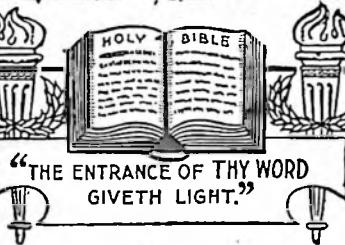


The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1948

Tasks for the Local Church

WE have signs that churches throughout the Commonwealth are preparing for a new advance in evangelism. Several Victorian churches have gained strength by visitation evangelism and others have been encouraged by preaching and teaching campaigns. Whatever means will meet a particular situation, these ought to be applied with spiritual diligence. We trust that every congregation will join in these revival campaigns, and leave behind the fears and doubts about the church's ability to gain victories in this new situation. If we have faith and venture to do God's will, we shall make conquests in Christ's name.

Because many are being won into the kingdom and many are still to be reached, some preparation ought to be made to make the coming of these new converts an event that will bring joy and satisfaction to them. It would be most distressing if they were to be disappointed in some features of church life that ought not to be.

I.

THE church building ought to be made as pleasing and attractive as circumstances will allow. It is possible for the outward appearance to be made commendable. With paint and labor some of the gloom associated with a church can be removed, and a bright and appealing front presented to the world. The neglected gardens could be set in order by a little systematic planning. By many little touches to the building, the outside world could be given the impression that the church, meeting regularly within the chapel, is alive.

Every Christian realises the need of making the meeting place of the church clean and attractive. Those who serve as caretakers have a responsible task. The ministry of providing flowers for the building helps to remind us of

God's presence in nature, and creates also a pleasing surrounding for Christian worship. Needful preparations for the service ought to be made in such good time that they will not intrude upon the worship hour, disturbing those who have come early to meditate.

II.

BECAUSE we have insisted upon the New Testament principle of a mutual ministry, in which the whole church finds an opportunity for expression in worship, we are more likely to fail to provide the best service possible. However, because it is a mutual ministry, it can, when all play their part, raise worship to great heights. None can leave anything to a last minute's preparation and make an effective contribution. Scriptures need to be well prepared, and read with spiritual appreciation by appointed brethren. The president ought not to introduce into the observance of the Lord's Supper references either to national or special events. The supper has been provided for one purpose—for the supreme end of reminding us of Christ's death on behalf of a sinful world. The president's brief remarks ought to be confined, therefore, to scriptural references related to the communion service and to the sacrifice of our Lord.

Efforts to avoid references to personalities are commendable. We gather to praise our Lord, and not to honor men. By holding to the main acts of the worship service and by keeping these simple, without making them commonplace, we can enrich the service, apart from introduction of gaudy embellishments.

We believe it could prove to be an advantage if church officers discussed regularly ways and means of helping to raise the standard of the worship service. Perhaps some provision might be made to train those taking part in the service.

Since we must have trained preachers, why not trained presidents and readers?

We cannot make effective progress and hold new converts in this new age unless we give greater attention to the quality of the services of the church.

III.

ONE complaint raised against an evangelistic programme is that while numbers are won in a campaign, many of these are lost within a year or so after the effort. This is not a charge against evangelism so much as against the ineffectiveness of the church's methods of training and of holding converts. We know of many members who have drifted into a new district without any one at their home church making contact with the church nearest to the new home. Statistical tables show we are failing to give effective oversight to the needs of many members who are not attending services regularly. Because they feel, rightly or wrongly, they are not wanted, they drift away. The burden of this cannot fall only on the shoulders of the preachers; elders and deacons have some responsibility. We wonder if church rolls are ever reviewed at officers' meetings. Do we ever allot the task of visiting absentees to elders and deacons? Why should official boards be so concerned about the material business of the church, giving so little attention to the evangelistic and pastoral aspects of the church? Should we not put first things first?

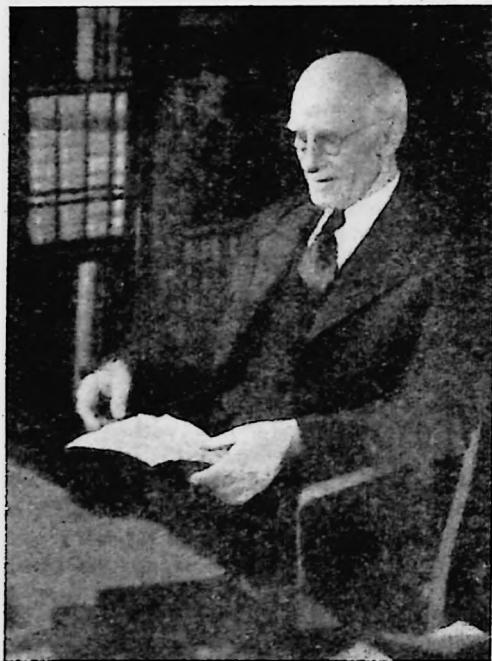
As we labor together to build up the strength of the local church, winning people for Christ and holding converts within the fellowship, we are engaged in the greatest mission ever entrusted to human beings; we become co-partners with God in an enterprise which has eternal dimensions and endures for ever. May we, therefore, give to it the attention it deserves!

Tragic World Needs a Dynamic Church

MODERN LITERACY

A Terrible Challenge

IT must be a thrilling thing to know that you are the leading spirit in a movement that is bringing the gift of literacy to millions of people in many lands, to know that missionaries in many countries are trying to follow out your plans, that governments and education departments want you to come and advise them as to the best way to make their people 100 per cent. literate. Yet that is not the secret of Dr. Laubach's happiness. His happiness comes from seeing the light that shines in a man's eyes as he begins to master the art of reading and to know the joy of achievement, of freedom from the bonds of illiteracy. That is the happiness which comes from the love of



Dr. Frank Laubach.

Christ reaching out to win the individual soul, and that is the driving force behind all this great work that Dr. Laubach and his helpers in so many lands are accomplishing.

China, India, Ethiopia, Iran, Syria, Egypt, South America—these are but a few of the countries visited by Dr. Laubach during the last few years, and now he is in Africa, on a series of visits to Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Nigeria, the Congo, the Rhodesias and South Africa. These literacy movements of which he speaks are on a world-wide scale. Millions of people each year are becoming literate and the movements in the different countries will grow like snowballs. It is an amazing story of achievement, and a story of tremendous hope and encouragement for the world. But it is a terrifying story too, and one which lays a heavy responsibility on the Christian church and on the Bible societies in particular. Dr. Laubach would say that he himself is frightened at the movements that he has begun. When people learn to read their minds do not remain vacant; they will read avidly anything which is simple enough for them to understand. That is where the terrible challenge to us comes in. There is plenty of literature of many other kinds for these new literates to read, but unless they have the scriptures and Christian literature these new readers will constitute a menace to the future of the world

PALESTINE

Earliest Manuscript of Isaiah

THE Director of the American School of Oriental Research at Jerusalem, Professor Millar Burrows of Yale University, has announced the discovery of the earliest known manuscript of the entire biblical book of Isaiah. This discovery is of particular significance since its origin is dated about the first century B.C. Other complete texts of Isaiah are known to exist only as recently as the 9th century A.D.

The manuscript, a well-preserved scroll of parchment, is an almost perfect copy written in a hand similar to the script of the so-called Nash Papyrus, and it confirms some writings of Septuaginta.

Another manuscript has been brought to light by scholars in the Holy Land. It is a commentary on the Book of Habakkuk.

A third scroll on leather appears to be the manual of discipline of a comparatively unknown little Jewish sect or monastic order, possibly the Essenes.

All these ancient scrolls have been preserved in the library of the Syrian Orthodox Monastery of St. Mark in Jerusalem, and have been submitted to the American School of Oriental Research for identification.



ASIA

Bishop Stephen Neill's Impressions

IN an article published by "The Record" (London, March 12, 1948), Bishop Stephen Neill, who is journeying in Asia on behalf of the World Council of Churches and of the International Missionary Council, writes as follows:

"I wonder how many people in Europe have a right understanding of the revolution that has taken place in Asia in the last forty years." "If the European was feared because he was strong, admired because he was clever, and trusted because he was believed to be honest," now "in the East the West has lost its opportunity of domination. With the decline of western influence has gone a reawakening of the spirit of the East. . . . Western civilisation is no longer regarded as civilisation at all."

"Asia is resolutely determined that never again will it commit the determination of its destinies to European hands. . . . It wants to stand on its own feet, to make its own mistakes and to find its own paths. . . . Many say with great resolution they would rather have their own chaos than our order. This vigorous spirit of self-determination is not incompatible with friendliness towards representatives of the Western races, and with a recognition that the East still has much that it can usefully learn from the West. But it does involve a racial recasting of all relationships, on a basis from which the East will never again be willing to depart.

"A frank recognition of this changed attitude is necessary to think rightly about missionary work in the new phase that is opening out.

"I asked an outstanding Chinese Christian leader, 'Do you still feel that you can use the foreign missionary in your Christian enterprise?' He thought for a moment and then

answered, 'Yes, but not all. We have to be sure that he is of the kind that will fit in with our plans. . . . This is a significant utterance. It is 'our plans.' The Chinese are to work out the plan; it is their judgment of what needs to be done that is to determine the situation. Within that situation the foreigner is welcome to come and to share his gifts with the Chinese. . . .' For the moment everyone agrees that the help of the foreign missionary is still needed, especially in the training programme. "First of all in the training of the ordained ministry; next in the lay training programmes for men and women in the church. The cry everywhere is for better leadership. The feeling is that older methods have not given the church the leadership it needs if it is to hold its own in the modern situation and to grow into full manhood."



SPAIN

Protestants in Spain

THE Ecumenical Press Service recently quoted Roman Catholic statements in favor of religious freedom in Spain. It is regrettable to find that in times when the question of the rights of man is of such cardinal importance, other Roman Catholic voices still speak the language of intolerance.

A Roman Catholic priest, F. Cavalli, S.J., has written for the Italian Jesuit review, "La Civiltà Cattolica" (April 3, 1948) an article entitled "The Condition of the Protestants in Spain," from which we quote the following extracts:

"The Catholic church, being convinced, by reason of her divine prerogatives, that she is the one true church, claims for herself alone the right to freedom, for this right may only be possessed by truth, and never by error. Where the other religions are concerned, she will not take up the sword against them, but she will ask that, by lawful means worthy of the human creature, they shall not be allowed to propagate false doctrines. Consequently, in a State where the majority of the people are Catholic, the church asks that error shall not be accorded a legal existence, and that if religious minorities exist they shall have a de facto existence only, not the opportunity of spreading their beliefs. Where material circumstances—whether the hostility of a Government or the numerical strength of the dissenting factions—do not allow of this principle being applied in its entirety, the church requires that she shall have all possible concessions, confining herself to accepting as the least of all evils the de jure toleration of other forms of worship. In other countries the Catholics are obliged themselves to ask for full liberty for all, resigning themselves to living together where they alone had the right to live. The church does not in this way give up her thesis, which remains the most imperative of all laws, but adapts herself to the hypothesis, which must be taken into account on the material plane. Hence extreme horror on the part of the Protestants, who hold it up against the Catholics that they withhold freedom, indeed de facto toleration, from others when they are in the majority, and on the other hand demand it as a right when they are in the minority. . . .

"The Catholic church would be betraying her mission if she were to proclaim, either in theory or in practice, that error can have the same rights as truth, especially when the highest duties and interests of man are at stake. The church can feel no shame at her intransigence as she asserts it in principle and carries it out in practice, though the areopagus of the nations of to-day may smile pityingly or rage against it as tyrannical. . . ."

THESE words, spoken by the blind man whom Jesus healed, express the essence of a practical faith and experience of the presence and power of him who was both Son of God and Master of men. To the orthodox Pharisees of the day, this statement was nothing short of blasphemous heresy. Yet the man was right, and they were wrong. He knew by experience the truth of his words. The orthodox sages who condemned him were still groping in spiritual darkness.

On Being Orthodox

Much has been written in support of the traditional interpretation of Christianity from the viewpoint of the historic creeds. These creedal statements, however, as every student of church history knows, were merely devised as bulwarks of current orthodoxy raised up in the early centuries of Christian experience in order to combat the prevailing heresies of the day. The Christology of the ancient framers of the creeds was largely a re-crystallisation of Christian truths in the pattern of ancient pagan philosophy. Consequently, the normal thought-forms and speech-forms, as revealed in the terminology employed, were Grecian rather than Hebraic, and as a result much of the original spirit of the New Testament was lost.

As has been well said, the primary distinction between the Christianity of the New Testament and the "Christianity" which succeeded it is to be found in an examination of "the pagan views of God which entered the church so soon after the New Testament era." These same pagan views are still perpetuated in the Roman communion and in the Anglo-Catholic section of the Anglican communion.

It seems, then, that to be "orthodox" is not always to be in accord with the teaching and practice of the inspired documents which we call the New Testament.

On Being Obedient—the Real Orthodoxy

Our major requirement, in these days of indifference, is what our fathers in the faith have already given us as a spiritual heritage, namely, a "Theologia Viatoris," as the old medieval schoolmen would have called it—a Pilgrim Theology. The real orthodoxy, then, is utter obedience, complete allegiance, to Jesus our Lord. This is our pilgrim faith; a real, vital, pulsating "Message for the Way." This is the point of view which recognises that in our pilgrim journey through this life the practical issues matter most. Like the blind man whom Jesus healed, our eyes must be opened to the spiritual essentials of the "Way."

In providing us with the elements of this viewpoint, the pioneers of the Restoration Movement have done us a great service. They went so much farther than did the reformers. The "restoration" of the New Testament as the only basis of faith and practice was a real "discovery" in the realm of spiritual progress. Thomas and Alexander Campbell, in developing to maturity the views they had partially learned through following Glas and the Haldanes, stumbled upon the real truth—and without hesitation placed obedience to Christ before the orthodoxy of their generation.

The blind man found Christ primarily because of his experience of him. His "creedal" knowledge of him, from a purely intellectual standpoint, was extremely limited. Too many modern theologians know everything "about" Christ, but groping in the pseudo-intellectual cloud of their own making, lack the very thing which the blind man, in all his ignorance, had really grasped.

"One thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see."

As "Christians" who are members of churches of Christ, this is our supreme task, just because it is also our heritage—to proclaim, by word of mouth and by daily life, the simplicity of the "Pilgrim Way."

"Theologia Viatoris"

A Pilgrim Theology



Allen G. Elliott, M.A., B.Sc., Dip.Ed., writing on the text, "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see" (John 9: 25), calls for restored Christian living.



The Real Obedience

The real obedience grows out of a real experience of the saving power of Christ. The real obedience arises from the fact that we have passed out of darkness into light, from a state of "blindness" to a condition of "seeing." The real obedience consists in "practising as well as preaching," in "living as well as lecturing." We need to be alive to the danger of complacency. As a people we must at all costs guard against the disaster of becoming "doctrinally self-sufficient." For there is a sense in which we have been more ready to say the right things about Christ and the gospel than to live in complete accord with his revealed will. Too often have we been ready to preach an "obedience of faith" strictly in accord with the letter of the New Testament without being equally concerned about living in complete and surrendered obedience to Christ as Lord, daily practising the life of the Spirit which is the only New Testament pattern of life.

This practical Christianity, this pilgrim faith, is our greatest need to-day. The "sine qua non" of the Christian faith is a living, vital experience of unqualified surrender to Jesus as

Lord. Nothing else matters quite so much as the pre-eminence and centrality of the Christ. Organisation, new methods, unique plans of campaign all have their part, but they will be of little consequence without the all-prevailing experience of the crucified Lord of all. This was Paul's viewpoint when he said: "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2: 2). Only such an outlook will satisfy the demands of our practical, purposeful pilgrimage.

There is an old legend which tells of a man who, desiring to scale a mountain peak, sought the assistance of many guides. The first guide offered to go with him because he said his father had been a guide. The second guide offered his services on the grounds that he had been born not far from the mountain. A third claimed to be taller than any other guide in the land, while a fourth brought as his qualification the fact that he had just come into a fortune and therefore was able to supply ample provender for the venture. The last man to come forward with an offer of help professed none of the accomplishments of his fellow guides. He merely claimed what not one of the others had mentioned—the fact that he knew the way. Naturally the last guide, with his simple assurance and his knowledge of the one thing needful, was chosen for the task.

Similarly, the blind man knew, with certainty, the one essential—that whereas he had been blind, now he could see. He spoke from experience, and so must we.

"This one thing I know, this one thing I know.
God in mercy pardoned me.
Snapped sin's fetters and set me free.
Once I was blind, but now I see,
This one thing I know."

The "restoration" of the New Testament way of life as well as its doctrine is our most important task, and our debt to the Campbells can only be repaid as we harness our total forces in a magnificent demonstration, in practical Christian living, of the New Testament truths which we so devoutly believe.

STUDENTS' DAY OF PRAYER

SUNDAY, June 27, is being observed throughout the Southern Hemisphere as the World Day of Prayer for Students, at the request of the World Student Christian Federation.

Deeply aware of the need for Christian leadership in the modern community, and of the failure of the secular university to train students for such leadership, we of the Australian Student Christian Movement regard the universities as one of the most important mission fields of the church. Through our activities of worship, public addresses, study circles and conferences, we seek to be that Christian community within the university which declares the Lordship of Christ by our own life, and leads other students to understand and commit themselves to Christ, and to devote themselves to the service of the kingdom of God in him. This we do, in the name of the church and for the sake of Christ, her Lord.

The church leaders of every non-Roman communion have cordially commended the observance of this day of prayer, and the A.S.C.M. therefore confidently requests the prayers of all churches on this day. Nearly 100 local churches in the Melbourne metropolitan area will be receiving students, either to lead in special prayers or to conduct whole services. But whether your church is receiving a student or not, we plead for your prayers, that we may have deeper faith in the Lordship of Christ and a stronger courage to confess that faith before our fellow students.

(Literature may be obtained from the A.S.C.M. office, 102 Collins-st., Melbourne.)

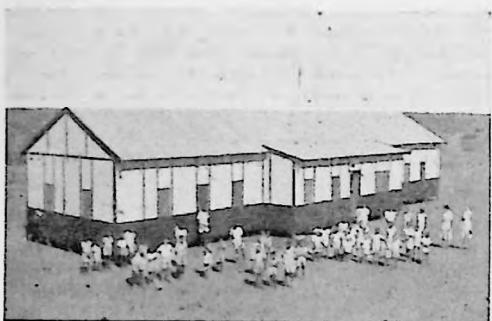
"Give us the strength to encounter that which is to come, that we may be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath."

Lights at Carnarvon

ON Wednesday, May 26, the Federal Aborigines Mission Board received a pleasing telegram from Carnarvon:

"First lights last night one dormitory, house and games room. Excellent."

This further achievement, so quickly after our recent building effort, of establishing an electric generating plant at Carnarvon mission, is due to the initiative and determination of Heinie Klemm, of Maylands church, W.A. Mr. Klemm holds a high official electrical position in our State railways. He was a volunteer in our first building effort, but not able to share in the second, so he determined that



One of the Two Dormitories.

With battening, bathrooms, and central missionary quarters, all now completed.

when his annual leave came, he would undertake this electrical installation for the mission. He invited another friend on long service leave, W. Bishop, to share with him, and the two men planned and worked incessantly to put the job through.

The board, in co-operation with Mr. Klemm and another competent electrician, was able to locate a 10 h.p. Lister diesel engine and a very substantially built D.C. generator. The plant was fitted in Perth.

Victorian youth societies forwarded £94, and with this the necessary materials for wiring, fittings and lamps were purchased and forwarded. A missionary going through to Derby with a new truck was to have delivered our engine and generator en route.

Mr. Klemm and Mr. Bishop went on the appointed date and commenced the installation.

An unexpected setback came that the missionary going to Derby would be delayed for a couple of months, and we had visions of the project not only being held up but very much more expensive to complete. The telephone, however, paid for itself handsomely. By direct telephone communication we were able to ascertain that if at the Perth end we could get the engine, generator and accessories all railed before 3 o'clock the next day, one of the traders journeying Carnarvon to Gerald-

ton for a load of fuel would be willing to leave off some of his fuel and transport our equipment. We immediately organised three teams in Perth crating and boxing the equipment, and enjoyed the great thrill of getting it all into the railway truck by 3 p.m. A slight breakdown in the road transport between Geraldton and Carnarvon caused a further day or two delay, but immediately it arrived in Carnarvon the traders telephoned and Mr. Hammer was able to collect our equipment with our mission truck and get it out to the mission the same night. Mr. Klemm, anxious to complete the job, requested and obtained from his employment an extra week's leave, and Mr. Bishop stayed a few days as well. By Friday, May 29, the whole of the plant was working satisfactorily, and the whole of the load had been tried out with more than 100 per cent. reserve capacity in the generator.

Again demonstrating the value of the telephone, Mr. Hammer discovered that the steamship "Kybra," on which Mr. Klemm's return passage had been booked, was to leave several hours earlier than previously stated, and after the final touches at 10 o'clock at night Mr. Klemm had two hours to clear up, pack and get on the boat by midnight.

Readers can imagine what a remarkable facility this electrical installation will give to our workers. Electric lighting of all the buildings, the compounds and the pathways, increases the powers of supervision for the missionaries a thousandfold. Electric irons give the ladies and older girls great help in their ironing. The comfort to the missionaries is not the least of the benefits.

Our plant is capable of taking, at a later date, washing machines and other electrical utilities.

If any missionary in his or her room desires a quick cup of coffee at night, an immersion heater can be used.

Perhaps greatest of all is the outstanding witness that this blaze of lights gives to the community.

Practically all the land around Carnarvon is flat, but if any is higher than the rest, our location is second to a sandy ridge further away, and therefore our buildings can be seen from miles away in the day time, and now the illumination will be seen from miles away at night.

Surely this will be a testimony to the people of the district that our mission is now established at Carnarvon. The brotherhood owes a deep debt of gratitude to Messrs. Klemm and Bishop, without whose voluntary services and determined initiative the plant may not have been installed for a long while to come.—A. M. Bell.

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A Crusade for Christ

★ Victorian churches are being called to reach high aims by 1950. Reg Enniss, chairman of the Crusade Committee, gives an outline of the goals.

What Does This Crusade Mean?

IT means an earnest attempt to deepen the spiritual life of all church members. It means a strong effort by every member of every church to stop the decline in our church ranks and to very greatly increase our numbers and the effectiveness of all our church work. Surely you will be keen to see this done and our churches helping to make the world Christian!

Whence Came the Idea of This Crusade?

It came, as it were, out of the blue to our American brethren who, like ourselves, were perplexed and oppressed to see the churches staggering with weakness. Following earnest prayer and long and careful study of the situation, they decided to launch a crusade in all their churches. News of what was happening in America suggested the probable remedy for our own church ills, and the crusade idea has been borrowed and adapted to Australian conditions. Civilisation moves on, and the church moves on by using the best ideas of the best people everywhere.

What are the Definite Aims of the Crusade?

Here they are, as set out in the manifesto distributed at conference:

1. Devotional life strengthened through daily reading and meditation upon God's word by every church member.
2. Increased church attendance. A regular membership attendance of not less than 70 per cent. at the Lord's Table. Evening meeting at least as large as morning meeting.
3. Three thousand conversions to Christ.
4. Three thousand restorations to active church membership.
5. Three thousand additions to Bible schools.
6. Five hundred receiving definite training for leadership in the local churches.
7. Fifty recruits for the Christian ministry and mission field, and thirty nurses and maids for our homes.
8. Completion of and payment for youth camps, children's homes, hospitals at home and abroad.
9. Every member of the church a member of the Christian Fellowship Association.

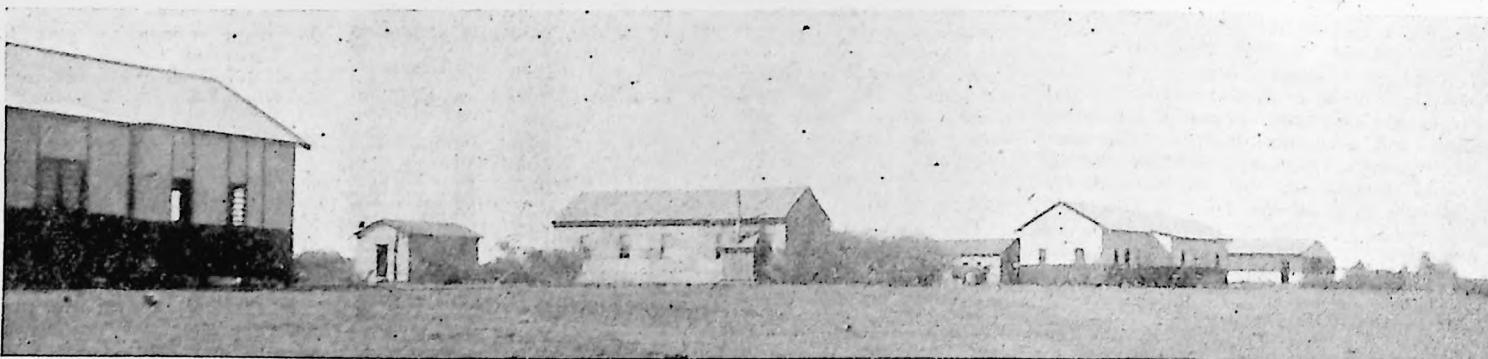
How Will the Crusade Work?

Each church will be challenged to accept and to achieve its share of the total aim of the brotherhood, such share being based on present membership and strength. Each church will be given a wall chart on which progress will show as, from time to time, the aims are being reached. You really do think, do you not, that your church can do its part as well as other churches?

What Will Provide the Necessary Stimulus for the Crusade?

That is a very natural question, for, let it be admitted, most of us have been very lacking in real enthusiasm for the church. How can

(Continued on opposite page.)



Left to Right.—Dormitory, now Girls, Eventually for Boys. Washing and Laundry. Diningroom and Kitchen to be Extended Later. Workshop, Garage and Power-house. Dormitory, now Boys, Eventually for Girls. Residence for Superintendent's Family. Two Buildings Behind, and Tank.

Dhond Work Increases

A letter, under joint names of Dr. and Mrs. L. J. Michael, gives a record of progress and influence.

WE have much to thank God for because of spiritual progress made in the lives of Christians in this land, but there remains much to be desired. On the part of the average Christian there is as yet very little evidence of any realisation of the tremendous responsibility which lies upon him personally of warning his neighbors of the awful fate awaiting sinners, and of urging them to flee from the wrath to come by accepting as their Saviour the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. It is not alone in India, of

houses, far removed from the sisters. One lives out with relatives. With the inevitable increase in staff, we should not know what to do but for the hope that if sufficient funds become available it might be possible to erect a home for nurses next to the sisters' bungalow.

As the medical work grows in size, it is only natural that its scope must also increase. It becomes necessary to do more in the way of investigation as well as of treatment. The need for a better laboratory is becoming urgent, and X-ray help becomes daily more necessary.

Just when all these things are to be made available will depend upon the brethren and sisters of Australia who support with their prayers and their gifts the work in this part of God's vineyard.

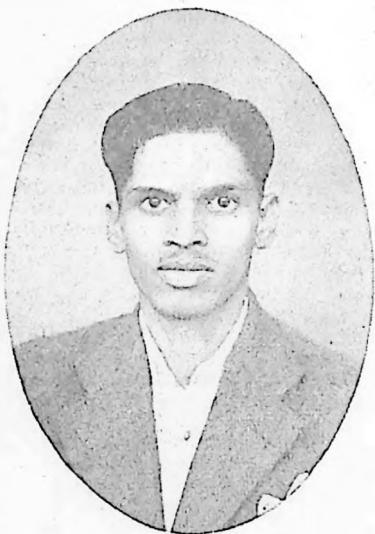
A flying visit to the field was paid by Dr. and Mrs. Kemp, who were also returning from the British Isles after having attended the conference at Buffalo. They arrived unexpectedly at Dhond about 4 a.m. one morning, and left just after midnight the same night, but in the meantime managed to meet most of the missionaries and to catch more than a fleeting glimpse of the four main stations of Baramati, Shrigonda, Diksal and Dhond. Their strenuous effort was much appreciated.

In closing we should like to thank you once again for your continued support of the work of Christ in this area, and register a note of praise to our heavenly Father who "doeth all things well," and who has assured us that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

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Dr. Ratnaker J. Parkhe.

It is anticipated that Dr. R. J. Parkhe will complete his M.B., B.S. degree this year. His aim is to take a post-graduate course and return to the work awaiting him at Dhond Hospital. This young man is one of our own boys.

course, that this sad state of affairs exists. How we all need to be cleansed of self and of sin, to spend more time seeking to know his will by pondering over his word, and communing with him, and to be filled with his Holy Spirit, that our lives might become irresistible witnesses for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In proportion as these things are accomplished in us will the gospel triumph in the hearts of men and women in this land and in every land. More and more fine Indian Christian leaders are emerging, but there is a desperate need for an infinitely greater number.

The work of the church at Dhond has been progressing steadily. Great interest has been manifested in the Marathi and English Bible study classes, and a young people's C.E. society has been formed. Attempts are being made to build up the Sunday school, and also to give a more faithful witness to patients and their relatives in hospital.

Medical work is continually on the increase. Inpatient accommodation has become hopelessly inadequate. Patients and relatives fill to overflowing the available ward space, line the verandahs, and sometimes have to go out on the ground under the trees. Outside patients have to be shifted from one place to another to escape the heat of the sun. It is hoped that it might be possible to commence to build the maternity block this year.

Accommodation for the staff is similarly very short of present needs. For some months our preacher had nowhere to sleep but outside his son's tiny rented mud house. Our assistant compounder has had to sleep on someone else's little verandah, about 6 ft. x 3 ft. The nurses live in two unsuitable widely separated little

A CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

(Continued from opposite page)

we be fired and enthused? Only by coming to see the utter need of our churches, their danger and their difficulties. These things—need, danger, difficulty—have ever been the things to bring the best out of men and stir them to heroic effort. *The poverty of men without Christ, the danger of our brotherhood slipping back, the exceptional difficulties of the church in the present world set-up, ought to stir the person who reads this.*

What Will Lead This Crusade?

Very great care has been taken to secure a brother of outstanding ability, who is willing to give two years of his life to this great task. The choice has fallen on Mr. Stan. Neighbour, minister of the Oakleigh church for several years past, where his work has been blessed very greatly. His people give him up with reluctance, yet with appreciation of the larger opportunity in leading the brotherhood in this Crusade.

What Committee will Have Charge of the Crusade?

A brand new committee, consisting of the secretary of each department of conference. This is not the work of any one committee, but the combined effort of all committees. To these persons have been given the responsibility and the attractive opportunity of lifting the churches through this Crusade.

When Will the Crusade Commence?

It has commenced already. After hurried preparation it was introduced at the Victorian Easter conference. Time did not permit of detailed explanations, hence this present article. But a real commencement in all the churches has yet to be made. If all the preparatory work can be done, and if many churches can be visited soon enough, it is hoped to have the crusade definitely started in each church on the first Sunday in August. Keep your eye on August.

How Long Will the Crusade Continue?

For two years. The World Convention of our churches will be held in Melbourne in August, 1950. By that date we hope to have realised all the aims of the crusade. *What a thrill to have a World Convention here with the tide high in our churches!*



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

I WOULD not give much for your religion unless it can be seen. Lamps do not talk; but they do shine. A lighthouse sounds no drum, it beats no gong, and yet far over the water its friendly spark is seen by the mariner. So let your actions shine out your religion. Let the main sermon of your life be illustrated by all your conduct, and it shall not fail to be illustrious.—C. H. Spurgeon.



The Hocking Family.

From left.—Alice (Mrs. Davis), Max, Hazel (Mrs. Modder), Doris, Jean, Lucy.

The six members of this family have won medals for ten years' unbroken attendance at the York st. (Ballarat, Vic.) Sunday school.

—Block by courtesy "The Ballarat Courier."

Here and There

A. E. White, youth director for New Zealand churches of Christ, plans to be in Melbourne this week for a brief holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Penry Pryce have resigned from the Indian mission station organised by British churches, and are back at Birmingham.

F. E. Buckingham reports that the Hinrichsen-Machin mission at Prahran, Vic., is creating considerable interest. On Sunday evening, 20th, the town hall was well filled, when 5 men and a woman confessed Christ, total decisions to date being 34 confessions and 6 restorations.

"Sister Anne Ball has been embarrassed during last few weeks by enquiries re her health. Since being in Melbourne she has not had to see a doctor, and is very well. Miss Ball is in Victoria fitting herself for further service, and is doing a baby welfare and kindergarten course, and is also learning the art of pottery which she hopes to teach native children."

W. Lister, secretary of Social Questions Committee for the conference of British churches of Christ, has sent a letter of appreciation for the generous gifts of food sent forward by the Victorian Social Service Department; this appears on this page. In a covering letter he writes, "Apart from being honorary secretary of the S.Q.C., I have charge of the church at Derby, so can speak with a twofold knowledge of the goodness of your people in Australia. . . . We are having wonderful gospel services, and recently had nine additions."

R. M. Wilson, the new preacher for Lygon-st. church, Melbourne, was welcomed by deacons and wives at a dinner on June 12. He commenced his ministry with church on June 13 with large congregations. On June 16 a church welcome dinner and social were tendered to Mr. Wilson, when all auxiliaries gave a welcome to him. Church's sympathy is extended to Eric Engbloom in sudden home-call of his wife on June 15. At close of evening service on June 20, three young men and a young woman of Bible school confessed Christ. A delegation attended Hinrichsen mission at Prahran on June 7. Many church members gathered with Chinese friends at their Queensberry-st. church anniversary social on June 8. R. Enniss terminated his interim ministry of five months on June 6. All were greatly helped by his encouraging addresses. Christian Men's Fellowship held an enjoyable sports night with a bowls match on June 5. Twenty-three were present at prayer meeting held at home of Mr. and Mrs. Louey, Alphington.



R. M. Wilson.

Ten new languages and dialects were added last year to the list of Bible translations, bringing the total to 1090, according to the American Bible Society.

E. J. Bone, of 42 Merrin-crees., Wonthaggi, Vic., would like to get into touch with members of churches of Christ who are settling in that town, with a view to commencing meetings for breaking of bread.

J. W. Black, one of the most honored leaders of our brethren in Great Britain, has resigned, after forty years, as chairman of the Leicester District churches. We understand our brother's health has not been good since his return from the World Convention at Buffalo.

VISITATION EVANGELISM REVIVED INTEREST AT BOX HILL, VICTORIA.

After a week's campaigning at Box Hill, Vic., where F. T. Morgan ministers, the evening service on Sunday, June 20, was the best attended for a considerable period. John Turner, of North Fitzroy, was associated with church during the week. Fourteen visitors went out in pairs and contacted about forty homes. The visits were well received by all, and many people expressed their appreciation to callers. Among the visitors there developed, during the campaign, a "heightened sense of fellowship." Members who had grown indifferent were also awakened and attended the evening service. Six prospects signed cards and five made their decision, one promising to make a public confession later. Several visitors expressed themselves as desiring to continue this evangelistic approach to the people. Mr. Morgan says, "This is the beginning of a new spiritual vitality entering the life of the church."

Preparations are being made for the International Convention of Disciples of Christ at San Francisco, California, U.S.A. R. C. Snodgrass is the president. He writes: "I should like the 1948 International Convention to be a powerful witness to the universal voice of Christ's church."

W. G. Feary, who died on June 13, was an able teacher of the Bible and a beloved leader in the church at York-st., Ballarat, Vic. His ministry for Christ in Ballarat made a deep impression on the people of the district. He was a builder and contractor in the business world, but he found much time to serve his Lord. We thank God for a life well spent, expressing also deepest sympathy for all who mourn his departure from this life.

F. D. Kershner, in "The Christian-Evangelist," writes: "The ecumenical movement, which is only another name for what the Campbells called Christian union, appears to be lagging just a little at the present time. Like the UNO, which parallels it, the movement has struck some rough seas during recent months. People throughout the world recognise the necessity for unity, civil, political and religious, but this does not prevent them from spending most of their substance in preparing to shoot each other to pieces in a new world war. It is only natural that under such circumstances progress toward real ecumenicity should be somewhat slow and halting. The common people who have to pay the cost of all wars do not want to engage in, or even contemplate, another."

The Australian Christian

"Hands Across the Sea"

GREETINGS AND THANKS FROM BRITAIN

WITH your kind permission I would like, metaphorically speaking (for it is impossible at the moment to do so physically), to use the phrase, "Hands across the sea," and shake your hands in greetings to all, and also in thanks to all. As Christians, above all people, readily know, the touch of the hand conveys a wealth of meaning. In this case we can never adequately convey to your readers all that is in our hearts and minds.

As the person responsible over a period of years for dealing with the work so well done by Mr. Will, Clay, namely, the acknowledging of the food parcels from your churches in Australia, it gives me the greatest joy to pass on the heartfelt thanks for the wonderful expressions of practical Christianity which have been forthcoming from your land.

Whilst it has been my task to ask all who receive parcels to send a letter of thanks to the "sender," there have been many cases of old people who have asked me to reply for them. This has been done quite readily and willingly. Yet there may be some who have not received a letter of thanks. We would not for one moment have any of our kind friends in doubt as to our appreciation of such kindness shown to so many here in Great Britain. Therefore the main object of this letter is the hope of covering any such worthy members of your churches. I think it is only right to tell you that the letters I have received have been most expressive of the thanks of all recipients of food parcels. It will be a great interest to your readers to quote from one such letter, as an indication of them all. This is from an aged spinster in one of our Lancashire churches.

"Dear Brother,—

"I must thank you once again for a parcel from a church of Christ in South Australia.

"Oh, how kindly hast thou led me
Heavenly Father, day by day,
Found my dwelling, clothed and fed me,
Furnished friends to cheer my way."

"Thanking you once again, yours sincerely,
Miss S. Goode."

When one contemplates such amazing Christian generosity from people we have not seen, it is no easy task to say all that is laid upon our hearts. Nevertheless, because of the richness and overflowing nature of the kindness of your members in the Australian churches, we shall be ever mindful of such and never cease to thank our heavenly Father for the knowledge that we are all of the same "household of faith." None of us can see on our tables at times these wonderful gifts of yours without saying a little prayer of "thanks to our friends overseas."

Without making any invidious comparisons it is incumbent upon me to mention the magnanimous gestures which have come through Mrs. Lawson, of Swanston-st. church, on behalf of the Dorcas Class of which she is the worthy president. I do this in a dual capacity as secretary of the Social Questions Committee and also the minister of the church at Derby.

Needless to say, then, that your Social Service Department is one which has won the admiration of our own similar committee here, and also touched the hearts of many hundreds of our church members all over Great Britain.

To all who read these words be assured, dear Christian friends, that we highly treasure your actions, and that by them you have brought us very close to each other (despite the seas between), and it is a clear case of "hands across the sea." None of us here can ever doubt the words, "The Lord is rich and merciful, the Lord is very kind," and we know, too, that the Lord will enrich and enoble all your lives and bring an enduring sense of peace and tranquillity to your homes and hearts.

—Walter Lister, Derby, England.

News of the Churches

Queensland

Wombo Creek-16-Mile Circuit.—Church received a visit from Mr. Williams, of Glen Iris college. All meetings have been well attended, and gospel services have been held at Kogan, and services held regularly at Chinchilla. A manse has been completed by church, and Mr. and Mrs. Horne have been living in it since their marriage. Preacher has been to Wallen Creek church, and a service was held with members. A gospel meeting was also conducted in public hall.

Tasmania

West Hobart.—Speakers during past few weeks have included A. Harvey (Caveside), R. Boxhall and S. Cooper (Collins-st.), H. England, B. Golder, J. Woolley and M. Richardson. Attendances at all services have been good. Midweek prayer meeting was revived on June 9 after a lapse of some months. Bible school continues to grow, especially in kindergarten, where there have been eight new scholars in last four weeks. A rally is being conducted in senior school, and scholars are keen. A popular Bible quiz is conducted each week, with book prize for every 20 answers. Scholars took part recently in "Sunday School of the Air."

Western Australia

Kalgoorlie.—At gospel service on May 23 there were two confessions. Alan Wishart was speaker on morning of May 30. On afternoon of June 2, Ladies' Mission Band held annual "at home," there being larger number present. Mrs. Digwood (Federal president) was speaker. Her address was on aboriginal mission work. Mrs. Tilbee (home mission superintendent) was also present. On June 6 Mr. Fewster baptised seven young people prior to gospel service. Among visitors has been Mrs. Freeman (Blackburn, Vic.).

Cottesloe.—Sunday school is in second place in increase and attendance campaign. Attendances at Lord's day services have been good. Church has donated £20 to Hyman Appelman mission coming to Perth in near future. Speakers lately have included Messrs. Ware, Saunders, Elms, Innes. A youth council has been set up within church. A scheme is under way for re-formation of a Junior Endeavor Society. Ladies' Aid is busy, and has been attending many other churches' "at homes." Young people's tennis club is in full swing, and defeated Bassendean young people recently.

Fremantle.—A men's fellowship tea, with 49 men present, was successful on May 23, with a challenging talk from conference president, A. G. Elliott, followed by a good gospel service, at which H. E. Greenwood (State organiser) gave an excellent chart address on Christian unity. Sunday school anniversary services, arranged for June 6 and 7, were postponed on account of infantile paralysis for a little while. Attendances are encouraging. Among recent visitors have been Miss Chapell, (S.A.), from Bethesda Hospital. J.C.E. and I.C.E. meetings have been re-commenced with Miss Beryl Marsh and Mr. Arthur Johnson leaders. On behalf of O.M., Dorcas sisters were visited by Mrs. Arthur, Women's Auxiliary O.M. superintendent, and a "bring and buy" table was set up in aid of local O.M. funds, with encouraging results. "Living Link" fund has started well in fourth year, with £10 for first month (May). With deep regret the death of Herbert E. Cole is reported. For over 46 years he was associated in many capacities with work of church at Fremantle. He passed away after a short period in Fremantle Hospital, on June 17. Funeral service took place on June 18 in Karrakatta Cemetery, in presence of many relatives and friends, service being conducted by J. Gordon, assisted by C. H. Hunt and R. Raymond. Church extends sympathy to bereaved.

Harvey.—An afternoon was held at Mrs. Livingstone's home. £1/1/- was raised, and a large bag of woolies patched and sent to Norseman aboriginal mission. At Youth Fellowship, held fortnightly at homes of Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Fryer, pleasant evenings were spent. Mr. Duckett conducted both meetings on one Sunday. Stan. Davey (youth leader) was welcomed at a social on a Saturday evening, and spoke at both meetings on Sunday. On June 2 Mr. Taylor (B. & F. B. Society) and Mr. Crozier (missioner) spoke to ladies at 3 p.m., and later a meeting was held in hall. Mr. Thurrowgood, restored to health, spoke at both meetings on June 6 and 13. Junior C.E. is making good progress under Mrs. Thurrowgood and Mrs. Ken Stanford. Choir is a help at services. Mr. Sharp and Mrs. Stanford sang a duet at one service.

Maylands.—Mr. Nixon, from Bassendean, was speaker on morning of May 24. Mr. McRoberts addressed evening congregation. A young lady was baptised on June 6. Mrs. Partington, from Queenstown, S.A., was a visitor. Women's Guild had special temperance afternoon, when a visitor from W.C.T.U. told of work and aims for future. Mrs. Partington rendered an elocutionary item. Y.P.S.C.E. visited Bassendean society, a happy time of fellowship being spent. Girls' club enjoyed a social evening with other clubs participating. Visiting "Harmony Singers" staged a fine concert on evening of June 10. Proceeds were for benefit of Women's Guild and food for Britain. On June 13, Mr. Whiting, from Wembley, was speaker in morning, and Mr. McRoberts took evening service, when there was a good attendance. S.S. attendance is maintained, and is leading Div. I. in increase and attendance campaign.

New South Wales

Kingsford.—On June 6 and 13, A. W. Ladbrook addressed morning and evening services. There were two who made their stand for Christ at gospel service on 6th, a brother and sister from Bible school. A lantern lecture was given on archaeological evidence for truth of biblical account of fall of Jericho to children of Israel by Miss Parten, of Archaeological Research Society, to Bible school on 6th. Sympathy and prayers of church go out for Mrs. Hannah and her family, whose loved one passed on recently.

Broken Hill.—At Wolfram-st. on May 30, R. Hilford gave appreciated addresses. Mr. and Mrs. R. Warmbrunn were received by letter from Mudgee church and Mr. Moore from Stirling, S.A. These have already proved an asset to church. A. Thurgood and Mrs. E. Griffiths sang a duet at evening service. On June 6 A. G. Thurgood gave a good address in morning. J.C.E. took charge in evening. Chorus singing was enjoyed. Soloists were Roger Kerin and John Skinner. Jacqueline Hosking read lesson. Mr. Hilford gave the address. There was a good audience. Y.P.C.E. held meeting at manse on June 8. These meetings have average attendance of 22 to 25. Sunday school is holding an attendance campaign. Miss T. Mudford and Miss I. Evans are captains of contestant teams. On May 30, five new scholars were present. Y.P.C.E. arranged exchange meeting, attending Baptist Church and taking charge of meeting. Speakers at Wills-st. on May 30 and June 6 were J. Cremer and R. Hilford. A boys' club and girls' club are well attended. J.C.E. is in recess. Mrs. R. Hilford was welcomed as president of Ladies' Guild at Wolfram-st. Much manse business was discussed. Mrs. Hilford gave a helpful address.

The Australian Christian

Bexley North.—On June 7, deacons decided to launch home visitation scheme in conjunction with a special month's effort in July. It was also agreed to link with Mortdale and Beverley Hills churches in a half-night of prayer on June 26 at latter centre. On June 13 G. Burns, of Rockdale, gave an instructive address to church, and T. Hallop preached at night. Most Intermediate Endeavorers went to house party at Narrabeen conducted by Y.P.D. for C.E. leadership. A. McAllister has resumed superintendence of Bible school after twelve months' break. Boys from several classes visited Dunmore House and played soccer. Refreshments were enjoyed after a successful afternoon.

South Australia

York.—On evening of May 30, Shirley and Ross Harding confessed Christ, and were baptised on June 13. Two new Sunday school teachers, Miss N. Solly and Miss A. Davies, are assisting kinder department. F. Weeks is seriously ill. Mrs. B. Simons met with an accident and broke her elbow. Mr. James is laid up with triple-fractured leg, due to a road accident. Others are home from hospital, whilst some sick folk at home are back at services. On June 9 a young people's social was held and enjoyed. Foundations are down and building is in progress for new kitchen. Good work is being done with local monthly paper. Basketballers had first victory on June 12 against Edwardstown.

Naracoorte.—During May A. Hutson was preacher at all services, except on morning of 16th, when Mr. Derbyshire spoke. He was visiting district in interests of B. & F. Bible Society. On May 16, after evening services, churches combined in St. Andrew's Presbyterian hall for a lantern lecture given by Mr. Derbyshire. Mother's Day services were held on May 9 with good attendances. Young people assisted in evening. Girls' Club entertained their mothers and mothers of church at a social evening on May 11; altogether there were about 60 present. A young lad who had previously made the good confession has been received into church by faith and baptism. Esteemed Mr. Williams passed away on May 15, and sympathy is extended to all loved ones.

Kilburn.—Morning service on June 13 was conducted by members of Maylands church. 31 adults and 42 young worshippers were present. L. Potter presided. A. Tompsett and G. Blackstock read scriptures, and H. Rodda gave appreciated talks to young worshippers and church. At 10 a.m. Bible school attendance was 112. Gospel service was conducted by Campaigners for Christ. J. Manning lead service and S. Drew spoke splendidly. 15 adults and 11 children were present. Sister G. M. Peacock (kindergarten superintendent), assisted by kindergarten teachers and superintendent of junior department, has consented to teach scripture lessons at Kilburn State school for some weeks during absence of a preacher through sickness. Sisters Lawrence have donated £1/4/- for kindergarten equipment by making and selling potholders.

Aldgate Valley.—Work continues steadily, and attendances at Lord's Table average about 40. J. H. Cain has been giving well-prepared addresses on First Epistle of Peter. Dorcas Society reports that during year nine meetings have been held. On May 5 Mrs. Vero paid a visit and spoke on home mission work. On June 2, annual meeting was held, commencing with lunch at 12.30 p.m., when several visiting societies were represented, Mrs. Green, president Sisters' Conference, being speaker. Meeting followed, with an inspiring address. Secretary Mrs. Roberts gave report for year's work. Nine pairs of infants' booties and a knitted rug were sent to Queen's Home; 51 garments and four pairs footwear to Miss Kate Cocks; six garments to Children's Hospital; 11 pairs pyjamas made up to be sent to aborigines mission, W.A.; 13 tins of powdered milk to India; 26 to orphan boy fund; 12/6 to Temperance Alliance cake stall; 15/6

home mission work; 10% annual offering toward support of Federal living link, Mrs. Ken. Roberts; £3/14/11 to living link, Mrs. B. Coventry. Dorcas members made a gift to church of a pulpit. Cottage meetings have been held in home of Mr. and Mrs. Harper. Letters have been sent to sick.

Queenstown.—Mr. Ewers has continued to give appreciated addresses both morning and evening. He has intimated to church that he will be leaving in August after a faithful and successful part-time ministry. On June 3 a business meeting was called to consider a recommendation from officers in reference to a full-time preacher. A unanimous decision was reached, and an invitation has now been extended to a preacher for full-time work. Mr. and Mrs. Ide, from Mile End, have been received by transfer. Appearance of church property has been improved by removal of front fence which has been there for over forty years, and by having pathways around chapel all asphalted. Mrs. Scuds is improving after operation. A. H. Harris has been laid aside at his home.

Adelaide (Grote-st.).—On May 30, attendances were affected by lack of transport. C. P. Hughes, of S.A. Alliance, spoke in morning and W. Beiler preached at night. Evening meetings have been shortened during Appelman campaign to allow congregation to attend after-church service. On June 6, morning service was broadcast, when Dr. Hyman Appelman was speaker. There was a good congregation, and whole service was inspiring. Choir sang an anthem and Miss M. Leedham a solo. Welcome was extended to Mr. and Mrs. Inglis, who as a result of special campaign had expressed desire for re-consecration. At evening service there were two confessions, Mr. Beiler preaching. Chapel and lecture hall were packed with an overflow congregation from Tivoli Theatre Sunday afternoon and evening, services being relayed. Many were in this way able to hear the doctor's life story and closing address of campaign.

Victoria

Minyip.—On April 25, Margaret Westerland was received into fellowship. On May 23 a successful "every member present" service was held, 37 attending, including visitors. Members came who had not attended for many years. A splendid address was given by Mr. Mathieson, from Horsham. Thankoffering amounted to £24/15/-. A happy time was spent at tea at conclusion of service. Mr. Barnett's addresses are helpful. His visitation of brethren, especially of outlying folk, is greatly appreciated.

Merbein.—Mother's Day services were held on May 9. Mr. Snow, of Mildura, addressed morning congregation. Members of newly-formed Men's Fellowship entertained mothers to tea prior to gospel service, at which P. Whitmore delivered a fine address to a good congregation. On May 2, Women's Mission Band held annual meeting, when a number of new members were present. A successful tennis social was held on evening of May 21; 90 young people were present. Visiting speakers during month have been Mr. Gibson, of B. & F. Bible Society, and Mr. Oliver, of Evangelisation Society of Australia.

Coburg.—On May 30 Mrs. Wilson and Miss M. Roberts were received into membership from Brunswick. Church expresses sympathy with Mrs. Williams and family in sudden death of husband, Frank, on May 23. Sympathy is also expressed to relatives of Mrs. Chapman, who was called home on May 30. There were good meetings on June 6. Miss Bayley, of West Coburg Baptist Church, was soloist at night. A. R. Lloyd has entered his fourth year of ministry with church. At Ladies' Guild annual meeting following were appointed: President, Mrs. Lloyd; vice-president, Mrs. E. Parker; secretary, Mrs. Gray; treasurer, Mrs. Phelan; Mission Band superintendent, Mrs. Bullock, sen.; convener of Social Service Committee, Mrs. Chambers; "Goodly Pearls," Mrs. Phelan.

Prahran.—One more week of Hinrichsen-Machin mission remains. There have been 34 decisions, and a number of former members have come back into fellowship. Members have been greatly strengthened and inspired by the mission. Over 100 broke bread on June 20, when an "every-member-present" service was held. Mrs. Jeffry spoke to Ladies' Fellowship on Buffalo Convention.

Red Hill.—Several C.E. members paid a visit to Frankston church to attend Endeavor rally on May 27. On May 30 R. McKenzie (college) preached morning and evening. N. Moore conducted morning and evening services on June 6. Attendance at gospel meeting on June 13 was best for some time, N. Moore preaching. Mr. and Mrs. A. Greaves were able to attend after sickness. Mr. Manning (Parkdale church) addressed a splendid meeting on June 15 in preparation for a mission and a time of personal evangelism in and around district.

Geelong.—All services on June 13 were inspiring. In morning J. H. Barnden, general secretary Victorian C.E. State Union, was speaker. About 30 delegates attending State C.E. Convention were present. Church was responsible for billeting of 40 delegates. At evening meeting a baseball parade was held, when about 50 baseballers attending "Baseball Carnival" were present. This meeting proved to be inspiring. C.E. delegates gave testimonies, and Mr. Tippett (president of Geelong Baseball Association) assisted Mr. Stirling (president C.E. Union of Geelong) to conduct meeting. On Monday a bus load of church members journeyed to Ballarat for half-yearly conference. Combined tennis and basketball teams went also, and a day of helpful fellowship was enjoyed.

Stawell.—On May 9, Mother's Day, Mr. Mudford preached in morning; young people of C.E. took part at gospel service; Valma Mudford was at organ; Beth O'Neill read scripture; young people of C.E. sang. Bill O'Neill gave address. Mr. Hibbert was speaker on May 16 and 30. In absence of Mr. Mudford on holidays, Mr. Mortyn addressed both services on May 23. On June 1 a social evening and presentation were given to Marjorie Stokes and Bill O'Neill, married in chapel on June 12, Mr. Mudford officiating. Mr. Williams, of Kaniva, showed pictures of mission work in New Hebrides on June 12, and gave an address on mission work on June 13 at morning meeting. Mr. Hibbert's address at night was enjoyed. Mr. Jackson, who underwent a serious operation, is now progressing well.

North Richmond.—On May 30, Bible school anniversary services commenced. Children sang well under P. Chipperfield. Cradle roll children were presented with prizes after an interesting talk by H. Earle, who also gave address in morning. C. Young gave children's address in evening. On June 6, services continued with E. McIlhagger speaking in morning, E. Williams addressing children in afternoon, and L. Trezise speaking in evening. Three girls from Bible school confessed Christ. On June 9, anniversary drew to a successful close with an excellent scholars' concert. A. Alderson is helping young people greatly in their spiritual life as well as looking after them socially. A presentation was made to Mr. Chipperfield for his part in conducting children in singing, and to C. Young, on behalf of church, on eve of his departure to Queensland for holiday with Mrs. Young. Good wishes of church go with these two tireless workers. Mrs. McDonald is in hospital undergoing an operation. While C. Young is in Queensland, Mr. Atkin will carry out an interim ministry. Continued good response to weekly Sunday prayer meetings is heartening. Young people's club is still functioning well, and Y.W.L., under E. Addicott, is steadily increasing each Sunday.

Yarrawonga.—A wide district was represented at a convention, arranged by Upwey Extension Movement, on June 5. It proved a time of blessing to all, and many young people dedicated themselves to a "life of holiness." On the Sunday morning Mr. Colless made a confession of faith in Christ.

Bayswater.—Combined church meeting was held in Bayswater hall on evening of May 30. Mr. George Reynolds was speaker. Boronia Choral Society sang two anthems. Church officers conducted C.E. meeting on June 1. Eastern District Conference was held on King's Birthday week-end, and church enjoyed fellowship with neighboring churches.

Doncaster.—Women's Mission Band held birthday gathering on afternoon of June 17. Visitors from suburban mission bands and representatives from local congregations made a total of about 80 present. Mrs. Ploog gave the birthday talk; Miss Milton was soloist. Young Worshippers' League, under guidance of superintendent Miss L. Petty and Mr. Banks, held a happy hike on Saturday afternoon, refreshments being provided.

Balwyn.—Church is pleased to report spiritual uplift since D. A. V. Thomas commenced his ministry. Through-the-week activities, in form of clubs, etc., provide a programme for every night of week. On June 13, two girls of school were baptised, and on June 20 two young men confessed Christ. Church is in midst of preparation for visitation evangelism campaign. Some members are not very well; among these is J. E. Austin, who is ordered by doctor to rest in bed for some weeks.

Ballarat (Peel-st.).—Work continues in good heart under leadership of Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie. One young lady, Joan McKay, made the good confession and was baptised on June 6. Mr. Reid (Dawson-st.) gave a challenging address at morning service. Mr. McKenzie preached on morning of June 13, and Miss Quayle (missionary, India) gave a fine talk on work in India. A happy time was experienced at South-Western District Conference on King's Birthday. Addresses of Mr. Wilkie and Mr. Pigdon were helpful.

Caulfield (Bambra-rd).—Outstanding features of month of May were Youth Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and 28th anniversary services of church. Attendances were encouraging, and addresses of E. C. Hinrichsen and F. A. Youens appreciated. Thankoffering was £110. Sisters catered for youth tea, Men's Fellowship and church anniversary dinner, where groups of 70, 35 and 150 respectively were provided for. Mesdames Barton and Machin, with co-operation of sisters, are congratulated on high standard of excellence. On May 23 L. R. G. Smith, a former elder, addressed morning service. Reports from all auxiliaries at annual meeting disclosed activity and success and reflect credit upon leaders. Three young men who recently confessed Christ have been baptised and received into church. Still more recently three young women have also been baptised. Faithful ministry of W. W. Saunders is cause for thanksgiving. At annual business meeting R. A. Jenner, T. H. Thomas and W. A. Brown were re-elected elders and Messrs. Rutherford, Pudey, Goodman, Machin, Staley, Dowsey, McIntyre, Ferris, Grenfell elected deacons; treasurer, E. R. Padey; secretary, W. A. Brown. Church recently honored Mrs. H. Miller, matron-elect of Christian Guest Home; Misses G. and E. Johnson and G. Peters, who have removed to Belgrave; also Miss A. Davey, who has given 14 years' service as treasurer of choir. Fellowship is enjoyed with visitors, including Miss Ball, missionary from Norseman, W.A. Four church families have suffered bereavement—Mr. and Mrs. Frencham (nephew); Mrs. Miles (husband), Sister Dowling (uncle), Elsie Hoskin (mother), and similar loss has been suffered by Mrs. R. Staley. Three who have received the home-call were faithful members at Bambra-rd. Sympathy is expressed to all bereaved. On June 13 football club held a church parade. There was a baptismal service, and a young lady made the good confession after a splendid gospel address by Mr. Saunders.

West Preston.—Preparations are proceeding for visitation evangelistic drive to commence on June 27. H. Turnham addressed church on June 13. Building was filled on June 20, when J. Turner, of North Fitzroy, spoke in support of overseas missions. Mr. Withers preached at night. A talent quest is being organised, and it is hoped to make this a regular yearly feature. Object is to provide a scholarship for young people who show outstanding talent to continue their studies, and so develop any special gifts.

Preston.—Attendances during past few weeks have been good. Issue of a news-sheet each fortnight has commenced. Choir is functioning splendidly, and is a great help in evening services. Mr. Scarle's visitation is appreciated. At P.B.P. Club on June 15, Miss B. Salisbury and Miss B. Spargo gave an interesting account of holiday trip to Tasmania. An arts and crafts evening arranged by Bible school on June 19 was successful, scholars taking part in impromptu and prepared readings and musical competitions. There was an interesting display of work and hobbies.

Melbourne (Swanston-st.).—Meetings of Central Christian Fellowship were resumed on June 6, and much interest is evident. In connection with the fellowship, there is a study group at 4.30 every Sunday afternoon, followed by tea and attendance at evening gospel service. K. A. Macnaughtan has been speaker at all recent services, there being excellent attendances each Sunday evening for series of addresses on prophecy, which series is to be followed by another series of ten special addresses commencing on first Sunday evening in July. E. Morris Price recently returned after a business trip to U.S., U.K. and Continent.

Ringwood.—During absence of J. E. Allan through illness, appreciated addresses were given by Messrs. Russell, Cooke, Longford, McAlpine, Hodgins and Kemp. "Home-coming" day services were held on June 6, when fellowship with many past members and friends was enjoyed. K. A. Jones was speaker in morning, D. Thomas afternoon, J. E. Allan in evening. All gave inspiring addresses, and building was full for each service. Visiting soloists assisted. Sisters catered for approximately 170 meals. Special offering towards building fund exceeded £52. Speaker at gospel service on June 20 was F. Langford, Mr. Allan being at Bayswater. Church regrets removal from district of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and family.

Footscray.—Attendances at morning and night meetings have been good; average, 104. Several have been added to church by baptism and transfer. On June 1, Ladies' Aid gave a banquet to Mrs. Blanchard and Mrs. Pounsett on their 70th birthday, 25 ladies being present. Suitable presentations were made. All auxiliaries are working hard for a spring fair. On June 5, cricket club held social and presentation night. Trophy winners were: Champion, A. Hedley; batting, A. Drayton; bowling, A. Jones; catches, N. Little; most improved, K. Hargraves; best clubman, L. Hamid. On June 6, at Christian Men's Society, A. H. Brooks, of Paisley-st. Baptist church, gave an interesting address on his chaplain's work in army. Ladies' Guild is having good meetings. K.S.P. had three new members.

Oakleigh.—Three further confessions by Bible school scholars have been made. Three were baptised on June 13 and 20. On June 13, 49 boys and assistant superintendent from Burwood Boys' Home were given hospitality in members' homes, and were present at gospel service. S. Neighbour's excellent youth address was illustrated by lantern slides. Over 150 filled chapel, and offering for home realised £10. A. W. Stephenson inspired members by address on morning of June 20. Mrs. Neighbour was present for first time since early January. Church rejoices with her in great measure of recovery. Mr. Neighbour was preacher at gospel service. Student Lloyd Cook, after having rendered valued service since October last, has been called to weekend ministry at Collingwood.

Blackburn.—Owing to a slight accident, Mr. Quirk was unable to speak on June 20, although he was well enough to be present in congregation. Mrs. Quirk is also making good recovery. Helpful addresses were given by W. McDowell in morning and Mr. Sandells in evening. H. Stacker was present after being away for some time. Roy Hone was baptised on June 13 and welcomed into church.

Frankston-Mooroodeuc.—C.E. held a successful rally, when R. J. Anderson (Bentleigh) showed religious films. Several visiting societies were present. At Women's Mission Band Mrs. M. Bentley gave a delightful talk on her visit to Mt. Margaret Mission, W.A., where Miss Ethel Bentley is stationed. A young man was welcomed into fellowship at Frankston. A boy and girl confessed Christ at Mooroodeuc, R. V. Holmes preaching. On June 13, at morning service, A. W. Stephenson gave a stirring address on visitation evangelism. Increased attendance at morning service is encouraging. Fellowship and help of Mr. and Mrs. J. Mann during their ten months at Frankston were appreciated. They have removed nearer Melbourne. Young people of Frankston and Mooroodeuc had a happy social on June 19.

Shepparton.—Miss I. Gill, of Youth Department, spent a week with church. She met all auxiliaries, and addressed meetings of young people. Her advice on youth work was appreciated. Morning services are well attended, with helpful addresses from D. H. Butler. Church held Temple Day meetings on week-end of May 22 and 23, when W. Gale and J. Abercrombie came from Melbourne to join with local members in a tea and discussion group on Saturday. Sunday morning saw chapel packed to hear the challenging address by Mr. Abercrombie. At night Mr. Gale's sermon was an inspiration. Offering for Temple Day has reached £55. Several members have been away through sickness. On June 13, morning service was addressed by Lionel Dudley, of Echuca, in interest of foreign missions, and speaker in evening was Mr. Edgar, of Mission to Lepers.

North Essendon.—Members have been enthusiastic during and since visitation evangelistic campaign, 18 making decision for Christ and one being restored. All meetings are bigger in attendance, and spiritual life of church is on higher plane. There have been twelve baptisms since commencement of campaign. Mr. and Mrs. A. Moloney were received by letter from Kalgoorlie (W.A.) on June 13. Albert Fox is in Royal Melbourne Hospital awaiting major operation. Women's Mission Band celebrated twelfth anniversary on June 8 with good attendance, several sister churches bringing greetings. A church picnic was held at Ferny Creek on King's Birthday, about 50 attending. Midweek prayer meetings are still held in homes and are well attended. Christian Men's Society had tea on June 20, and A. Dyer, from Melbourne University, spoke ably on "Atomic Energy"; about 30 men attended. This society has undertaken to make several needed improvements to church building.

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SWAN HILL DISTRICT, VICTORIA

THE annual conference in connection with the Swan Hill district was held on June 13 and 14, resulting in delightful fellowship and enthusiastic meetings. A large delegation of young people from Mildura was accommodated on property of D. A. Cockcroft at Woorinen. Other visitors from Red Cliffs, Merbein and Daretton were placed in homes of members throughout district. Delegations were also present from Boundary Bend and Murrabit. Chapels at Woorinen and Ultima were crowded out on Sunday morning and afternoon. Many were forced to sit on and around platforms. Gospel service at Swan Hill reminded many of the grand days of years ago—132 assembled and enjoyed the address of T. A. Fitzgerald, of Fairfield church. The spirit of devotion and worship was very marked. After church A. D. Leng, of Mildura, showed pictures of his trip to U.S.A. during world conference.

Monday conference meetings were well attended, and much time was given to discussing future plans. A resolution was received pledging interest in, and support of, new settlement field at Robinvale. An all-out effort is to be made in August to free Swan Hill from debt, with view to erecting a new chapel at most opportune time. Conference offering was largest ever received in this district.

Usual services at Swan Hill have been on increase for some months. Three young people have made decision for Christ and have been baptised. After Mr. Candy had conducted monthly broadcast service in May, he was requested to visit a certain home. At the interview two elderly ladies made the good confession in their own kitchen, and were baptised in chapel following Wednesday afternoon.

WANTED

Four sawmill hands and four fallers wanted for Redgum Sawmill on Murray River at Boundary Bend. Good wages. For further particulars apply to Chislett Bros., Private Bag, Piangil, Vic.

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COMING EVENTS

JULY 2.—Women's Conference Executive Council will meet at Swanston-st. on Friday, July 2, at 2 p.m. Speaker, Mr. E. Watson. Subject, "The Position of Women in India at the Present Time." Leader of devotions, Mrs. Cartmel.

SWANSTON-ST. CHURCH.
(Opp. Public Library.)

JUNE 27.

11 a.m., "India: Yesterday, To-day and To-morrow."
4.30 p.m., Study Circle: "The Holy Spirit."
7 p.m., Final subject of prophetic series, "Signs of the Times."

Preacher: K. A. Macnaughtan.

N.B.—From July 5 the chapel will be open 12 noon to 2 p.m. for prayer and meditation.

HINRICHSEN-MACHIN MISSION.

Week nights, chapel, High-st., Prahran,
8 p.m.

FINAL NIGHT.

PRAHRAN TOWN HALL,

Next Sunday, JUNE 27, 7 p.m.

Great Thanksgiving Service.

Subject, "A Feast for a Thousand and One."

EAST KEW 25th ANNIVERSARY.

SUNDAY, JULY 11.

MONDAY, JULY 12, Fellowship Tea.

All who are planning to join in these celebrations please advise F. H. Elliott, 22 Bedford-ave., East Kew. 'Phone, WL2983.

Back to the "Little Church on the Hill."

Make it a great occasion.

DEATHS

FEARY.—On June 13, at his residence, 185 Eureka-st., Ballarat, William George, beloved husband of Catherine, father of Florence (Mrs. S. Rowsell), Harold, Vera (Mrs. Quayle), Bert, Elva (Mrs. Cooke), Jack, Mavis (Mrs. A. Collins). Aged 77 years.

HUNTSMAN.—On June 4, 1948, at her residence, 33 Welfare-pde., Ashburton, Lydia, beloved daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. B. Huntsman, and dearly loved sister of Benjamin W. (deceased), Jeanie (deceased), Fanny (Mrs. Ryall), Emily (Mrs. Blamires), Elsie and Albert. "Forever with the Lord."

IN MEMORIAM

BARRY.—In loving memory of my dear wife and daughter of Mrs. Young, of Carlton, who passed to a higher service on June 19, 1945.

I have lost my life's companion,

A life linked with my own,

And day by day I miss you more

As I walk through life alone.

Her love was great, her heart was kind,

A better wife no one could find.

I who loved her shall never forget.

—Inserted by her loving husband and mother and sisters.

CURNOW (Jacobs).—In loving memory of Alma, who was called home on June 25, 1944.

Loved and remembered the same to-day

As in the hour you passed away;

Resting where no shadows fall,

In perfect peace she awaits us all.

—Inserted by sister Freda and brother-in-law Alex.

KESTLE.—In loving remembrance of our dear wife and mother, Sarah Elizabeth, who passed to be with the Lord on June 29, 1946.

Will always be remembered.

"Always loving, gentle and kind,

A beautiful memory left behind."

—Inserted by her loving husband, J. H. Kestle, and members of the family.

MIDDLEMISS.—In loving memory of my beloved wife, who went to be with her Lord, June 27, 1944.

Time passes on, but memory stays.

STEWART.—In loving memory of my dear husband Albert, who passed away June 28, 1946.

In mind a constant thought,

In heart a silent sorrow.

—E.S.

TRABINGER.—In loving memory of my dear son Fredrick, and my dear daughter-in-law Josephine, died on June 27, 1940, and his dear beloved wife on Sept. 13, 1947. Beloved mother and father of Brian and Noel Trabinger. Father and mother re-united in God's care.

—Inserted by his loving mother, Mrs. H. Trabinger, sen., 79 Arnold-st., Bendigo.

THANKS

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Langley, of Montrose church, Victoria, would ask all who by letter, telegram or personally have congratulated them on the occasion of their Golden Wedding, to accept their sincere thanks for all the good wishes expressed, and to assure all that it was a joy to receive so many congratulations and good wishes from so many old friends.

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Our Young People

CAMPS AND CAMP SITES, VICTORIA

SEVENTY-EIGHT men from the Christian Men's Society visited Monbulk Youth Camp property on Saturday, May 15. After a good inspection of the property, fellowship was enjoyed over a dinner prepared by the catering committee of the Women's Conference.

Working parties from Bayswater, Essendon and Box Hill have recently assisted in the development of the camp property at Monbulk. W. Davis and W. Hibbert have willingly co-operated in supervising the work.

Plans are being developed for the erection of living quarters for girls at the camp property at Hall's Gap.

Another successful First Degree Good Companions' camp was held at Monbulk from May 17 to 21. 132 girls and leaders studied the theme, "Highways of Comradeship," under the headings of "Highways of Adventure," "Truth," "Service," "Friendship," and "Love." Mornings were given to duties and studies, and the afternoons to recreation. Evenings were times of happy fellowship. Two country churches were represented. The camp was under the leadership of eight camp "aunties" and eleven group leaders.

Weed-end, June 12 to 14, marked the first camp at Monbulk of girls of the Second Degree Good Companions.

Clubs

Our own movements for boys and girls in Australia are gaining in numbers and interest. Good Companion clubs for girls have been commenced at Ballarat (Peele-st.), Boronia, Box Hill, Drumcondra, Hartwell, Malvern, Ormond, Shepparton. An efficiency campaign amongst Explorer Clubs for boys commenced on May 30. The campaign will last for seven weeks. Aims include 1000 boys attending club, 1000 boys attending Bible school, £50 toward a sound movie projector. Clubs are preparing for the indoor sports championships at the North Richmond church on July 10.

Bible Schools

The annual scripture examination will be held in most schools on July 11. Record entries have been received. The Bible School Committee has formed a home Bible school department for isolated children. Several teachers' conferences are being planned.

Finance

The Youth Department has received £120 from the National Fitness Council. The amount has been allocated in various amounts to different aspects of the department's work. Reports to hand concerning the recent annual offering indicate that the total will probably be a little in excess of last year. This, however, will not meet the required budget. Where churches have not thus far reached the suggested budget, the department urges that ways be considered of attaining the full amount before the end of the conference year.

—B. F. Huntsman.



HAPPY HOURS AT FLINDERS PARK, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

S.A. Youth Department and Flinders Park church conducted a week of Happy Hours recently. The building is only 35 ft. x 25 ft. Attendances for each day were 160, 235, 275, 290, 235 children; 333 children attended altogether. Of these there were 105 Methodists, 86 from churches of Christ, 54 from the Church of England, 8 Roman Catholics, and one each of Pentecostals, Christadelphians, Baptists and Brethren. 74 did not attend any Sunday

school. These are now being visited by teachers. Six children came to Sunday school before the visiting commenced. Mr. Ron McLean is carrying on the Happy Hours once a week. Programmes during the special week included educational sound films, strip pictures of the life of Christ, Bible stories and quizzes, items by the children, missionary stories, and expression work. Mr. Matthews, of Semaphore, with the help of some of his own Happy Hour Club girls, put on Bible puppetry shows on two of the days. On the Sunday after this special effort three young people from the Flinders Park Bible class decided for Christ.—G. R. Stirling.

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Preachers in New South Wales

Our correspondent, Ethelbert Davis, writes of the movement of preachers, giving interesting information.

THE shortage of preachers in this State has become acute, and has been accentuated by the removal of several to other States. In addition, several have dropped out of the full-time ministry.

About Preachers

After ten years in the Newcastle district Roy Wilson has gone to the historic church at Lygon-st., Carlton, Melbourne. He served at Hamilton for a short term, and when the new church started at Mayfield after a Hinrichsen mission, he became the first preacher. At Mayfield he did an outstanding work, and assisted largely in the advancement of the churches in Newcastle. On June 8, at a dinner in the Y.M.C.A., Sydney, he was farewelled, when a number of representative brethren spoke appreciatively of his ministry at Newcastle, and wished him God's blessing in his new field of labor.

Roy Wilson is succeeded at Mayfield by Roy Acland, of Mosman, who is, this year, president of State conference. Mr. Acland commences his ministry at the end of June. His removal from Sydney to Newcastle will necessitate a deal of travel in the fulfilment of his presidential duties.

Geo. Burns has resigned from the church at Rockdale, where he has labored for the past four years. After a four years' absence he returns to the church at Mosman, where his previous ministry extended over nine years. He recently retired from the position of hon. secretary to the Home Mission Committee, a service he rendered the brotherhood for over ten years.

After forty-three years in the ministry of the church, G. D. Verco retires from the ministry at the end of July. Trained at Kentucky, U.S.A., he returned to Australia, and his home city, Sydney, in 1910. His first appointment was to Mosman, Sydney. After five years in Victoria, he moved to New Zealand, where he ministered for twenty-four years. Leaving New Zealand he spent five years in Queensland. Returning to New South Wales he labored with the churches at Hamilton, Granville and Parramatta North. G. D. Verco has through the years been one of our honored preachers.

There retired from the ranks of the active

Australian Churches of Christ Foreign Mission Board Inc.

Advise

More Missionaries on Field.
More Schools Opened.
More Buildings Needed.
More Equipment Needed.
More Orphans in Homes.
More Patients in Hospitals.
More People Helped.

Therefore

More Prayer Requested.
More General Interest.
More Liberality Urged.

ANNUAL OFFERING, JULY 4, 1948.



A. Anderson, 261 Magill-rd., Tranmere, S.A.
Secretary.

ministry some years ago John Clydesdale. We feel sure that the many friends of John would wish to hear something of him and his good wife. We visited them recently in their home at Canley Vale. Both of them are suffering indifferent health. They are pressing on toward the journey's end with their eyes fixed steadily on him who has been their Friend and Stay all the journey through. Their Christian love they would extend to all the friends of bygone years.

Speakers' Plan

There happens to lie before us on the desk this moment the "Speakers' Plan." The churches of Christ in Sydney draw up each half year a plan of speakers for the Lord's day morning meeting. Running one's eye down the list of names, we find that there are over ninety men who are not devoting their whole time to the work of preaching the gospel. These ninety men are preaching more or less regularly on Sunday mornings. Many of these men are really able speakers, and are an asset to the churches. Some local churches have five or six of their men preaching Sunday after Sunday. It is a splendid thing to see these men using their talents in this way.

Temple Day

Another matter of interest is news of Temple Day at the City Temple. This congregation is carrying on against heavy odds. The distances many members have to travel and the cost of fares to-day make regular attendance difficult. However, good congregations assembled on Temple Day, when the offering reached about £180. The afternoon service took the form of a "pleasant Sunday afternoon." The speaker was Mrs. McCleod, of Mosman Spastic Centre. She gave a most informative address on "The Place of the Spastic Child in the Community." W. J. Crossman continues his ministry with the City Temple congregation.

Obituary

David Williams

THE church at Naracoorte, S.A., has lost by death one of its oldest and most highly respected members in the passing of David Williams on May 15 at the age of 82 years. He was baptised by the late P. F. Warhurst during his ministry at Naracoorte over 30 years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Williams removed to the church at Norwood for a period of about ten years. During that time Mrs. Williams passed away and Mr. Williams returned to Naracoorte to live with his daughter. A very loyal and faithful brother, he was a consistent member, occupying the office of an elder and assisting in the conduct of the worship services. After a comparatively short illness he passed peacefully to his rest. His remains were taken to Adelaide and laid to rest beside his dear wife in Payneham Cemetery, W. Beiler and H. Cave assisting in services at the mortuary chapel and at the graveside. He leaves a family of three, one daughter, Pearl (Mrs. Burford) and Lindsay and Vernon to mourn his passing; but they have the comforting assurance of the glorious Christian hope that he has just gone before to be ever with the Lord.—A.H.

The Australian Christian

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ton, Tas.
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A Scientist's Hymn

F. J. Funston has selected as the hymn
for July No. 55, planned for July 4.

SIR JAMES EDWARD SMITH is probably
unique in the history of science—he
founded a scientific society and remained its
president for 40 years. As a hymnwriter he
may also be unique—his hymns are consistently
alleged by some to have been produced, not
by their reputed author, but by his wife!
His wife is also at least a little unusual, for
biographical notes on her begin with the
startling entry: "Lady Pleasance Reeve Smith,
1773-1877."

Sir James, by an extraordinary coincidence,
began his study of botany on the very day
that Linnaeus, the Swedish botanist, died.
When the great Linnaean collections came
into the market a few years later, Smith
bought them and, for their study, founded
the Linnaean Society, of which he was presi-
dent until his death in 1828. He wrote many
botanical works (one of 36 volumes!) and
by his fluent style, popularised the science.
His interest in the things of the spirit was
as absorbing as his life-work in science, and
a group of hymns testifies to his faith.

Lady Pleasance, was a perfect helpmate; her
memoir of him shows that she entered fully
into all sides of his life. The dignity, grace
and intellectual vigor of the hostess helped
to make their home an ideal rallying-point
for literary and scientific folk. At 97 she
is reported as having "bright manners, bright
eyes and clear sight, a face still handsome, with
healthy color in her well-rounded cheeks.
Her voice has a cheerful ring." She was a
centenarian before she experienced a sick-
bed; in her 104th year, she entertained friends
and was almost daily out driving. A few
days before her death she courteously cor-
rected a friend concerning the authorship of
a hymn.

"Praise waits in Zion, Lord, for thee" is
the only hymn of Sir James—or Lady Pleas-
ance?—that we use to-day and must not be
confused with one by Dr. Watts, using the
same opening line, but continuing: "There
shall our vows be paid." Both, of course,
take their stimulus from Psalm 65, but Watts
adheres closely to the psalm itself, while
Smith uses it as a starting-point for a wider
and more poetic meditation on God's goodness.

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