to-day might bring us to the point of exhaustion, and the questions arise, "Why carry on? Who cares, anyway?"

An alternative to exhaustion is

## ABSORPTION

Definitely distinctive teaching leads to division. But we seek unity! Why be so distinctive if good results can be achieved by other means? There are phrases, oft-quoted and becoming mere platitudes: "Agree to disagree," "unity, but not uniformity," etc. These might apply to measures and practices of expediency among churches and denominations, but who dare apply them when and where the word instructs?

Interdenominational movements are many, and have met with much success in establishing missions at home and abroad and in combating social evils and the like. Praise God for the harmony and tolerance there revealed! They are good, and are to be fostered and supported while the church is cursed by denominational divisions. So successful are they that many members of churches of Christ have come to believe that such is the best we can hope for, or likely to achieve, and have become wholly absorbed and wholly content with that state of affairs.

But the ideal is *undenominational*. This is surely the ideal and wish of our Lord Jesus and apostolic teaching. For the furtherance and a more successful prosecution of this God-given task I present and commend a third alternative, viz.,

## ACCELERATION

Present world conditions and the still-divided church, seeking unity, urgently call for a revival of enthusiasm for church unity "on the basis of the New Testament." In the near future, it appears certain, the Christian faith will have to undergo a sore trial. Varying religious and political forces are arising which will oppose the faith. Only a church, united and established in every scriptural aspect, can hope to cope with these strong forces. To maintain even a semblance of righteous influence and to accept present opportunities for evangelism, there will need to be a much closer union than exists to-day.

Call to mind why we, as a people, exist. We are not competing with denominations in any suburb or town for a congregation or for influence, but are a people within the world-wide church of Christ called of God to convict Christians of the sins and weaknesses of a divided church, at the same time advocating with power the only sure and true basis for unity. The fact is clear that no opportunity should be neglected to exalt the word of God as that basis. Denominational leaders, their conferences and the rank and file of such, should be canvassed regularly and approached personally. Urgency might give offence to some, but is it not urgent?

Discouragement and opposition to be met in seeking unity on the basis suggested might bring some to exhaustion; others might be tempted to become absorbed wholly in interdenominationalism (may God strengthen the cause); but what is most needed to meet the peculiar conditions in the world and of the church is a revival of interest and enthusiasm, born of the Holy Spirit, in promoting the plea for church unity on the basis of the New Testament.

# THE WORLD CHURCH AND MISSIONS

## ★ FIJI

### SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY

A REPORT on the future evangelisation of the Indian people of Fiji was presented by A. H. Blacket at the Morpeth Conference, who said that the Indian community in Fiji had made amazing advances in the educational and economic fields. But the very success of the church had led to dangers arising from the claims of the community against those of the church. The secularist spirit had in many cases dulled the edge of Christian fervor. He said that the Indian church was charged with the first responsibility for the evangelisation of the Indian community. There must be a united advance through evangelism, with the Indians and missionaries going forward hand in hand. Both educational and medical work can be used as instruments of evangelism, and the influence of the boarding school was very important. Much of the effect of primary education was lost if we have no secondary schools, preferably with boarding quarters annexed. In spite of the difficulties, we had a wonderful opportunity open to us, but if we do not make every effort to seize it fully in the early days of this period of rapid post-war development, of growing Indian power and new governmental policies, we may deeply regret our loss in later years. Christian missions must unite if they wished to retain those institutions in which Christian faith is most effectively set forth.

R. Deoki said that many Indians were preaching to the Fijians. The two races must be brought closer together. He added, "I believe there is a great future. Young Indians in Fiji have recently taken the initiative in bringing the two separate communities together. The Christians are regarded as the natural leaders of the Indian people. Recently the unprecedented step was taken of electing a Christian native to the Legislative Council."



## ★ PACIFIC AREA

### CHRISTIAN LITERATURE

THE world shortage of Christian books, in face of a persistent and growing demand for them, was referred to by J. W. Dixon, from Papua Methodist Mission, at the Morpeth Conference. He referred to the two existing agencies for the supply of Christian literature—the British and Foreign Bible Society and mission presses. He said that the Bible Society had published the scriptures in twenty-eight New Guinea and Papuan languages. In the whole South-west Pacific area there were approximately four hundred language groups or dialects. The Pacific Christian Literature Society existed to provide literature for the Pacific races in this new era of extended literacy. Among the special needs were "Pilgrim's Progress," and elementary church history, a life of Christ, a Bible dictionary and concordance. Bishop Cranswick said that he had been impressed, during a recent visit to Papua, with the need for books on practical subjects such as gardening, carpentry, electricity, etc. Mr. Goodall reported that in both Great Britain and America, during the last four to five years, the boards had shown themselves willing to contribute to a common fund for both denominational and interdenominational literature. Even in war years more than £1000 annually had been contributed in Great Britain alone, and many thousands in the United States. We must try to awaken our own giving constituency to the need of using Christian literature as one of the principal agencies of evangelism to-day. In this connection the confer-

ence recommended to the National Missionary Councils, that the hon. secretary of the National Missionary Council of Australia be asked to visit the South Pacific islands early in 1949, with a view to making enquiries as to literacy-literature needs, and to the setting up of bookstores in the principal centres of population.



## ★ ASIA

### WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVE MAKES A VISIT

BISHOP STEPHEN C. NEILL has made a tour of Asia as representative of the World Council of Churches, which will hold its World Congress next August in Amsterdam, Holland. Bishop Neill has already visited Manilla, Shanghai, Japan, Korea, Formosa, Bangkok and Singapore. He is expected to arrive this week in Batavia and will travel from there to Macassar and Bali, to return to Batavia on April 13.—Netherlands Information Bureau.



## MURUT

Mark's Gospel. Translated by C. Hudson Southwell, B.Sc., of the Borneo Evangelical Mission.

MURUT is the tongue of about 13,000 Dyaks inhabiting the interior of Borneo. C. Hudson Southwell, and Mrs. Southwell, Australian missionaries of the Borneo Evangelical Mission, were working among them in Sarawak, and J. Willfinger, of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, in Dutch Borneo. In December, 1941, when the Japanese invaded the island, Mr. and Mrs. Southwell took refuge in the interior, in a populous valley near the junction of Sarawak, British North Borneo and Dutch Borneo, where later they were joined by Mr. Willfinger. Here in exile they had more time at their disposal than they would have had when engaged in their normal activities. Jointly they translated, revised and re-revised the gospel according to Mark in Murut. Then the Japanese heard of their presence and sent an ultimatum demanding their surrender or they would massacre the tribe that had given them hospitality. Whether the enemy could have carried out their threat, in a country where there are no roads, is doubtful, nevertheless the missionaries, fearing for the safety of their hospitable hosts, decided to give themselves up; but before doing so they took off three copies of the gospel on a typewriter. One they gave to the chief for safe custody, one was taken by Mr. Willfinger, and the other by Mr. and Mrs. Southwell.

Mr. Willfinger returned to Dutch Borneo and surrendered. The Japanese immediately killed him. His copy of the gospel was found among his effects after the war, but was lost when a

## STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

ALL which is real now remaineth,  
And saith never;  
The Hand which upholds it now sustaineth  
The soul for ever.  
Leaning on him, make with reverent weakness  
His own thy will.  
And with strength from him shall thy utter  
weakness  
Life's last fulfil.

—J. G. Whittier.

canoe carrying it to the coast was overturned in the rapids. Mr. and Mrs. Southwell gave themselves up at Brunei in October, 1942, and were taken to the internment camp at Kuching, where they remained for three years. Never did they forget during this long period of waiting that they were the custodians of a document essential to the spiritual life of one of the youngest churches in Christendom. The Japanese seemed to suspect the existence of the precious manuscript, for they thoroughly searched the camp again and again. For a time the gospel was hidden in the lining of Mr. Southwell's overcoat, then his wife took it to the women's camp. On one occasion she hid it on a clothes-line and put wet garments over it until the search was over. And so the precious seed came safely through, and is now on its way to the people for whom it was prepared.—W. H. Rainey, B. & F. Bible Society secretary.



## ★ FRANCE

### "FOR THE PROTESTANTS IN SPAIN"

THE position of the Protestants in Spain is causing anxiety even in non-Protestant circles. Many Roman Catholics are disturbed about the question of religious freedom and tolerance which is thus arising. For instance, "Temoignage Chretien" (Paris, January 23, 1948) contains an article on this subject from which we quote the most important passages here:

"It is time we realised that, if men are to be able to live together in communities, any attack on freedom of conscience or on the normal exercise of conscience is an attack on the universality of men, and therefore affects us very personally. . . .

"We are not taking our stand here on the plane of the church itself, nor on that of a state which is going against the course of history and trying to place itself on the level of the church. . . . But we place ourselves on the plane of the human community which at this moment is just awakening to fresh consciousness of its existence and its requirements. . . ."

At the time when the Commission on Human Rights, which met in Geneva last December, is including in the Convention of the United Nations the inalienable rights of "freedom of religion, of conscience and of belief," and when Monsieur Jacques Maritain is declaring at the UNESCO Conference in Mexico that "men of different faiths . . . must recognise their mutual rights as co-citizens in the civilised community," it is urgently essential "for us to claim effective freedom of conscience for all men on this basis and by this right."

"For the Protestants in Spain, in particular, we claim: the opportunity not only to keep their children away from Catholic religious instruction, but to ensure them a religious education in accordance with their convictions. . . . We want their convictions to be respected . . . in the military service, in the hospitals and in prison. We want them to be able to bury their dead in accordance with their faith with a decent religious service, and to be guaranteed a suitable burial-place."

"In our opinion these are the *minimum* rights of which they should be effectively assured, and which at present they enjoy only precariously or not at all.—E.P.S., Geneva.

# N.S.W. Sixty-Third Annual Conference

"To promote and sustain fraternal intercourse amongst the churches; to co-operate for the evangelisation of the State and world-wide missionary activity; to promote work in Bible schools and amongst young people; to assist in combating social evils," is the basis on which conference meets. To report on the achievements in that direction, the sixty-third annual conference met from March 21 to 31.

Under the presidency of N. D. Morris, the meetings were well attended. The sessions were all better attended than for several years past; that tended to create a spirit of enthusiasm. The extra day, Saturday, gave more time for the consideration of the various reports.

P. C. D. Alcorn, B.A., of Albion, Brisbane, was the guest speaker. He preached the conference sermon, and took as his theme, "The Creative Power of a Christian Faith." Addressing the Bible College demonstration, he spoke on "Education and Evangelism." He also addressed the Preachers' Fraternal.

The following choirs supplied the musical items: "Young People's Musical Society"; Burwood choir; Chatswood choir; and the Wiley Park choir.

A forty-five minutes' devotional session led by the Preachers' Fraternal on Good Friday morning was a spiritual feast. "Let's have more of this during conference," was an expression heard on every hand.

Doug. Nicholls (of Melbourne) with his wife and child won the affection of all who met them. His challenging plea for his people, the aborigines of Australia, made a deep impression on every hearer.

A. B. Clark's address to the preachers on the subject of the "Sunday Night Service" broke new ground, and touched on problems every preacher has to face. How to attract the public whom we are not reaching was his thesis.

On Friday afternoon the Stewardship Campaign was launched by Roy Greenhalgh, and was enthusiastically adopted. The campaign will extend over five weeks.

As usual the sisters attended to the catering, and did it well while laboring under many disadvantages.

The final meeting of conference was given over to Christian Endeavor. The programme was arranged by the Christian Endeavor Association. It was one of the most largely attended meetings of conference, and without doubt the most enthusiastic.



## CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE

The report drew attention to the deplorable conditions in Europe, Palestine, India and other lands, which constituted a challenge to the Christian world.

Six new churches were admitted to conference—Asquith, Belrose, Caringbah, Mudgee, Warners Bay and Wiley Park. During the year a total of 554 had been added to the church, while losses totalled 528, thus showing an increase of 26. The churches had reported 39 who had been called to higher service.

The half-yearly conference which had been held at Merewether, Newcastle, in September had been a success. The executive had paid to the Council of Churches the sum of £50 as the share of the churches of Christ for broadcasting time.

In the matter of finance the executive was gratified to close the year with a credit balance in spite of heavy expenditure. It was reported that progress was being made by the Religious Film Society.

The executive had sponsored the stewardship campaign which was to operate for five weeks beginning on April 4. A committee had been appointed at last conference to gather data and

Ethelbert Davis.

examine figures in order to assess the membership of the churches in New South Wales. The committee was re-appointed to report to 1949 conference. As requested by a resolution passed at 1947 conference, the Advisory Board had investigated the problem of the preachers' status. The investigation had not been completed, and the board was requested to complete its finding and submit a report to the executive.



## CONFERENCE OFFICERS, 1948-49

Conference President.—R. Acland.  
Conference Past President.—N. D. Morris.  
Conference President-elect.—W. J. Crossman.  
Conference Vice-presidents (2).—E. A. Bardsley,  
D. Main.  
Conference Treasurer.—T. W. Dunne.  
Conference Secretary.—S. C. Woolley.  
Conference Assistant Secretary.—W. J. Modral.



## HOME MISSIONS

A splendid audience attended the annual home mission demonstration on Good Friday night. E. C. Hinrichsen, director of evangelism, was the speaker, and took as his subject, "Three Sneers for the Church." It was a resounding message calling the members of churches of Christ to be true to the scriptures, and to foster the spirit of evangelism which was once one of the outstanding characteristics of our people.

The report brought to conference showed that eight churches had been helped by the committee during the year. Albury, although under the direction of the Victorian committee, was helped by the co-operation of the New South Wales committee. Bankstown had received support from the committee, and was ministered to during part of the year by T. Hallop, and later by J. Moran, who continues with the church.

Grafton, recognised as one of the very difficult fields, was helped by the committee, with Glen Brown as preacher. He had now resigned, having accepted a call to a church in New Zealand. Another church that had been helped by the committee was Gilgandra, where E. G. Eager had been preacher. During the year Mr. Eager had resigned, having accepted the oversight of the church at Seven Hills. The church at North Parramatta, with G. D. Verco as preacher, had made progress during the year, and had received help from the committee throughout the year.

Epping church, served by A. C. MacLean during the past year, had added new members, had reduced the amount of subsidy required, and had paid a substantial sum off the church debt.

It was reported that the church at Lidcombe, where A. Baker is preacher, had solved the housing problem for its preacher by the erection of a manse.

The church at Seven Hills is providing a manse for the preacher, E. G. Eager, and had recently come on to the list of churches receiving help from home mission funds.

Under the leadership of P. Retchford, the church at Merewether had taken on new life. It was noted that the church had voluntarily reduced the subsidy during the year.

Financially the committee had faced a serious position toward the end of the year. For the first time in ten years the committee had been forced to overdraw to maintain the work. However, the annual offering had been generous

and had placed finances on a secure footing again.

Three missions had been conducted during the year in the State by E. C. Hinrichsen—one at Wylie Park, where a successful mission had established a new and self-supporting church; one at Wentworth Falls, where a new church building was opened; and one at Carramar, where forty-five souls had been won for Christ.

Plans for the future included missions and the establishing of new churches. The committee will consist of the following:—G. E. Burns, F. A. Button, A. L. Carter, B. G. Corlett, L. Dewberry, N. H. Matthews, Mrs. A. Maxwell, P. E. Thomas, P. G. P. Verco, R. H. Wakeley.



## OVERSEAS MISSIONS

On March 23 the overseas and aborigines missions demonstration was held. That meeting was held on the Tuesday night and brought together a large and interested audience. No doubt the presence of Doug. Nicholls was a draw. Ira A. Paternoster was the second speaker.

Reporting to conference, the committee reviewed the work as seen through the Federal Board. The general situation was disturbing but challenging. Direct evangelistic work was likely to be curtailed, while institutional work such as orphanages, hospitals and schools was likely to increase.

Dr. and Mrs. Michael were back at Dhond and have taken the oversight of the hospital. Miss Foreman and Miss Walker now shared the nursing. Dr. Oldfield was at present in Victoria on extended leave where he had a private practice. It was proposed to send a couple to India within the next twelve months.

About thirty young men and women were taking higher courses for teachers, preachers and Bible-women. Over 7000 more out-patients and 200 more in-patients received treatment at the Dhond hospital than last year. Building plans were reported to be in hand for the erection of a maternity ward, children's ward, X-ray and pathological block and equipment, also Indian nurses' quarters. Some large amounts were in hand for these objects, but other gifts would be required to complete them.

Encouraging progress was being made in the New Hebrides. Two items of special interest were: that the Aoban churches had given a thankoffering of £1000 to church work; the other that a young man was preparing in the Adelaide Teachers' Training College, with the idea of going to Aoba to commence a training school there.

Financial statement showed that the Federal income for the year had been £11,789. The total receipts for New South Wales were £2158/17/7, of which £59/1/2 came from the sale of stamps.

The following serve as the committees for the ensuing year:

Overseas Mission Committee.—T. A. Button, W. L. Casperson, G. H. Eager, J. Moran, I. A. Paternoster, Miss H. V. Rose, P. C. Williams.

Aborigines Mission Board.—Miss F. Bell, W. Donaldson, G. E. Knight, Mrs. R. W. McCallum, R. Mercer, L. G. Read, R. H. Wakeley.



## YOUTH FOR CHRIST

The first rally of conference was that of the Young People's Department on Monday, Mar. 22.

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The City Temple was crowded to capacity with young people predominating. The chief feature of the evening was a dramatisation of some of the healing miracles of Jesus, under the title, "The Master Heals."

The report submitted by the committee showed that the work was of a varied nature. Increased efficiency amongst teachers was noted with pleasure. New schools had been opened at Asquith, Boolaroo, Bargo, North Gilgandra, Mudgee, Warner's Bay, Wiley Park, with a revived school at Wingham. Happy Hour campaigns had been held at Auburn, Blackheath, Dubbo, Georgetown and Lane Cove. Two camps were held at Christmas, one at Bolton Point, the other at Narrabeen.

The War Memorial Youth Centre had been advanced a step further in that the Land Board had granted ten acres at Middle Creek, Narrabeen, for that purpose. The next thing was to be the erection of the necessary units. Investigations were being made for a second camp site at Lake Macquarie. The Isolated Youth Fellowship had now increased to 71. The Young People's Musical Society had made 23 public appearances. There are now in the State 65 schools with 5124 scholars and 659 teachers.

Future work to be undertaken included: 1. Commencement of laying out grounds and erection of first units as soon as permission comes through on the War Memorial Youth Centre site, Middle Creek, Narrabeen. 2. Bible quiz for all young people under 30. 3. Exhibition of youth activities, Enmore Tabernacle, April 28, 29 and 30. 4. Eisteddfod. 5. Co-operation with Institute of Archaeology in a Biblical exhibition, Lower Town Hall, June 17 to July 12. 6. Country visitation. 7. House parties for leadership training. 8. Youth evangelism through open-air Sunday schools and daily vacation Bible schools. 9. Teachers' conferences.

Bible School Committee.—Bible School Section: W. Fraser, R. Greenhalgh, P. H. Morton, B. G. Perkins, W. H. Small, F. E. Wilton. Christian Endeavor Section: R. V. Amos, C. Bowser, Miss I. Bye, T. Hallop, J. Morris, Miss D. Small.



## SOCIAL SERVICE

A "brotherhood tea and inspirational rally" introduced the work of social service on Wednesday, March 24. Tea was followed by a demonstration, with the largest and most enthusiastic audience at a social service demonstration in years.

Wiley Park choir supplied the musical items. S. A. McDonald, M.B.E., superintendent and general secretary of Sydney City Mission, was speaker. His address was one of the highlights of conference. He spoke with courage on the encroachments of organised vice, communism and Romanism.

Various interests came within the ambit of the Social Service Committee. The committee was affiliated with the Council of Social Services, an association of agencies, societies and individuals concerned with the social welfare of the community.

Welfare and benevolence claimed a deal of the committee's efforts. During the year hundreds of articles of clothing had been received and distributed, including thirty pairs of boots and shoes and fifteen suits of clothes; many parcels of groceries were distributed.

Questions such as immigration, investigation of pensions, property matters, legal aid, rehabilitation, and advice on scores of problems all called for the attention of the office.

It was reported through the committee hundreds of parcels of food for Britain had been forwarded by individuals and churches. The response had been most gratifying. A grant of £25 from the State Government augmented by donations from churches and from individuals had enabled the committee to help many needy cases at Christmas.

Requests from employers seeking employees and from men and women seeking employment were continually coming in, and over thirty persons had been found employment. The question of immigration was being grappled with and schemes considered whereby the committee could assist.

One of the helpful and encouraging activities of the committee had been the Christian Fellowship Association. It was said that "the contributors had been amazingly faithful in their contributions." Total income for the year had been over £720.

Aims set forth for 1948-49 include: 1. Make a determined effort to introduce C.F.A. to all members of all our churches, on the principle that C.F.A. is to help needy saints. 2. For increased interest in social service work, for the relief of the poor and needy outside the church, and to carry out a plan of campaign against all social evils. 3. Introduction of educational campaign in Bible schools and young people's organisations for temperance. 4. Continued exploration for establishment of men's hostel. 5. A complete list of churches of Christ business men and women, business houses, factories, etc. 6. The establishment of an up-to-date employment bureau. 7. The continuance of rehabilitation work of ex-service men and women.

Social Service Committee.—E. Davis, R. H. Douglas, H. T. Edwards, J. Hawkins, W. J. E. Lewis, Mrs. Macarthur, G. Morton, C. Nutt, W. C. Rossey, J. R. Swann.



## OTHER COMMITTEES

### Bible College

The Board of Management presented the report, the sixth, to conference with thankfulness to God for his blessings. There had been 15 students in attendance through the year; four of these had completed their course at the end of the college year. Eight new students had enrolled for 1948, making the total in college this year 19. Two students had come from New Zealand, two from Queensland, one from South Australia and one from West Australia. The board held, on behalf of the brotherhood, valuable properties. Maintenance and repairs of these properties had involved heavy expenditure.

Bible College Board.—J. H. Adams, W. R. Avenell, J. W. Boswell, B. G. Corlett, E. Davis, E. C. Hinrichsen, J. R. Little, A. C. MacLean, W. C. Rossey, J. L. Stimson.

### Aborigines Committee

The work in connection with the aborigines mission is under the control of the Federal committee in W.A. The State committee noted in its report that work was being done at Norseman and Carnarvon, W.A., Mooroopna and Fitzroy, Victoria. The work is being carried on in W.A. by Mr. and Mrs. Hammer, Miss Elsie Roxburgh, Miss Betty Schurman, Miss Connie Ball and Miss Margery McDonald; in Victoria by Mr. Atkinson, Mooroopna, and Mr. Douglas Nicholls, Fitzroy. The members of the New South Wales churches had contributed to the work £528.

### Council of Churches

With the Church of England now in the council its effectiveness had been enhanced. Deputations had waited on ministers in connection with State lotteries and the liquor traffic. Broadcasting had also been under consideration, as was the question of unsatisfactory conditions in mental hospitals and institutions, and the growing evil of sex exploitation.

### Christian Union Committee

Reported that the committee had been working along two lines, the education of our own members, and the presentation of "our position" to other than our own congregations. Through a gift of one of the members of the

committee a prize was offered for the best essay on some phase of the plea for Christian Union. The response had been disappointing. Mrs. R. W. Saunders was the prize-winner. The committee had urged the observance of World Communion Sunday on Lord's Day, Oct. 5.

### Boys' Home Board

The board reported that the shower block had been completed, but the recreation hall had been delayed because of lack of funds. Repairs and painting had yet to be done at a cost of £800. During 1947 the home had 35 boys in residence. Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn are still in charge as superintendent and matron.

(Continued on back page)

## South Australian News

C. Schwab.

### An Adventure in Evangelism

UNDER the caption of "New Testament Christianity for Everyman," Prospect church has entered upon a tent campaign.

R. Vincent, preacher of the church, has the assistance of J. Ernest Brooke, preacher of Cottonville.

Very careful planning has led up to the enterprising effort. The advertising is very commendable. The co-operative spirit displayed by the churches concerned is a delightful demonstration of a means whereby a special campaign could be made possible in every church in the State.

Homeland evangelism is very necessary. The above venture is a great one. It has been planned and pursued in the atmosphere of prayer and should be a great success.

### The Choral Association

This excellent choir is a splendid asset to the brotherhood. The transfer to Melbourne of W. W. Watson, the pioneer conductor, was a big loss. However, O. H. Finlayson has taken up duties as choirmaster, and displaying his well-known ability, is rendering praiseworthy service, as was demonstrated on Good Friday night, when the association rendered "The Crucifixion."

### Commission on Declining Membership

Members of the commission have been asked by the Conference Executive to provide an analysis of their findings for distribution throughout the churches. The brethren have worked hard and their labors should bear much fruit.

### Movement of Preachers

E. R. Sherman has settled in at Maylands. A. Hutson has taken up the work at Naracoorte. N. Kingston is located with the church at Murray Bridge. A. E. Cremin has transferred to Balaklava. J. Baker has commenced at Owen-Long Plains. R. Hilsford has taken the Broken Hill pastorate. A. C. Killmier has been called to a secretarial position by the Naracoorte hospital board. H. E. Paddick has resigned the Gawler-Williamstown pastorate to undertake youth work with the South Australian Alliance.

### Christian Rest Home

A Board of Management has been appointed. Dr. Trevor Turner is chairman. Special plans for increasing the present total of approximately £3480 to £8000 will be put into effect in June. Every effort will be made to reach the objective within a year.

## The Australian Christian

# Victorian Women's Conference

*Mrs. A. W. Cleland, Secretary.*

THE sixty-second annual conference of the women of the Victorian churches was held in Lygon-st. chapel on March 24. The president, Mrs. Washfold, was in the chair for all sessions. Attendances were large, the chapel being filled to capacity at afternoon session.

Mrs. Forbes welcomed many visitors, including representatives from Ballarat, Drumcondra, Mt. Evelyn, Bendigo, Geelong, Wangaratta, Daretown, Kaniwa, Warragul, Castlemaine, Berwick, Echuca, Western Australia, South Australia and New South Wales. Mrs. Parkinson, of Castlemaine, responded on behalf of visitors.

Devotional leaders for the day were Mrs. Nance-Kivell and Mrs. P. Jordan. Mrs. A. R. Lloyd made suitable reference to and offered prayer for those whose loved ones had passed on during the year.

Reports of all committees and district conferences revealed that splendid work had been done during the year. Miss I. Gill reported having started five young married women's groups, and Mr. Trezise, youth director, spoke in appreciation of partnership with the women in youth work. Mrs. Oliver reported that £110 had been donated this year for the Bible Women's Fund, making a total to date of £1054. Tribute was paid to those who had supported this work for over forty years.

All present were urged to sign the following petition to be forwarded to the Premier of Victoria: "We, the women of Victoria attending the churches of Christ conference, representing 5000 homes in Victoria, urge that your Government will not alter the closing hours of hotels, i.e., 6 o'clock, or provide any facilities for additional sale of alcoholic beverages."

Affiliation with this conference was granted to Sunraysia District Women's Conference.

Mrs. Manning addressed the meeting in the afternoon, specially mentioning mission work in the Congo, and calling all to united effort and prayer. Evening speaker was Mrs. Bright Parker, who gave a stirring message on youth work, taking as her theme, "Behold the Man."

Greetings were received by letter and telegram from General Conference; F.M. Committee; Miss Foreman, India; Mrs. Oldfield; Mrs. Dawson, Canberra; Mrs. G. Mitchell, in N.Z.; Mrs. Lewis, Albury; Mrs. Finger, New Hebrides; Mrs. McCallum, Federal Education Department; Mrs. Digwood, Federal President; Tasmanian, S.A., N.S.W., W.A. and Queensland Women's Conferences; Christian Women's Auxiliary of N.Z.; Horsham, Hamilton and Yarrawonga sisters.

Mr. Clay spoke in support of the "Crusade for a Christian World" which is being planned by the brotherhood. Promises were made for £400 towards this campaign.

Musical items were rendered by Miss Pittman at the organ, Miss D. Clark, and a trio arranged by Miss Carol Plummer.

The treasurer's statement showed that approximately £2500 had been raised by the women throughout the year for all purposes, special mention being made of £131 for refrigerator for Miss Foreman and a record of £686 from the mission bands.

Mrs. Ploog voiced the appreciation of the women to Mrs. Washfold for her year's work, and presented her with beautiful flowers and a copy of Moffatt's translation of the Bible.

Newly-appointed officers and committees are as follow:—

President.—Mrs. M. Ploog.

Past President.—Mrs. G. Washfold.

Vice-presidents.—Mrs. R. Forbes, Mrs. E. L. Williams.

Secretary.—Mrs. A. W. Cleland.

Treasurer.—Mrs. A. Cartmel.

Assistant Secretary.—Mrs. T. J. Warne.

Missionary Department.—Mrs. A. Withers, convener.

Home Missions.—Mrs. E. Hodges, superintendent, Mesdames Mann, Taylor, Warne, Youens, Stephenson.

Mission Band.—Mrs. M. Morrison, secretary, Mesdames Bolduan, Forbes, Jeffery, Rankin, Smith, Cleland, Randall.

Overseas Missions.—Mrs. J. Turner, superintendent, Mesdames Kemp, Cartmel, Nankivell.

Aborigines Mission.—Mesdames Nankivell, Scamblar.

Prayer Meeting.—Mrs. Randall, superintendent, Mesdames Baker, Beveridge, Croxford, McIvor, Whittaker.

Guest Home Visitation.—Mrs. McGregor, superintendent, Mesdames Hodges, Holden.

Catering.—Mrs. L. L. Lowrey, superintendent, Misses Allen, Craigie, Stephens, Wilson, Mes-

dames Berry, Demeral, Featherston, Jenkins, Jones, Rusden, Scott, Greenwood.

General Dorcas.—Mrs. E. M. Wilson, superintendent, Mesdames Dawe, Thomson, Barrett, Johnstone, Ledger, Oliver, Ploog, Smedley, Funston, Nicholson, Misses Enniss and Morris.

Temperance.—Mrs. Squires, superintendent, Mesdames Osborne, Gerrard, Huntsman, May, Morrall, Nance-Kivell, Easton, Garth.

Isolated Sisters.—Miss I. Gill, superintendent, Mesdames Allen, Beament, Berry, Clewett, Fitzsimmons, Hannaford, Watt, Mountjoy, Shepherd, Sheriff, Wheaton, Facey, Seal, Misses Banks and Skellern.

Social Service.—Mrs. C. Gill, superintendent, Mesdames Hodges, Hannaford, Holloway, Knight, E. Lewis, Lowrey, McGregor, Ward, Quirk, Dowling, Gullidge, Ross, Miss Davies.

Hospital Visitation.—Mrs. Pettigrove, superintendent, Mesdames Bath, Francis, Jenkins, B. J. Kemp, Manning, Smallman, Thomas, Trezise, Warmbrunn, Washfold, Glenn, Davis, Elliott, Dockery and Miss Thompson.

Nominating.—Mrs. Washfold, superintendent, Mesdames Cartmel, Cleland, Williams, Warne.

## Healing in His Wings

*A. Anderson, F.M. Secretary.*

"The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings."—Mal. 4: 2.

SICKNESS, pain and suffering are as old as the world itself, and the problem of pain has been exercising the mind of man for thousands of years. The Master revealed how near the problem was to his own heart by his kindness and ready sympathy to those in pain. The first who sought in a disinterested way to alleviate pain and suffering were those who were touched by the sympathy and love of Christ. Science has made great progress throughout the years; and though many doctors and nurses may not be professed Christians, they still follow the Christian tradition of disinterested love and service.

Looking at the problem in non-Christian lands, or the lands of the underprivileged peoples of the world, we find that the commencement of any medical service was done by Christian missions. Oftentimes it was done by a lone missionary doctor with little or no staff and inadequate equipment. Sometimes the equipment he used was improvised, and yet despite these difficulties, pain and suffering were often relieved and foundations laid for more adequate service.

In non-Christian lands it is apparent that the Governments are likely to take a more active interest in the pain and sickness of peoples, which will include preventative measures, facilities and equipment, and the training of men and women as doctors, nurses, orderlies, etc. It is probable that, in countries like India and China, the schemes outlined are more ambitious than internal conditions of the countries will allow either politically, religiously or economically.

It is true, however, that there is an attempt to copy and emulate the good work carried out by missions during the past hundred years or more. Many men of goodwill, even though non-Christian, are filled with a sense of shame and frustration because of the suffering millions. To-day missions are confronted with a problem which might be solved satisfactorily if time remains on the side of missions.

Some opportunities exist for men to train as doctors and girls as nurses without those so training having any real sense of vocation or Christian background to their training. Such, when trained, are seldom found in the villages and hamlets of India, or the far interior towns of China. Most remain where more money

can be made, and the more distant places are either totally neglected or left to whatever mission hospitals or dispensaries might do for them.

The pressing problem of missions to-day is to have adequate equipment and to have sufficient Christian workers trained to carry on a medical service in the spirit of Christ. I was much impressed in seeing mission hospitals at Poona, Wai and amongst our American brethren at Bilaspur. All have large, well equipped hospitals with large staffs, and in most cases, facilities for the training of such staff.

At Dhond we have built up during the past twenty years an extensive medical work. Buildings and facilities exist to accommodate about twenty in-patients, though in most cases the numbers are doubled. Each year records have shown that the influence of the hospital has grown, and last year more than 60,000 patients received treatment. The whole of this work is a monument to the painstaking care and service of Dr. G. H. Oldfield. For about fourteen years he has been ably assisted by Dr. Patil, an Indian trained doctor, and who capably carried out the duties of medical superintendent after the departure of Dr. Oldfield and till the arrival of Dr. L. J. Michael. It was a loss to the mission when, after a few years' service, Dr. Michael was called into the Indian Army, but we rejoice that now he is back on the job, ably assisted by Dr. Patil. The doctors have been ably assisted by Australian nurses who have had the lion's share of the work, mostly without the help of fully trained Indian nurses. Most of our Australian nurses have had some share at Dhond, but honorable mention must be made of Sister L. Foreman, who has served faithfully over the years. During her more recent absence her place was ably taken by Sister Win Walker.

We are now ready for forward moves at Dhond, and dreams and plans envisaged by Dr. Oldfield are likely of fulfilment. More wards in the shape of maternity and children's wards, and X-ray and pathological block and equipment, and quarters for Indian nurses, are also among

(Continued on back page)

# Here and There

Film service at Hindmarsh, S.A., on Mar. 28, entitled "Barabbas," was well received. Choir sang supporting anthem. Bible school is competing in efficiency campaign. Picnic was held at National Park on April 3, children and friends being conveyed by rail car and trailer. The day was enjoyed by a large company of parents and friends, as well as children of school. Health of L. Holden still causes grave concern.

Last week at Dandenong, Vic., Mr. Youens began a series of evangelistic services for April, when attendance records were broken. 138 broke bread during day. A brother was received into fellowship in morning. Men's Social Committee held an enjoyable evening's entertainment on 10th which was well attended. A faithful and esteemed member of church, W. Rowlands, was called to his heavenly rest on April 6 after long illness.

At Rockdale, N.S.W., Temple Day gifts were used to purchase carpets for chapel platform and aisles. C.E. societies are making a splendid contribution of consecrated service, the Temple mission being a result of their efforts. One of their members, W. Howard, was presented with a loose-leaf Bible on entering Woolwich Bible College. Theme of recent Bible school anniversary was "Forward with Christ." A happy picnic was held at National Park. An electric two manual reed organ has been purchased.

Boronia church, Vic., desires to contact all members living in the districts of The Basin, Fern Tree Gully and Wantirna. Owing to rail transport difficulties on Sunday, the church officers are planning to introduce, if possible, a bus service on Sunday mornings. This would enable members now isolated to travel to Boronia church. Church secretaries and others are urged to be kind enough to send, as soon as possible, names of members and friends living in the above areas, to R. Graham, Boronia-rd., Boronia, 'phone, Bayswater 223.

At the World Conference of Churches planned for Aug. 22-Sept. 4, at Amsterdam, churches of Christ in Australia and New Zealand will be represented by Jesse M. Bader. Representation by one of our own brethren could not be secured. Because of the special efforts to send delegates to the World Convention at Buffalo and to the Youth Conference at Oslo last year, it was not thought reasonable to expect support for another overseas delegation. However, we are happy that J. M. Bader has agreed to act on our behalf. He also goes to Amsterdam as a fraternal delegate of the World Conference of Churches of Christ.

At Boonah, Qld., A. Anderson gave interesting lantern lecture on Mar. 19. On Mar. 21 Silverdale combined with Boonah in a special members' service, when chapel was almost filled. There was basket lunch. Thank-offering amounted to almost £70. Fifteen members from Boonah and Silverdale attended State conference. Morning service on Easter Sunday was addressed by Mr. Keith (Boonah Baptist Church). A combined service was held in Baptist Church building in evening. On April 4, Cliff Jenner (in absence of Mr. Boettcher, who conducted morning service at Silverdale) gave a resume of State conference. Church plans to commence a Church Fellowship on April 16.

Between fifty and sixty selected personal workers from eleven Melbourne churches gathered at Lygon-st. chapel on Friday evening, April 9. The Home Mission Committee provided the meal which was prepared and served by the Women's Conference Catering Committee. Visitation evangelism was explained. All present indicated their willingness to engage in personal work in evangelistic campaigns to be held in their local church.

The Victorian Conference president, A. E. Hurren, encouraged workers to go forward in faith. Literature for visitation evangelism campaigns, including instructions to visitors and decision cards, is now available at cost rates at Austral Co.

In a receipt paragraph relating to Chatswood church, N.S.W., it was stated that the total annual income was £1042. This amount did not include sums given for brotherhood appeals. The total income for all purposes was actually £1822.

At Kingsford, N.S.W., the ministry of A. W. Ladbrook commenced with induction service on Apr. 1. Meeting was well attended. H. J. Patterson gave charge to new minister and P. E. Thomas to church. After being received into fellowship with church by elder Mr. Rodger, Mr. Ladbrook addressed well attended meetings morning and evening, when a Sunday school scholar confessed Christ.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital is celebrating its centenary; and to mark this historic occasion an appeal for £100,000 has been launched to complete the north wing of the hospital, providing 150 extra beds. The president of Victorian conference, A. E. Hurren, commends this appeal to preachers and brethren of churches, and asks that, where possible, the appeal be mentioned on Sunday, April 18. Donations may be sent direct to hospital, or to Hospital Appeal Office, 314 Collins-st., Melbourne.

On Mar. 28, at Canley Vale, N.S.W., Easter services were held. Mrs. Saunders addressed congregation in morning. In evening choir and senior scholars of Bible school combined to present story of crucifixion and resurrection by song and drama. In addition, slides depicting resurrection scenes were shown by Mr. Saunders, who concluded an enjoyable service with a short address. Church is sharing "Stewardship campaign" with N.S.W. brotherhood, and Mr. Saunders gave special addresses on April 4. On April 3, a happy evening was held at home of Mrs. Reardon in aid of manse fund, £4/12/- being contributed. Building of manse, aided by free labor of members and friends, is progressing.

In preparation for home visitation evangelism week at Oakleigh, Vic., W. F. Nankivell addressed worship service on April 11, met visiting members at tea, and preached at gospel meeting. S. Neighbour was speaker at all services on March 28 and April 4. One young man confessed Christ on April 4. Members welcomed to fellowship on transfer in recent weeks have been Mr. and Mrs. H. Reid (Balwyn), W. Jeeves (Montrose), and Mrs. Hunt (Malvern). Regional missionary rally on April 7 attracted a large congregation. A. Anderson was commentator on movie films depicting mission work and native life in India and China. Congratulations are extended to cricket team on reaching final of district A grade competition.

Since new year at Penshurst, N.S.W., one young man and three younger people have been baptised and received into fellowship—John Redekki, Pam Williams, Robert Wotherspoon, John Marshall. At Junior Endeavor one member and a visitor made the good confession, Mr. Coxhead being speaker. Recently Y.P.C.E. held a harvest thanksgiving at home of R. Wotherspoon, and an inspiring address was given by Mrs. Blackburn, matron of Boys' Home. Following Saturday, the useful gifts were taken to Pendle Hills by some of the members. At a special meeting Mrs. Miles was re-elected president of Ladies' Fellowship; Mrs. Marshall, secretary; Mrs. Dow, treasurer; Mrs. Smith, missionary collector; Mrs. Wheeler, social duties; flower committee, Mesdames Facey, Marshall, Smith and Wheeler; pianist, Mrs. Marshall.

As we went to press the following message reached us: F. S. Steer, secretary Preachers' Provident Fund, died suddenly, April 11.

After a good start by J. E. Brooke and R. Vincent in their campaign at Prospect, S.A., Sunday's storm destroyed their tent. Services, however, are being continued in chapel. Plans are being made to secure another tent. Meetings have been well attended, and very encouraging. Church is determined to carry mission on to a successful conclusion.

James Holloway, past president of the Victorian Conference, writes: "May I have space to acknowledge Mr. Plummer's letter in the issue of April 6? In the first place I am quite in agreement with the criticism regarding delay, and unfairness to those who do not secure seats at the first sitting for lunch. The matter was discussed unofficially by some executive officers of conference, and a decision made that the mistake must not occur again, and I believe it will not. The visitors were not 'invited to address conference,' as suggested by Mr. Plummer. They were invited to the luncheon on Good Friday, and out of courtesy, were asked to speak for a few minutes each. The fact that one speaker addressed the luncheon party as 'Christian friends in conference' was quite out of our control. I am pleased that the general criticism was made, and sincerely hope that members will attend next conference, feeling sure they will be in on the first sitting for lunch."

## FEDERAL CONFERENCE, PERTH, OCTOBER 15-22

PROVISIONAL registrations are mounting up steadily. We have received the first hundred applications from visitors intending to come to Perth. Everybody will recognise that to find accommodation is not at all easy in these days. Many private homes lack spare accommodation of former days. Guest houses and hotels are largely taken up by permanent residents. Because of labor difficulties this opening is diminishing. We are pleased that the Government Tourist Bureau is giving every assistance.

Bookings are being made as received. City accommodation is strictly limited. Later bookings will have to be in outer suburbs and beaches, where transport time-tables are suitable.

We therefore urge all who are responsible for the conference work and desire accommodation as close to the city as possible, to notify without delay. Every consideration will be given, but to some extent earliest bookings will naturally receive close locations.

Following the provisional registration, we notify later when the accommodation is booked. We then look for delegate's registration form with registration fee of 5/- towards conference expenses, for each visitor coming to conference. Where deposits are required on the bookings, visitors will be notified accordingly. Railway fare rates and time-tables are still in a state of uncertainty. We are awaiting reply concerning the prospects of a special train, and will give notification of this through these columns so that visitors to Perth may arrange their own reservations.—A. G. Elliott.

## ADDRESSES

E. R. Sherman, B.A., Dip.Ed. (preacher Maylands church, S.A.)—36 Wellington-rd., Maylands.

M. D. Williams (preacher Chelsea church, Vic.)—585 Pt. Nepean-rd., Carrum. 'Phone, Chelsea 198.

# News of the Churches

## Victoria

French Island.—R. Pritchard, from college, conducted services on March 21 and April 4. Some visitation has been made among island residents, and attendance at gospel services is heartening.

Ararat.—Annual business meeting of church was held on March 17. Harvest thanksgiving service was held on March 21, with fine display of produce, which was given to local hospital. All meetings are well attended.

Surrey Hills.—Church continues to have good meetings under leadership of Mr. Earle, and has welcomed Mr. Mott, transferred from Mont Albert, as superintendent of Bible school. A crowd of young people spent a happy and profitable Easter at Macedon, under guidance of W. F. Newham.

Castlemaine.—Mr. Black began an interim ministry on April 4. Instead of usual harvest festival, a thankoffering day is planned. During Health Week in town a local doctor gave a talk to ladies' meeting. Some Castlemaine young people, combining with a group from Harcourt, spent a happy Easter at camp at Glenluce.

Red Hill.—On evening of March 31, several members travelled to Melbourne to attend youth demonstration in town hall. Ladies' Guild held meeting on April 1, and made a presentation to Mrs. F. Brown. On April 4 N. Moore gave a talk to Y.W.L., and then addressed congregation. Miss M. Brown and J. Kirby were welcomed into membership. N. Moore conducted evening service.

Warragul.—Mr. Jackel delivered Easter addresses to well attended meetings on March 28. At night young people sang Easter messages. At annual meeting of church on March 22, following officers were elected: Deacons, Mr. McDonald, A. Pedersen, Readhead, Murnane and Lloyd; elders, E. J. Waters and M. Byard. Encouraging reports from all auxiliaries were read. On April 4 every member present Sunday was held, attendances being splendid. Mr. Jackel gave inspiring addresses.

Merbein.—P. Whitmore addressed all meetings since commencing his ministry until his absence at conference on Easter Sunday, when meetings were addressed by J. Leng and W. Neville, of Mildura. Mr. Whitmore was able to bring back his wife and family, as a temporary residence has been found. Week-night prayer meetings have been commenced with study of book of Hebrews. On Feb. 29 a Young Worshippers' League was formed with Mrs. W. Neville leader, members to attend evening services.

Essendon.—On Easter Sunday morning L. Dudley, from Echuca, gave the address. A male duet was sung at evening meeting. Mr. McIlhagger and Mr. Wright (North Essendon) exchanged for morning service on April 4. At evening service cricketers were on parade and took part in meeting. A married man who recently decided for Christ was baptised. Choir sang an anthem. Mr. McIlhagger gave an inspiring address. Both cricket teams had a successful season, although runners-up.

Kaniva.—Harvest thanksgiving services were held on April 4. 64 attended morning service, when Mr. Combridge gave an account of State conference and linked it up with the thought of seed time and harvest. At 7 p.m. 72 attended gospel service, Mr. Combridge giving a fine address. Harvest thankoffering, taken in support of building fund, amounted to £188. Offering for Church Extension approximated £18. On March 28, when Mr. Combridge was away at conference, C. M. Wheaton addressed morning meeting and V. G. Champness the gospel service, their addresses being helpful and inspiring. J.C.E. rejoices in receiving reward for best country society.

Bayswater.—On evening of Feb. 22 young people of church helped in service, which took form of hymn night. There was a good attendance on Easter Sunday morning, many visitors being present. Mr. Edwards, of Yarrawonga, presided. Combined meeting was held in public hall on evening of April 4. Max Brewer, of Baptist Youth Movement, was speaker. Men of church held a working bee and cleaned up church grounds. All auxiliaries are in good heart, and Mr. Langford continues to give interesting addresses.

Ballarat (York-st.).—Harvest festival Sunday was observed with excellent results. Goods were distributed to old people's and babies' homes. During Mr. Long's absence on furlough, local brethren took charge of all services. A splendid gospel service was held on April 4, when Val Murray and Barbara Jones were baptised. Bible school is practising for anniversary. C.E. is now meeting weekly, and young people's society fortnightly. All meetings are well attended. Many young people enjoyed camping at Hall's Gap during Easter.

Horsham.—A boy's club was formed in connection with church on March 5; 24 attended. A new car purchased some months ago has arrived, and is used by preacher for local and circuit work. A circuit board has been constituted of Horsham, Haven and Dimboola churches. Harvest thanksgiving services were held on March 21. A gift offering was taken up which amounted to £158. G. M. Mathieson gave appropriate addresses on this occasion, and on Easter Sunday. On March 7, at gospel meeting, a lady confessed Christ, and was baptised the same hour. On March 20, marriage of N. Humphreys and Esther Mackley was celebrated, G. M. Mathieson officiating. A gift evening to bride was held on March 17.

Echuca.—Meetings for March were good. All auxiliaries have resumed. Ladies' Auxiliary again set aim at £60. Mrs. Maslin held an evening in her home and raised £2/10/-. Harvest festival and sale of goods took place early in month. Business meeting had best attendance for many years. Although the membership still stands at 64, church is accomplishing more work, and officers' board now comprises 10. Average attendance for Bible school is 84. In connection with youth work of church there is a fellowship club, a junior boys' club, tennis club and two basketball teams. Instead of paying for services of a cleaner, men of church have volunteered to do sweeping and to put the money into an organ fund. Fund for building of hall has grown to £214 within approximately twelve months. Mr. and Mrs. Dudley are doing an excellent work, and church is steadily progressing.

Caulfield (Bramber-nd.).—Increased interest and attendances were a feature of March services. An evangelistic campaign was a prelude to Easter season, helpful addresses being delivered by Reg Bye and E. J. Miles, Moreland. Church is indebted to speakers and soloists. Ministry of W. W. Saunders is encouraging. 10 young people made the good confession at Sunday evening services, and six have been baptised. Harvest festival services resulted in generous response for food to Britain, Christian Guest Home and Murrumbeena extension. A and B teams in church of Christ and Baptist competition have won premiership. Young men's cricket team, under captaincy of R. Staley, reached semi-finals. Work of auxiliaries reflects credit upon leaders. Young people's work is a cause for joy and thanksgiving. An address by Mr. Betts at Men's Fellowship was appreciated, as was his address at gospel service. Some members have returned home from hospital and are able to attend services, but some remain in hospital.

Malvern-Caulfield.—On evening of April 4, Stainer's "Crucifixion" was rendered by choir (augmented), J. Holloway being speaker, Mr. Cole being absent through illness. Dr. Oldfield presided at Lord's Table on morning of 11th, and Dr. Kemp gave an interesting talk on his visit to conference at Buffalo.

East Preston.—All services continue to be well attended, and numbers at Bible school are bigger than at any time in history of church. On March 20 a successful social evening was conducted for scholars. Boys' Club again held an Easter camp at Eltham, this year under leadership of A. Greig, H. Coxhill and R. Smith; 22 lads attended. On Easter Sunday many parents visited camp and were favorably impressed. C. Watson continues to deliver inspiring and appreciated addresses. One young lady has confessed Christ.

Footscray.—Church congratulates Mr. Hurren on his appointment as president of conference. On Easter Sunday morning W. Wakefield, a former preacher of church, was speaker. All meetings of church have been well attended. On April 4 Mr. Lee gave a splendid address to men's meeting. Letters have been received from members in England who have received parcels from Ladies' Aid. On April 5 A. Anderson gave a helpful talk with aid of his films from India and China. Cricket club is runner-up in Footscray churches competition.

Burnley.—All meetings maintain fair attendance. Speaker on morning of April 4 was Mr. Bartholomew, from Collingwood. On April 11 Mr. Chipperfield, North Richmond, presided. Other visitors were Mr. and Mrs. R. Amos and family, from Chatswood, N.S.W., and K. Digwood, from W.A., who is studying at Melbourne University and at present having fellowship with church. Bible school picnic was held at Belgrave on April 3. Cricket club concluded a successful season, finishing top of grade in competition, but defeated in final for premiership.

Hamilton.—March 7 and 14 marked celebration of 21st anniversary of church. On March 7 a family re-union service was held. C. E. Curtis spoke at both services. Special services were held during week, and on Thursday Women's Mission Band welcomed W. Gale as speaker. Mr. Gale addressed church in evening. At 6.30 on March 13, an anniversary tea was held in Sunday school hall. Approximately 100 sat to a delightful tea prepared by ladies of church. Numerous letters and telegrams were received, one coming from Central Australia. Principal speakers at tea were the Mayor, Cr. C. Moodie, and K. A. Smith (Baptist Church), after which Mr. Gale gave a short address. At tea a freewill offering to reduce building debt resulted in over £200 in cash and promises. During evening items were rendered, and at close Mr. Gale cut the anniversary cake. Church seating was taxed at both services on March 14. Mr. Gale gave splendid addresses. A church souvenir booklet prepared by S. Witham and published by two members (I. Leith and T. H. Hadden) gives a brief history of church during past 21 years. Church sorrows at passing of Mrs. E. Hider. It was tragic that the founder of church passed away on the eve of 21st anniversary. She was called home on Feb. 15. To all who knew her she was indeed a true Christian lady, and her character and loving disposition will long be remembered. With a membership of 90 (not including isolated members), a Sunday school of 80 children and 13 teachers, Women's Mission Band of 40 members, and other auxiliaries, work is well maintained by C. E. Curtis, who is now in his third year of ministry.

**Gardenvale.**—A happy time of fellowship was spent when some 80 to 90 people gathered to extend good wishes to Miss R. Sumpton and H. Hood, who were married in chapel on April 10. Words of appreciation and presentations were made by church and all auxiliaries to Miss Sumpton for her many years of faithful service. At recent business meeting, reports showed auxiliaries in favorable position. F. Saunders and S. Lunn were elected to board of officers. Les Muir has been received into fellowship, after confession of faith and baptism. H. Waghmode spoke to young people at a fellowship tea on April 11, and preached at gospel service. Ross Welsh, from Glenelg, S.A., recently returned from Japan, was a visitor on April 11.

**Ringwood.**—J. E. Allan continues to give inspirational addresses. On morning of Mar. 21, J. Holloway addressed church. On April 4 special mention was made and farewell said to Miss Kennedy, soon departing for New Hebrides. Miss Kennedy, whose membership is at Kaniva, attended regularly for some months whilst on staff of local hospital. R. A. Banks spoke at C.E. consecration meeting. Harvest festival services were conducted on April 11. Speaker at morning service was A. H. Pratt. Mr. Allan conducted gospel meeting, followed by "fellowship hour." Duets were rendered during day by Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson (Carnegie). Visitors were present. The fine display of flowers and produce was a feature, all being donated to Oakleigh Guest Home.

**Carlton (Lygon-st.).**—Bible school teachers held annual outing, and had a happy time at home of Mr. and Mrs. Holdsworth, Mordialloc. Best wishes go to Dorothy Phillips and David Williamson, also to Jean McKenzie and Norman Chung, who were married at chapel by C. G. Taylor on March 20. Choir led by Miss Pittman rendered a nice selection of Easter anthems on March 21 at evening service. Easter Sunday was a day of happy fellowship. A. E. Hurren, conference president, addressed church in morning, and R. Enniss was preacher at gospel service, when Miss Clark was soloist. 33 ladies of Women's Mission Band journeyed to home at Murrumbeena on April 7, and held a happy social afternoon. E. Engblom was baptised on his confession of faith on April 11.

**North Essendon.**—A combined communion service was held with local Presbyterian church on Good Friday at 10 a.m., when 65 broke bread. Mr. Wright presided, and Mr. Dickie, minister of Presbyterian Church, gave an address. E. McIlhagger (Essendon) was speaker on April 4. Mr. Wright was speaker at gospel meeting, which was parade night for church auxiliaries. After a forceful address, Alice Thompson decided for Christ. An offering of £4 was taken for "Food for Britain." Young women's fellowship held a sale of works on April 10, opened by Mayor of Essendon; it resulted in £120 approximately being raised; this amount is clear of all expenses. Young women are commended for time and talents freely given. They have raised £180 for proposed kindergarten extension fund in six months. W. Brown (Ascot Vale) presided at communion service on April 11. Choir sang a delightful anthem at gospel service.

## Tasmania

**Hobart.**—Good attendances are well maintained at both Lord's day services. Mr. Burtt's addresses are appreciated. Bible class on Sunday afternoons is growing in numbers and interest. At morning meeting on April 4, Mr. Burtt gave an interesting resume of all conference meetings held at Launceston during Easter. Sympathy was extended to Mrs. Cumming, whose daughter, Mrs. Fox, passed away on March 24. Members appreciate services of R. Boxhall and S. Cooper who occupied pulpit and gave fine addresses on Easter Sunday in absence of Mr. Burtt at conference.

## Queensland

**Roma.**—In chapel on March 20 Keith Horne and Gwenda McIntosh were married, Mr. Parker officiating. During absence of Mr. Parker at conference services were conducted by Mr. Cooke and Robert Hill. Bible school has been re-arranged and additional teachers are Noela McIntosh, Joyce Pitman and Alison Pitman.

**Annerley.**—Sunday school anniversary services were held on March 21. Singing by children was enjoyed by everyone. Concert on following Tuesday was also appreciated. Mr. Anderson, of Federal overseas mission board, presented his moving films of India and China on March 30 to an interested audience. Girls' club has commenced with attendance of 15.

**Albion.**—On evening of March 7 C. J. Williams conducted a broadcast service for church. A fine graduation service was recently held by Christian Endeavor societies. On March 17 Girls' Club entertained children from Wooloowin Home at a social evening. Don Johnson will be missed at services; he is leaving for Walget, N.S.W. A. Anderson addressed church on Easter Sunday morning. Easter praise service on Sunday evening was well attended. A young ladies' choir assisted, and Keith Horne, of Chinchilla, was speaker.

**Bundaberg.**—Monthly meetings continue at Rosedale with good attendance. During Mr. Dallinger's absence at conference, S. Jorgensen exhorted at Bundaberg in morning; Reg. Voss spoke at Good Friday meeting and at gospel service on 28th. Mr. Presswood conducted service at Rosedale. A breaking of bread service was held at home of Mr. Horn, an isolated member, on Easter Sunday. Meetings are continued at Goodwood with fair attendance. Several members are laid aside as a result of accidents. J. Wissmann is suffering a broken collarbone and shoulder-blade and Arthur Williams is in Brisbane Hospital seriously ill. Mr. Deoboritz has returned home. Church said farewell to Beryl Neilsen at a social on April 6. She was church organist for many years, and Bible school teacher and general church worker. She leaves to take up nursing in Ipswich. A presentation was made to her of a useful travelling-bag and a book.

## New South Wales

**Meredith.**—P. Retchford entered his fourth year of ministry with church on April 4. During his absence on holidays, speakers were E. Oswald, N. Fraser, J. Fraser and J. Adamson. At Sunday school anniversary on Mar. 7, speaker at both services was J. Theobald, of Gospel Fishermen. During evening service several scholars accepted Christ. Mr. Retchford preached at both services on 14th, when a young girl made the good confession. On April 4, Mr. Retchford's first Sunday after his holidays, three lads and one girl stepped out for Christ. Home mission subsidy was again reduced at annual conference, and church is co-operating in stewardship campaign during April.

**Broken Hill (Wolfram-st.).**—On March 28 J. Cremer gave a beautiful Easter address in morning. At gospel service Jacqueline Hosking was baptised and R. Hilford gave a helpful address. Mr. and Mrs. R. Warmbrun sang a duet. On April 4 Mr. Hilford gave appreciated addresses morning and evening. Morning service was well attended. Jacqueline Hosking was received into church. In morning a larger audience again listened with interest to Mr. Hilford's fine sermon. Mr. and Mrs. Les Warren sang a duet. The long and faithful services of Mrs. A. Clark as church organist are greatly appreciated. R. Warmbrun has been appointed musical director and conducts song service. Church welcomes Mrs. Colin Couch, a young member late of Glenelg church, and Nurse Betty Omsby, late of Port Lincoln church, who has transferred from S.A. to Broken Hill and District Hospital.

**Railwaytown (Wills-st.).**—On March 28 R. Hilford addressed morning meeting. A. Thurgood gave the address on April 4. Church has welcomed back Mr. and Mrs. A. Thurgood, who have come from Ivanhoe, N.S.W., for approximately six months. They are finding joy in service of teaching in Sunday school. A well organised games and social evening for Sunday school children was held on evening of March 24. An enjoyable programme was presented. Mr. Hilford (new preacher) and Mrs. Hilford were welcomed. Supper was served, after which Mr. Hilford conducted family worship. Proceeds were in aid of new hall fund.

## South Australia

**Pt. Lincoln.**—On March 11, Women's Sunshine Circle held a social, when ladies from all communions attended. A programme of songs, recitations and musical items was of high quality and enjoyed. Afternoon tea brought a successful afternoon to a close. On Good Friday a bus load of members journeyed up to Tumby Bay to attend special services there. On April 3 Sunday school picnic was held at the Gums, a nice number of scholars and parents attending. Church has been unfortunate in losing Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Jones, who have moved to Blyth. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards have entered second year of their ministry with church.

**Cottonville.**—Morning and evening services are well attended. Offering for aborigines on Feb. 1 amounted to £6. On Feb. 8 a youth service was held, six young people taking part. Harvest thanksgiving was held on Feb. 15. Y.P. Society prepared six large parcels of goods and sent them to England. Those goods unsuitable for overseas export were sent to Morialta Protestant Children's Home. On Feb. 29, Sunday school and junior grades of C.E. re-opened. These departments have been in recess because of paralysis epidemic. Ladies' Auxiliary received a letter recently from Mrs. Bruce Coventry in India; she expressed appreciation for food parcels.

**Prospect.**—A team of men cleared block and erected tent on April 3 for commencement of tent mission on evening of April 4. Service on that morning was exhorted by R. Vincent. First of tent mission services was held in evening, when J. E. Brooke and R. Vincent addressed the gathering; 165 present. On Monday R. Vincent gave the address. Choir assisted on both evenings. On Tuesday Cottonville choir assisted and J. E. Brooke was speaker. Fellowship has been enjoyed with a large number of visitors. Special items were given by Mildmay quartette. On Wednesday R. Vincent was speaker, and there were items by Nailsworth choir. To the present attendances have been encouraging, averaging over 100 each night.

**Unley.**—A united communion service was held at Manthorpe Memorial Church on Good Friday, when Baptist, Congregational and church of Christ members combined. It was largely attended, and proved most helpful, especially the address by Mr. Norris. Attendances are maintained at prayer sessions on Sundays prior to gospel services, as well as on Wednesday evenings. A delegation went to Prospect tent mission one evening. Work among young people is encouraging. Intermediate Endeavorers have had three new members, and enjoyed a beach hike during Easter. Ladies' Mission Band continues practical work, and reports five new members since resumption of meetings. E. V. Lawton has been appointed chairman and L. B. Bowes secretary of Youth Council. It is anticipated that three teams will be entered in basketball association, and footballers will field a team in "A" grade of United Church Association.

**Kilburn.**—Second Bible school anniversary was celebrated on April 4. At 11 a.m. W. Beiler gave excellent addresses to 26 adults and 25 young worshippers. C. Schwab was afternoon speaker and G. Stirling at night. Children sang excellently at both services under Mrs. Kelly. Large attendance of parents and friends was encouraging, visitors being present from many parts of State. A Kilburn sister has donated £1, which together with further sales of pot-holders made by Sisters Lawrence, assures full payment for kindergarten anniversary prizes. Appeal for 100 kindergarten chairs has been fully subscribed, and generous donors are thanked.

**Dulwich.**—On Feb. 22, harvest thanksgiving was observed. Instead of usual fruit and vegetables, a variety of goods suitable as food for Britain was displayed, 24 parcels of 11 lbs. each being packed and despatched from collection given. At evening meeting an offering of £7/3/- for postage of parcels was given. On March 16 a social was held in new hall, when a general discussion on future work took place and plans were formulated. On March 20 a concert in aid of tennis club funds was held by Mary Hepenstall, Fred Baker and local talent. Officers have appointed a committee to examine possibilities of transport for aged and members who reside a distance from church.

**Mt. Compass.**—A combined service was held on women's World Day of Prayer, when 40 ladies from district attended. Mrs. Nicholls, of China Inland Mission, presided, and members from Lutheran, Methodist, Church of England and church of Christ took part. 18 members attended southern conference at Strathalbyn. Mr. and Mrs. H. Manning continue to give faithful services, and Mr. Manning's talks at breaking of bread are appreciated. Attendances remain encouraging. Ladies and men held a working bee, and an enjoyable afternoon was spent in scrubbing and cleaning chapel. Harvest thanksgiving service was held on March 7, and produce was sent to Morialta Protestant Children's Home. Two young men helped Mr. Manning with one of the gospel services.

**Croydon.**—Bible school picnic was held at Farm Oval, Belair, on March 6. A special train was well filled, and a happy time was spent. Bible school attendance is improving; March 7, 208 scholars present, 73 per cent. roll. Installation of K.S.P. and P.B.P. Club office-bearers took place at gospel service that night. Mr. Baker (State scribe) was installing officer. K.S.P. club visited State Electricity Trust plant at Osborne on March 8, and British Tube Mills at Kilburn on March 15. Both outings were interesting and highly instructive. On March 25, K.S.P. club members journeyed to Williamstown for Easter camp. During absence of preacher at club camp, services of S. M. Riches and C. Schwab were appreciated for morning and evening addresses. Attendance and interest in the work are maintained.

**Mile End.**—Helpful meetings continue. On March 7 young men had prominent part in morning service, K. Walton presiding and D. Lewis speaking. Two young ladies were baptised and welcomed into fellowship that evening, when J. E. Webb conducted service. On March 19, K.S.P. club held induction of officers, when members of official board were present, State scribe of K.S.P. also attending. On March 21 an offering was taken for food for Britain in lieu of harvest thanksgiving. K.S.P. held a picture evening on April 2 and invited men of church. On April 8 Miss Mills, of Band of Hope, conducted a meeting for children. Five young men attended Easter camp at Gawler. It is regretted that Ray Ewers has temporarily left district and in connection with his work has gone to Barmera. A Junior Boys' Brigade has been formed under leadership of Mr. Avery. Plans are in hand for 40th anniversary services of church.

**Berri.**—Harvest thanksgiving was held on March 14. R. W. Marshall gave an inspiring address to a crowded meeting. Proceeds of sale of goods displayed will be donated to Protestant Children's Home. On April 4 Mr. Hughes, of Temperance Alliance Union, spoke at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Attendances at morning service have been maintained, average of 45 breaking bread for month. Much-needed improvements to manse are assuming more concrete shape, thanks to effort of voluntary workers, headed by J. Searle, and during winter months progress in erection of improvements is hoped for. A busy bee is mooted for Winkie church, where renovations are urgently needed. Finances of church circuit are in a reasonably healthy condition. Berri Sunday school reports maintained interest. Kindergarten work is encouraging and progressing. Winkie S.S. reports attendance back to normal, and some new scholars. Youth Council displays interest in young people's welfare. R. W. Marshall continues to give helpful addresses to church.

**Port Pirie.**—Average attendances for March were: morning, 38; evening, 25. Average weekly offerings: general fund, £5/8/4; church renovation fund, 15/6; brotherhood appeals, £1/12/9. Response to use of duplex envelopes has been pleasing; practically all members attending are using same. An appeal for Children's Hospital realised £1/2/4. A feature of evening services has been musical part by members of newly-formed choir. Quartettes have been pleasing. Mr. Barton conducted all services in March, his addresses being an inspiration. A special amount earmarked for building extension fund was £1/0/3. £4, proceeds of harvest festival, has been forwarded to Long Plains brethren towards cost of new building. K. Barton has been elected president of Northern District Conference, and the wish is that next conference be held at Pt. Pirie. Y.P.S.C.E. has had good meetings; Bible school work continues, and school has entered efficiency campaign. K. Barton has commenced a monthly church paper; Y.P.S.C.E. has contributed 5/- per month towards cost. Work of church is in good heart, and many young people at C.E. camp received new vigor for the gospel services.

**ALDERSEA (Langley).**—On March 21, at Warragul Hospital, to Rene and Charley—a daughter (Rhonda Merle).

**THOMAS (nee Cope).**—At 44 Wellington-st., Burnie, Tas., on April 6, 1948, to Betty and Stanley—a daughter (Gwenyth Hilda). Both well.

#### DEATH

**RASMUSSEN.**—On April 2, Elsie, beloved wife of William Carl, mother of Marjorie and Dorothy, loved sister-in-law of Herbert, Eunice (Mrs. J. Northeast), Muriel (Mrs. G. Tease, U.S.A.), Edna (Mrs. G. Roberts), Vera and Jack. At rest.

#### IN MEMORIAM

**KNIGHTS.**—In loving memory of our dear mother and grandma, who passed away Apr. 12, 1947.

Sweet memories will remain until we meet again.

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#### COMING EVENTS

**APRIL 21 (Wednesday).**—Victorian General Dorcas will meet in Swanston-st. lecture hall from 10.30 a.m. till 4 p.m. All sisters interested in this work are invited to attend.

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APRIL 18, 1948.

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7 p.m., Mr. Ron Muller.

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**Wednesday, 21st, 8 p.m.** Pedlars' Parade.

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#### SUNDAY, APRIL 18.

Preacher, K. A. Macnaughtan.

11 a.m., "A Friend Worth Considering."

7 p.m., "An Eleventh-Hour Decision."

Please note.—Commencing Sunday, April 25, at 7 p.m., a series of addresses on Prophecy and the Lord's Return. Invite friends to hear with you these vital prophetic messages.

**FOOTSCRAY CHURCH,**  
70th ANNIVERSARY,

#### SUNDAY, MAY 2.

11 a.m., Speaker, A. E. Hurren.

3 p.m., Pleasant Sunday Afternoon. Speaker, Cr. A. E. Shepherd, M.L.A.

5 p.m., Anniversary Tea.

7 p.m., Speaker, J. K. Martin.

Visitors contact Mr. H. Easton, secretary, MW9798.

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"The Pathway to Victory," by W. L. Wright, 3d.

"The Conquest of Life," by Pastor W. Mallis, Bible Readings given at the Missionary Bible School, Sth. India, 1/1.

"The Greatest Thing in the World," by Henry Drummond, 1/8.

"Power from on High," articles on the Spirit-filled Life, by Charles G. Finney, 2/7. (Postage extra.)

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**The Australian Christian**

## Our Young People

**H**Ighlight of Youth Week in Victoria will be a hike, picnic, sports and rally on May 1. The department makes the following suggestions for the observance of Youth Week in the local church. These suggestions are worthy of consideration by all churches.

1. Call together youth councils, youth leaders, Sunday school officers, representatives of board of officers, and plan together for a full week of youth Christian observance.

2. Have young people taking part in all four Sunday services as readers, helpers, speakers, choir and giving items. Make the services youth services. Make sure that there is special emphasis on motherhood and the family on the second Sunday.

3. What about a youth tea on the first Sunday, with sing-song to follow, including some good items? On the second Sunday it would be a great thing for the young people to entertain their mothers at tea before the gospel service.

4. Make your club, C.E., and other youth meetings of the week open nights. Prepare interesting programme, and get all the young people from all groups to attend each other's functions. Invite the church members too.

5. Emphasise recruiting during Youth Week. Start now to make lists of those young people you know who do not attend your youth group or Sunday school, and go about trying to get them. Invite them with nicely-prepared invitations to attend your special functions for the week and then talk to them about joining up.

6. Make your week as varied as possible—so plan together. Perhaps the clubs could sponsor a display of the work of all auxiliaries, the C.E. Society could undertake a dedication rally for every group, and the Sunday school could sponsor a social.

7. At every function and service stress the annual youth offering on May 9.

8. Ministers and youth leaders of every church are urged to meet immediately, and consider the names of young people who may be ready for decision, and to approach each in the most appropriate way with a view to decision on one of the Sundays.



### C.Y.F. EASTER CAMP

SPONSORED by the New South Wales Young People's Department, the camp was held at Bolton Point, one of the beauty spots of Lake Macquarie, near Newcastle. Though rain threatened and official forecasts were discouraging, God blessed us with four days of glorious sunshine.

The 73 persons, comprising 62 campers and 11 helpers, were accommodated in four large marquees and two smaller tents. S. Vanham ("Uncle Van") was camp director. With him as co-leaders were A. B. Clarke ("Uncle Allan"), S. Laney ("Uncle Stan") and G. Benjamin, of New Zealand ("Uncle Geoff"). Miss L. Simpson was "Big Sister," and also acted as camp nurse and group leader. W. Fraser was camp supervisor. Camp hostess was Mrs. G. Fraser, who had with her Mesdames Bates and Laney. A. Roach and S. Rodgers were helpers. Campers and helpers came from 15 city and country churches and two denominations.

Lecture periods were devoted to studies of the Epistle to the Galatians, the Covenants and Stewardship. "Youth for Christ," written by Hayden McCallum, was studied by the five discussion groups. Campers showed keen interest, and discussions were animated and helpful.

On Easter Sunday the Lord's Supper was observed in the open air on rising ground overlooking the sparkling waters of the lake.

Mr. Laney presided; Mr. Clarke gave the address, and a representative group of campers assisted. In the evening an open-air gospel meeting was held in the camping reserve. A number of campers testified, several for the first time. Choral items were rendered, and Mr. Vanham proclaimed the Easter message. The daily morning and evening devotional services were times of uplift for all.

Mr. Benjamin arranged the afternoon sporting activities which engaged the interest and participation of all. The spirit of fellowship was unmarred throughout, marked frequently by spontaneous frolic and fun. Campers gave a rousing welcome to visitors, who included Mr. Brookes, recently appointed preacher at Georgetown, who with Mrs. Brookes and Geoff spent a day in camp.—S. Vanham, director.

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**The Australian Christian**

## Obituary

### Mrs. Cooper

ON Friday, March 19, our sister Mrs. Cooper, of the Lane Cove church, N.S.W., and beloved by all who knew her, passed to her eternal home. God had graciously given her many years, the greater part of which was spent in active service for her Lord. She came into the membership of churches of Christ at Paddington forty-five years ago, and later had fellowship with the churches at Enmore, Petersham, Marrickville, Rockdale, Chatswood and Lane Cove. By the grace of God she was able to help in various auxiliaries, and served as cradle roll superintendent, Sunday school teacher and choir member. It was always a joy to speak with her, and even in the days of her weakness she was exceptionally bright. Her simple faith was a treasured thing. Sympathy is expressed for her daughter, Miss Cooper, who had lovingly cared for her mother over many years. "We sorrow, but not as those who have no hope." The Lord hath taken her to himself.—H.J.P.

### Mrs. Christina Thompson O'Neill

AT the advanced age of 87 years, Mrs. O'Neill, after a long period of failing strength, recently entered into the home eternal. It was at Bendigo, Vic., more than 45 years ago that she joined the church. On the death of her partner, Mrs. O'Neill came to the city, and after a brief period with the church at Collingwood, settled at Middle Park in 1910. It was here that the young people of the church, students from the college and preachers, regarded the O'Neill home as an open house. There are many to-day who speak with deep appreciation of the warm Christian hospitality received during those years. In later years, owing to failing health, Mrs. O'Neill took up residence with her daughter, Mrs. Pescod, in Camberwell. Throughout the years Mrs. O'Neill impressed all with her courageous spirit. Although left with a family of seven children, some being of tender years, she inspired them with high Christian ideals and habits of industry, and to-day her children testify to the great worth of her true spirit of Christian motherhood. Although for many years living in isolation, she retained a deep interest in life, loved God's word, and delighted in the fellowship of prayer. She faced the "great adventure" with complete trust and hope in the promises of God. Sincere sympathy is extended to her loved ones.—W.F.N.

### Charles McMillan

THE home-call came to Charles McMillan at the age of 79 on March 2 after a very painful illness. Mr. McMillan was associated with the church at North Fitzroy, Vic., since boyhood, and was a member for over 50 years. With the exception of three years spent in South Africa, North Fitzroy was always his church home. He was a good man; one who was very loyal to his Lord and to the church. He was most regular in his attendance at both services on Sunday, and his cheery word will be greatly missed. Mr. McMillan took no public part in the church; but whenever there was something to be done to the buildings, he always placed ability and services at the disposal of his brethren. He did his work faithfully and well, and all mourn the passing of a very true friend. The love and sympathy of the church go out to Mrs. McMillan and the family.—J.T.

### FIRST PRINCIPLES

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## Open Forum

### FOR "CHRISTIAN" READERS

(Correspondents are reminded that letters should not be more than 300 words in length, that names and not pseudonyms should be used, and that once a writer has had his say on a particular topic he should leave the way open for somebody else. We do not desire unsatisfactory crossstring. The insertion of a letter does not imply editorial approval of its contents.—Ed.).

### VICTORIAN CONFERENCE

VERILY "the old order changeth." Once, as Victorian churches of Christ, we met in "conference" at Easter time. But the recent Easter gatherings must convince all that the title, "83rd Annual Conference," prominently displayed on the book of programmes and reports, is a misnomer.

My dictionary says a "conference" is "an act of conferring; interchange of views; a meeting for consultation and discussion." However, "consulting together" and "interchange of views," and "discussion," were almost entirely confined to planned platform speakers. Expressions from the floor of "conference" were almost eliminated. In fact, from Thursday evening to Saturday evening we listened to no less than 28 addresses. To use a colloquialism, we were "thoroughly ear-bashed" from the platform, with the result that little or no time remained for expression of opinion and conviction by others.

In view of the foregoing I submit that we attended not a "conference" but a "convention," which is an "act of coming together; a formal assembly of delegates or representatives." If the future order of our Easter gatherings is to be similar to the above, at least let us be honest and describe our gatherings as a "convention" and not a "conference." —W. W. Saunders, Caulfield, Vic.

### FEDERAL ABORIGINES' MISSION BOARD.

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The Australian Christian

April 13, 1948

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### N.S.W. CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 160)

#### Incorporation and Property Trust

The Churches of Christ Property Trust had come into operation on May 1, 1947. Fifty-two churches which had been registered under the Churches of Christ Property Management Act of 1908 automatically came under the new Act. There had been three new registrations during the year, making a total of fifty-five now registered. Dorrigo church had contributed £300 to the trust, to be used for the erection of church buildings. The trust was now trustee for properties valued at approximately £30,000.

Other committees that reported to conference were: Advisory Board, Preachers' Provident Fund, Building Advisory Board and "Messenger" Management Committee.

#### ★ COMMITTEES

Advisory Board.—G. E. Burns, W. J. Crossman, E. Davis, A. C. MacLean, N. D. Morris, J. L. Stimson, C. A. Verco, H. J. Patterson.

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Council of Churches.—E. A. Bardsley, G. E. Burns, A. C. MacLean, S. Stevens.

### HEALING IN HIS WINGS

(Continued from page 161)

the listed projects. To complete all these plans, not less than £5000 will be required. Some of this money is in hand, but our most pressing need is for the £500 for the X-ray project which will in turn be subsidised by the Campbell Edwards Trust. Can we complete these schemes, train sufficient co-workers who will put the service of Christ first, so as to maintain a balance between those who are trained through other sources?

We are also committed to wider range planning in the Islands. Already buildings have been completed on Aoba which will enable twenty-six in-patients to be accommodated. Girls will need to be trained and young men as orderlies. Already the hands of the missionaries are full, but they continue the task. Sister Finger will certainly need more nursing help from Australia for this work to be carried out properly, and generous gifts are required to supply costly drugs for both India and the Islands. Already dispensary work is being carried out on Pentecost under the direction of Sister Smith. More ambitious schemes are under way. Even as it is, the initial outlay for drugs has been costly.

Need—need—everywhere, that men, women and children might be relieved from pain and be cured of their diseases. Much disease is preventable, whilst pain and suffering can be helped greatly. "Unto you who believe, the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings."

To us the Sun of Righteousness has arisen, and we have found healing both spiritual and physical. To many the Sun of Righteousness has only partly arisen. Our task is to present Christ to the world as the Sun of Righteousness.

"Under his wings, what a refuge in sorrow!  
How the heart yearningly turns to its  
rest!  
Often when earth hath no balm for its  
healing  
There I find comfort, and there I find rest."

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