

weekly.

The Australian Christian

National Weekly Representing Churches of Christ



Typical Scenes in and Around Australian Cities and Towns.

Call Comes From New Housing Areas



A Need

Young families, living in many new suburbs near Australian cities and towns, need the ministry of the church.

A Solution

Who ought to be responsible for the purchasing of land in these newer districts? We believe it would be of great advantage if several local churches took upon themselves the burden of fostering the establishment of a new cause in one of these growing suburbs.

ONE WORLD IN CHRIST, THE LORD

POLAND

Position of Churches

THE last world war has brought great changes in the distribution of church members throughout the churches in Poland. Owing to the systematic extermination of whole communities of Poles by the Nazis, and also as a result of cession of territory to the U.S.S.R., the number of church members has fallen considerably.

The church with the largest number of members was, and still is, the Roman Catholic Church, which had 22,900,000 members in 1929, and now has about 19,500,000. The Orthodox Church, which had some 4,000,000 members before the war, now has only 430,000, while the membership of the Polish Protestant churches during the same period has fallen from 750,000 to 250,000.

Before the war the Orthodox and Protestant church members, together with the practising Jews, formed 36 per cent. of the total population; to-day they form only 4 per cent. The

Protestant Christianity finds itself facing a world situation which calls for something far over and above what has been done before if the church is to meet its missionary obligation and responsibility. In an effort to arouse the church membership as a whole to a sense of the urgency and need for greater participation in the ongoing world mission of the church, some twenty-six boards are planning simultaneous co-ordinated meetings.

The first step will be the Foreign Missions Assembly, to be held in Columbus, Ohio, from October 6 to 8, 1948. The 3500 delegates are to be leaders of denominational life, already committed to the cause of Christ overseas. Their task will be to carry out into their denominations the inspiration, conviction and sense of togetherness in the work of foreign missions which they have gained at the assembly.

In order to present the programme of advance to the public at large, a series of regional meetings, unique in nature, will be held all over the American continent from October 19 to November 19, 1948. These meetings should focus the attention of the entire Christian com-

so disunited, the Christian forces should be coming so much closer together.

"The World Council of Churches is a 'fellowship of churches which accept our Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour.' All the member churches remain independent. The World Council does not interfere with their doctrine or their government. But it is a permanent organ for helping them to present the Christian witness together. . . .

"The church, as we know it, is weak and divided. To many it seems irrelevant and remote from realities. Churchmen and churchwomen may well feel shame, and face the tasks to which they are called with fear and trembling. And yet there is a great work to be done through the church of God. It exists to bear witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and to proclaim his Kingship over all created things. It has, therefore, also to defend the freedom of the individual human being; to resist tyranny wherever found; to maintain every man's right to a just share of the good things of this life; and to seek peace between all nations."



Polish Delegates at a World Convention of Churches of Christ.

Roman Catholics, who used to be 64 per cent. of the total population, are now in the overwhelming majority, forming 96 per cent. of the total.

But this fact is counterbalanced by the fact that the other churches now enjoy equal privileges with the Roman Catholic Church before the law whereas before the war—in spite of the freedom of conscience anchored in the Polish Constitution of 1921—they did not receive recognition as organised church units. The State observes this innovation to the letter. In the Army there are now both Roman Catholic and Protestant chaplains. This is important, especially in districts where, as in East or West Prussia, the proportion of Catholics to Protestants is estimated as 4.1 (whereas up to 1945 the proportion was 1.4). However, the higher departments of State are keeping a careful watch to see that the religious minorities can preach their faith without restriction.

NORTH AMERICA

"One World in Christ"

SIXTY-SIX Protestant denominations in the United States and Canada have decided to start a campaign for a programme of advance of foreign mission. As an aftermath of war

munity on the desperate spiritual needs throughout the world, and the responsibility of Protestant Christianity for bringing about a Christian world recovery.

GREAT BRITAIN

"Lambeth and Amsterdam"

"I ASK you to pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon two conferences of Christian leaders, one at Lambeth Palace and the other in Amsterdam," writes Dr. G. K. A. Bell, Bishop of Chichester, in a pastoral letter to his diocese. Dr. Bell traced the history of the Lambeth Conference, begun in 1867, and held at intervals of ten years. More than three hundred bishops of the Anglican communion were expected from every part of the globe, the subject of discussion being, "God in his church and in his world."

The bishop went on to speak as follows of the Amsterdam assembly: "It is a wonderful thing that in this very year when the world is

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BELGIUM

Roman Catholics' View of Unity.

AN important article on the ecumenical problem, with the above title, has appeared in the Belgian Roman Catholic review, "Nouvelle Revue Théologique" (April, 1948). The author is Mgr. Chevrot, curate of Saint-Francois Xavier in Paris.

He writes: "Only God can restore the unity which we have destroyed." We can already see his first response to the prayers of Christians. It is an experienced fact that those divided Christians, who realise more intensely the importance of unity, immediately attach themselves more closely to Jesus Christ. "Instead of thinking themselves superior to members of other groups, they share the same ambition: that all who claim the name of Christian should be better hearers and followers of Jesus Christ. . . . This simultaneous sense of remorse, of desire and of prayer" is an action of the Holy Spirit.

The goal before us is the restoration of the body of Christ. "It is clear that the restoration of the unity of the church will not be effected through individuals returning to the Roman Catholic faith. . . . The problem of conversion is on an entirely different plane from that of ecumenism." This restoration must be thought out and prepared in relation to the whole community, and its sole motive should be the churches' mutual desire to be absolutely loyal to the teaching of Jesus Christ. Unity is impossible unless everyone sincerely accepts the same truth. In the past certain non-Roman groups envisaged reunion based on a common denominator, consisting of a few dogmas recognised by all, while admitting the possibility of doctrinal diversities; but this conception of ecumenism is out of date. It is no longer a question of union, but a question of unity. "This unity is the purpose of the big ecumenical conferences. . . . The only victory at which one aims is the victory of Jesus Christ, to whom we are united by the charity which links us to one another."

The first thing to be done by the Christians of every church, so as to open their hearts to the light of the Holy Spirit (the only power which can overcome our differences) is prayer in love. There must be no clever tactics and no ulterior motives of proselytism.

Churches for New Housing Areas

WITHIN recent years large areas around Australian cities and towns have been secured by various authorities for new housing settlements. To avoid the dullness associated with the irregularity of house-building in former times, experts have drawn plans of ideal garden suburbs. In addition to playgrounds and recreation centres, provision has been made to reserve land for church buildings. To provide opportunity, in each section of an area, for people to enjoy church worship and religious training, various religious groups are allotted ground at distant points. There cannot be any competition within the immediate vicinity of a church building. By spreading the places of worship throughout the whole district, all sections of the community will have offered them some of the blessings which a Christian church is able to give to young and old. At the same time those who desire to have fellowship with a particular communion may still be able to do so by making an effort. However, when considering property in such housing districts, church members ought to pay attention to the details of a locality, and find out where the church is likely to build.

II.

THIS new method of town planning makes a demand on the brotherhood which did not exist previously. The policy of "wait and see" cannot be adopted now in those circumstances. The authorities in charge of these new areas offer religious bodies, upon an approved basis, the opportunity to enter these districts. Land is reserved for a period for those churches who enter their claim. If no action is taken to secure what is available now, then the right of a church to enter and to build in the district will be lost.

Who ought to be responsible for the purchasing of land in these newer districts? Usually members from nearby churches move out into the new housing community. There ought to be a missionary spirit in every local church, urging always the need of reaching out to those who are not attending church. Where there is such a pioneering outlook in the older church, there is a renewal of life which gives strength. Those churches which are always trying to preserve their numbers and to maintain their own life, lose the vision which is the essence of growth, and they eventually die. We believe it would be of great advantage if several local churches took upon themselves the burden of fostering the establishment of a new cause in one of these growing suburbs.

III.

USUALLY nothing is undertaken in such ventures until somebody takes the initiative and sets the vision before the brethren. While there is no need to wait for a committee, such as the Home Mission Committee, to act, nevertheless it is within the rights of that committee to call together all those who ought to be interested, so that something can be attempted.

At the present it is not easy to undertake building schemes; however, we must not wait to commence Sunday school and church services in these districts until we have first-class plant available. The early Christians made use of homes as places of worship before chapels were built. Why cannot house-churches be developed to-day?

By a survey of the community, many members are likely to be found; children discovered only waiting for a school to be commenced. Already this work is being attempted by brethren in some districts. Why could

we not try to do it in all? As these house-churches develop, they will be able to share much of the responsibility in the new building programme. Even before the chapels are erected there could be strong Bible schools organised.

IV.

BECAUSE of the stress we have made in the rights of a mutual ministry, there is no necessity for us to wait, as other communions do, for a trained "clergyman" to act on our behalf. Let brethren take the task upon themselves, seeking the Lord's guidance, and venture, in faith, in this work.

Once again we are being made aware of the need for young men to be trained to assist in such work. There are not enough preachers to meet the needs of to-day. Classes for the training of young men in public speaking and other church duties are needed in various centres. After a period of training, many of these young people would become able leaders and helpers in the house-churches which we consider ought to be formed in advance of the erection of large church buildings.

With the possibility of large numbers of people migrating here from Europe within the next ten or twenty years, we ought to be planning and working to secure all the opportunities which are being presented to virile Christians. What are we doing about this? What are you doing? Ask the question again and again. If we find an answer in deeds, not just words, we shall be rejoicing soon in seeing a rapidly growing brotherhood of New Testament Christians.



Do We Want Peace?

ONCE again nations are facing up to war. The unfortunate conflict in Palestine, where all the negotiations of the United Nations Organisation failed to reconcile Jew and Arab, is more serious than the scale of fighting suggests. In Palestine, the United Nations Organisation is failing now just as the League of Nations failed in Abyssinia prior to the last war. The league failed because the great nations were not prepared to make the sacrifices involved to prevent the conflict. There is every likelihood that the United Nations Organisation is unable to carry out its policy in Palestine because of the selfishness of peoples concerned in its destiny. What the outcome will be we dare not suggest.

Over against that dark situation the grave events at Berlin are even more disturbing. Unfortunately, all facts of such situations are not made public. We are kept in the dark, and given only information which national leaders in high places consider fit to pass on. We are not, therefore, in a position to pass judgment. We can say, however, that the nations concerned will have more to gain by a peaceful settlement of differences, than by any act of warfare. We have already seen how impoverished, in life and material, a world can be made by war.

One of the finest national acts in recent years is the vast, sacrificial contribution the United States of America is making to the war-torn countries through the Marshall Aid Bill. By rebuilding the health of the war-distressed peoples, peace is made more of a possibility of the future.

The vast sums needed for such aid must be paid by the ordinary citizens of America. Perhaps America and Australia are the two countries where food is abundant and the standard of living high. While America has made a sacrifice for peace, has Australia made any real contribution to the relief of distressed Europe and Asia? If we must have peace, we must sacrifice to possess it.

"The common man has the key to the situation. Responsive to God's Spirit, he may be the instrument of deliverance. But if not, what then? Catastrophe! This seems the inevitable alternative, and then, out of the relics and remains of tragedy God will find those whom he can use to build a good new world."

ALL of us are bound up with global issues upon which committal is imperative. Each one is contributing to the world of to-morrow—a to-morrow which will surely come, and which is very near at hand. Open before us are inevitable alternatives, and it is well that they be faced.

I.

The first alternative is human survival or annihilation. Human destruction may be caused by man's inability to control the devastating instruments of modern science. Planes can fly faster than sound, and have a range sufficient to reach almost any vital position of the globe from a given point. The destructive potential of atomic power or bacteriological assault open hideous and awful possibilities. Those known are terrible enough, but what may be the potentialities of secret devices, and what new possibilities may materialise inside another decade? The destruction of civilisation is a distinct possibility in the present world set up. Survival is subject to one imperative provision. Man's moral capacity must overtake and outpace his scientific advance. To-day he is like an irresponsible child with a deadly weapon which may not be wrested from him. And the world's hope lies in the development of man's moral sense so that powers so potentially destructive may be safe in his hands. That may be almost a fantastic hope, but there is the alternative.

II.

The second alternative relates to a new world centre. For years students of world affairs have declared that the centre of influence was moving from Europe to the Far East. The millions of China, India, Japan and Indies are rousing and becoming increasingly conscious of their powers. No longer will they remain subject to the will of the white man. They wish to carve out their own destiny. Russia, aware of this, has exercised considerable influence there and is seeking more, as also are other interests. Whatever the future, it seems clear that at present the star of the East is on the ascendant. What will be the influence of this new world centre? Some subtle influences are at work, and the future of the world for generations may depend largely upon the answer to this question. What ideals and ideology will dominate there? Will they be materialistic or spiritual? Will they be pagan or Christian? The answer to these questions may bear strongly upon the previously mentioned alternatives of survival or annihilation.

III.

This raises a further question. What will be the effect of the new literacy? Millions of illiterates are learning to read. Vast groups are being translated out of the darkness of illiteracy into the light and freedom of literacy. One of the major factors has been the work of the missionary who has reduced spoken languages to writing, translated the scriptures into these languages and dialects of native people and taught them to read. This process has been stepped up tremendously by the phenomenal efforts and success of Dr. Frank Laubach, whose work in simplifying difficult languages has resulted in many millions having learned to read. 97,000,000 in China alone have become literate

A Good New World

By B. J. Combridge,
of Kaniva, Victoria.

in 27 years. This work has been done for the people's sakes and to advance Christianity, but once people can read, they will read anything they can obtain and understand. What will be the effect of the new literacy? What will these many millions read? What effect will this have upon the character of the new world centre in the East? What effect will it have upon man's advance in moral and spiritual capacity which will qualify him to hold in his hands with safety the frightening and destructive potential of modern science?

These are not merely academic questions. They are real, vital and urgent practical issues. And the final outcome may well depend upon human decision in relation to another alternative: Is the Christianity of the future to be technical, academic, formal, emasculated, or will it be vital, missionary, prophetic, life-changing and world-changing? It may seem foolish to ask what kind of Christianity can meet the situation, but because of varying concepts of Christianity an answer is demanded.

IV.

A recent writer says, "History suggests the co-existence of two Christianities; a Christianity of universal power, and a Christianity of personal piety and human tradition, an unconditional and creative and a compromising and conservative faith. The appearance, the terminology and the doctrine of these two religions are the same. But as a world moving force, the one is alive and the other dead; the one can move mountains, and the other cannot, and indeed, does not seek or wish to move anything; the one is omnipotent and the other impotent. . . . If we are candid we can but confess that our Christianity to-day is of this impotent order." This is a true analysis and the judgment deserved. If the Christianity of the future is to be of this kind, it can do nothing to save the world under sentence of death. It is worse than no Christianity, for it has the appearance without the reality. If, therefore, Christianity continues thus, it appears that we are heading for global catastrophe.

But what of the alternative? Can a dynamic and life changing Christianity be expected? The answer depends not upon church leaders merely, but upon the common man. The Christian faith has always been at its best



B. J. Combridge.

when its spirit has captivated the life of the rank and file. True Christianity can never be merely a religion of clerics. The only thing which can ensure a vital life-changing Christianity is a new spirit resurgent in the hearts and lives of the common people of the world responsive to the will of God. It is useless to pray, "Thy will be done on earth," and then pursue our selfish ways, bent upon exercising our personal liberties in the indulgence of sensual habits, which deaden all powers of delicate perception, and unfit ourselves for the supreme tasks of co-operation with God in the redemption of humanity, body, soul and spirit. The common man has the key to the situation. Responsive to God's Spirit, he may be the instrument of deliverance. But if not, what then? Catastrophe! This seems the inevitable alternative, and then, out of the relics and remains of tragedy, God will find those whom he can use to build a good new world.

Good new world there will be. But will it come and avert catastrophe, or will it grow out of catastrophe? That is the final alternative, and the common man has the answer?

Wanted



Wanted: Men!
Not systems fit and wise,
Not faiths with rigid eyes,
Not wealth in mountain piles,
Not power with gracious smiles,
Not even the potent pen—
Wanted: Men!

Wanted: Deeds!
Not words of winning note,
Not thoughts from life remote,
Not fond religious airs,
Not sweetly languid prayers,
Not love of scent and creeds—
Wanted: Deeds!

Men and Deeds!
Men that can dare and do,
Not longing for the new,
Not prating of the old;
Good life and action bold:
These the occasion needs—
Men and Deeds!

—Duncan Macgregor.

India, Land of Need

A. Anderson writes of appreciation for food sent from Australia and of the urgency of maintaining this help.

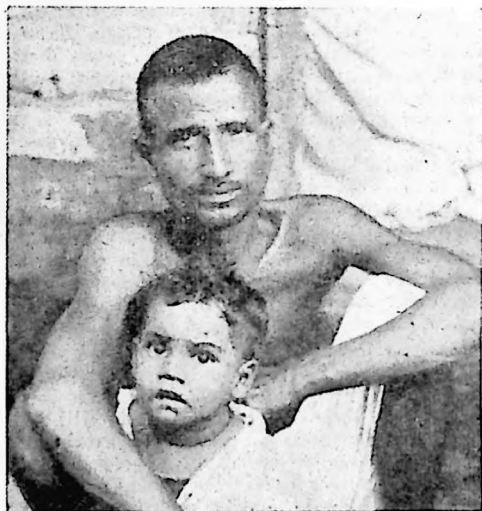
MANY enquiries have been made during the past six months as to the wisdom of sending food parcels to India. Customs duties in India are high, and some have felt it is not worth while. We would ask our friends not to accept advice from unofficial sources. Definite questions were put to the Committee of Management in India and their reply is: "Do not stop sending the parcels. We appreciate them all, and it would be very ungrateful of us not to be willing to pay the duty. This is the general opinion of the field. There are some people who insist on knowing what has been paid for duty."

Help Towards Duty Costs

As an aid to allow our missionaries the fullest possible advantage of parcels sent, the F.M. Board sent £50 towards the payment of duty. The field secretary in India replies: "How perfectly marvellous of you to send so much for duty on parcels. What a gracious gift, and so spontaneous! Please do thank every member of the board for this 'over and above.' There have been times when we have found it difficult, and then a shipload of parcels with about six shillings duty to pay on each has come and we simply have to pay."

Careful Packing Required

Please note carefully what is said regarding packing: "I feel just crushed when the contents are nice but have been so badly mixed up together that it takes time and patience to salvage some of the goods." Then follows a description of a badly packed parcel: "The packets had been broken, the lid forced off the honey tin, and there was a perfect mess of honey, flour, custard powder, macaroni and jelly. The flour had absorbed most of the honey and had stuck to the other tins. Please do mention the fact that packets need to be sewn in bags if they are packed with tins; or else pack tins with tins and packets with packets in separate parcels."



Looking out on the Indian world of to-day, what will be the future of this child? Will he be educated or be numbered among the 90 per cent. illiterates of India? Will he know what it is to be even decently clothed or moderately fed? Will he be given the opportunity of knowing the love of God or of Christ the Saviour of the world? Children such as he are in our homes—over 200 of them. We feed, clothe, educate and teach them the love of God and a knowledge of Christ. We also seek to fit them for the battle of life. This child and others are looking to you!

What to Send

Along general lines what is sent in parcels to England would be suitable for our Indian missionaries. Here are a few helpful hints:

Flour (must be tinned or sewn in calico bag), *Milk*, powdered or condensed, *Meat* (especially sausages), *Vegetables* (particularly peas), *Fruit* (tinned or dried), *Good Boiled Sweets* (packed in tins), *Butter* (in tins) and *Jams*. Sugar is unrationed in India and could be eliminated.

Regarding flour, the comment adds, "We go nearly crazy when we get white bread, or rather a loaf of yeast bread. We get utterly tired of the flat country bread, and Australian flour is so good."



ORPHANS

THOSE in charge of our homes at Baramati and Shrigonda are continually beset with problems, not only how to balance the budget,

but to secure essential supplies. An annual budget is submitted to the home board, which is always based on minimum expenditure.

Some of our friends in Australia, not orphan supporters in the ordinary way, have sent "specials," and because of these "extras" we have been able to send a few additional sums from time to time. In May, an additional £25 was sent, which brought a reply from the field: "This Indian relief fund is a real gift from God."

We wish to advise our ordinary supporters that our lists have been brought up to date and changes are inevitable. Where changes have been made, supporters will be notified and pictures will be supplied wherever possible.

Enquiries have been made concerning costs. It has been the policy to allow supporters the option of paying whatever could be managed. Six pounds per year was the old rate, and some continue on this basis, though most have sent extra to cover cost of exchange (25½ per cent.) and higher costs. For those who might like something more definite, the average cost to-day would approximate ten pounds per year, even after allowing for some extras sent by board. If supporters can manage something extra, it would be appreciated, and any gifts for orphan homes would be welcome. Remember, we have a family of over 200 children!

Community Service in N.S.W.

THE church at Paddington, with vision and faith, has instituted a centre to be known as the "Jack and Jill War Memorial Nursery School." The school will start in February, 1949, and at first will accommodate forty-eight children between the ages of three to five years.

The constitution had been prepared and the management committee appointed before permission had been granted; it was not long before permission was granted to build.

The school has been registered under the Charitable Collections Act. The mayor has promised help on behalf of the Paddington Council. The Sydney Day Nursery and Nursery Schools' Association (Incorporated) has already agreed to supervise the school. The school will be under the directorship of Miss Hulyer, a member of the church, a graduate of a Nursery College. This venture will be followed with interest by all the members of the church in N.S. Wales.

Church Attendance

An editorial in "The High Commissioner," a quarterly issued by the "Sydney Bible Training Institute," has a paragraph or two dealing with the question of church attendance. "On the eve of the last war," says the writer, "a census was taken of church attendance in Berlin. It was found that on a given Sunday night one-eighth of one per cent. of the people of Berlin attended church. In the great laws of life every result has an effective cause. When Hitler came on Germany in the full flood of his blasphemous secularism, there was no stand in Germany. Why? Her morale had been sapped. The strength of the body is the mind, and the strength of the mind is in its apprehension of spiritual reality.

"Germany has been the home of that vast, subtle, penetrating attack on the authenticity of the Bible. The conclusions of philosophical professors and theologians were preached from a thousand pulpits, belief was sapped, and there was no great spiritual fortress left. The conclusions of these philosophical theologians are now popularised in a great library, and the English-speaking world is flooded with these teachings."

From the foregoing the writer reasoned that the impact of such preaching from pulpits in English speaking lands upon the people, is seen in the drift away from the churches in our land. The call to-day is for a revival of sound gospel preaching to counteract the spate of secularism.

The Bishops at Lambeth

is the heading of an article by Cecil Northcott in the "Religion and Life" column of the "Sydney Morning Herald." Some splendid things were said about the Lambeth Conference, but the following caught our attention. "Christianity is fighting for its life. Secular morality and an incompetent State are claiming to be sufficient furnishings for a utility existence, and in the portfolios of scientific management there is not one marked 'Holy Spirit.'" "If Lambeth can be a vehicle of the unfathomable and unseen in contemporary affairs, then its word will be relevant to the hour. It claims, however, neither infallibility nor omniscience in its judgments as it labors in commissions and committees; and its authority, while weighty and wise, has no compulsory powers.

"Thirty years ago the Lambeth Fathers said a prophetic word about Christian unity. Their successors cannot avoid speaking again on this most crucial of Christian issues. A divided church is a peril to itself and a scandal to the world."

Appelman Mission

Dr. Hyman Appelman and his associate Homer Britton have, after visiting several other States, been in Sydney for the last fortnight. They are drawing the largest crowds that have been seen at religious meetings in this city for many years. One regrettable thing is that in Sydney there are not buildings large enough to accommodate the crowds who wish to attend the meetings. These men are being mightily used of God in bringing a forthright challenge to the churches, and also to the non-churchgoers.

Home Mission Preachers

The preachers laboring with churches subsidised by the Home Mission Committee are having their salaries raised to £8 per week. This means increased financial responsibility for both church and committee.—Ethelbert Davis.

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Australian Round-up

The Crusade and Roll Revision

THE crusade that has been launched by the Victorian churches is one that should accomplish much for the souls of men, the advancement of the kingdom of God's dear Son, and the progress of the churches with which we have the closest fellowship.

My personal prayers are ascending for the crusade, and for S. Neighbour who has been called to lead it.

But there seems to be one thing that the secretaries have overlooked. What about the back door of our churches through which so many go, or are pushed? I say pushed, for it has not been unknown that churches have deliberately revised their rolls to "save conference fees." Nothing is thus saved, for while there is a conference the brotherhood must, in some way, meet the expenses of running it.

It is not much advantage to gain three thousand converts and to restore three thousand to fellowship if, at the same time, we allow six thousand to go out through the back doors.

As a people we have developed the art (if art it can be called) of roll revision; but we have not yet developed the art of shepherding the flock.

Cannot the crusade committee induce the churches to close the back doors, and shepherd the flock so that it will be hard for any once enlisted to get away?—Thos. Hagger, Victoria.



Genesis and Science

TODAY I opened my copy of "The Australian Christian," and on page 304 I read a review of "Creation Revealed in Six Days" and comments on the book. A week ago a book was loaned to me published in 1887; author, Samuel Kinns, D.D., Ph.D., entitled "Moses and Geology," or "The Harmony of the Bible with Science," 10th edition. Have you seen this work? The "day" of Genesis 1: 4 certainly was not our day of 24 hours. The writer most clearly proves the impossibility of this being so if it is applied to creation. He understands the word in the original means an "indefinite period of time," and quotes Origen, and many other authorities, as saying "a whole age is a day." By adopting this meaning, the whole of the creative events, as given by Moses, corresponds with that taught by science. In his opening chapter he indicates his objective in the words, "Upon a careful study of the sublime truths and stories of the Bible they will be found to harmonise with science." By the reading of this book of over 500 pages, the Bible (especially Genesis creation) has become to me a vastly increased wonder book, and my conception of God's greatness much clearer.—W. L. Johnston, South Australia.



Almost a Centenarian

Notes on Hymn 137, Planned for August 1.

FEW have reaped so bountifully as John Bakewell from the Lord's promise: "With long life shall I satisfy thee." On his tombstone in London—not far from that of John Wesley—is the record that "he adorned the doctrine of God our Saviour 80 years and preached his glorious gospel about 70 years," dying at the age of 98.

Originally a Derbyshire man, Bakewell became a preacher in 1744, the year of the very

first Methodist Conference. For a number of years, he conducted a school, and after giving up that work, used much of his time in evangelistic preaching. Readers of early Methodist history will find that Bakewell is connected by a series of rich associations with the Wesleys, with Thomas Olivers (author of "The God of Abraham praise"), with Fletcher of Madeley and with still other worthies.

The original lines of the one hymn by which Bakewell's memory is still kept green—"Hail, thou once despised Jesus"—were written 62 years before his death, and during his lifetime, various "improvers" were at work on them with a confusing number of alterations and additions.

It is much in order that this Methodist bard who sings of the great themes of our common salvation should also have his ear attuned for the unity of God's people. The John Bakewell who at 36 years of age wrote of "free salvation," of a "universal Saviour," of "life through his name," of "Jesus enthroned in glory," and of the final song of "worship, honor, power and blessing" is the same John Bakewell who at 95 wrote on the apostolic argument for unity in Ephesians 4, and concluded with the prayer: "May God of his infinite goodness grant that we, and all serious Christians, of every denomination, may labor for a perfect union of love, and to have our hearts knit together with the bond of peace; that following after those essential truths in which we all agree, we may all have the same scriptural experience, and hereafter attain one and the same kingdom of glory." May Bakewell's hymn ever be a recall to the unity of Christ's people on the fundamentals of our faith!—F. J. Funston.



Intercession for Amsterdam

WITH the first Assembly of the World Council of Churches meeting in Amsterdam in August, Melbourne University branch of S.C.M., aware of its responsibility to the world church, has arranged for a special lunch-hour service of intercession for the world council, on Thursday, August 12, in College Church, Sydney-rd., Parkville, 1.15 p.m. to 1.50 p.m. H. T. Langley, former dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, and Dr. R. Wilson Macauley, of Trinity Presbyterian church, Camberwell (both members of the Victorian Regional Committee of the World Council) will lead the service. Members of churches who wish to join in this service will be most welcome.



Bible Study at University

MEMBERS of the Melbourne University branch of the movement have just completed a series of weekly study circles on the gospel according to Mark. Twelve circles met at various times during the week, and were attended by almost 150 students. The experiment of training student leaders in a special preparation group proved valuable in the circles. The study, written especially for this use, covered ten weeks, and provided not only thought and questions for study circle discussion, but also daily Bible readings with appropriate comment and question for private meditation and study. All who used the study outlines in personal devotions or attended study circles, have felt themselves confronted with

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the living person of Christ, and their faith strengthened in God through him. The movement is now proceeding to a Bible study of the atonement.



Venture in Community Service

ON Monday, July 5, the kindergarten hall of the Essendon church, Vic., was the scene of a ceremony which marked the extension of the work of the church in community service. The preacher of the church presided over a representative gathering and called upon Mrs. Cheal (a former kindergarten superintendent) to introduce the mayor of Essendon (Cr. J. W. S. Fraser, J.P.), who performed the opening ceremony of the Essendon Church of Christ Free Day Kindergarten. The president of the Women's Conference (Mrs. Ploog) brought a greeting from the sisters. The kindergarten has been set up by a committee representing various auxiliaries of the church and mothers of children enrolled. It will function on three mornings of each week, and will be under the directorship of Mrs. H. Bowman, who will be assisted by a band of 18 mothers working on a roster system. Mrs. Bowman, who has had university training and is a member of Essendon church, is voluntarily devoting her gift of child leadership in this venture. The men of the church have assisted with the construction of equipment and the preparation of a playground, and others have made gifts of money. At present the enrolment of 18 is confined to members of the local Bible school, but a wider field is envisaged, with the appointment of paid staff of kindergarteners.—E. McIlhagger.



Federal Conference

"Pray without ceasing. . . ."

THE Federal Executive has been prayerful in all its efforts in preparation for the conference in October. The members of the executive are therefore particularly desirous that folk in all the States of the Commonwealth should take up the challenge of "prayer partnership" in regard to the forthcoming conference gatherings. We believe in a God who hears and answers prayer. We believe, too, that more than ever, as the challenge of these dangerous and difficult days demands, we should be a praying people.

Therefore brethren, let us pray for God's blessing upon our Federal Conference. Let us pray for the conference in our churches. Let us pray for the conference in our committees. Let us pray for the conference in private, as we raise our hearts to the Lord in our own personal devotions. The Lord will honor our efforts only as we pray.

From every State will come delegations whose vital interest is in the advancement of churches of Christ and the plea for New Testament Christianity. In every State, therefore, we feel confident that there will be those who will be prepared to set aside a portion of each day for special prayer on behalf of the organisers, the speakers, the leaders, and, in fact, all who are privileged to have a part in the Federal Conference.

Your prayers will lead to the right decisions being made in the conference business sessions. Your prayers will prepare the way for happy fellowship in Christian service. Your prayers will ensure the advancement of the Lord's work on a nation-wide front, and will mean much to our New Testament churches in their evangelistic witness in the preaching of the gospel.

May we all be "partners in prayer" that God will use us and bless us in our Federal Conference.—A. C. Elliott.

Here and There

J. Machin has sent the following concerning mission at South Perth, W.A.: "Continuous heavy rain Sunday; marquee filled; one confession."

From Warrnambool, Vic., we received this telegram on July 18: "Splendid meeting Sunday night; five baptisms; two more confessions, planning to welcome fifteen new members next Sunday; church greatly encouraged.—Weir."

Allan Morris, who has been laboring with the church at Hamilton, Newcastle, N.S.W., ever since he completed his studies at the Bible College, Woolwich, three years ago, has resigned. At the time of writing negotiations are being pursued in an important country town. John Moran, also of the Bible College, has resigned from the church at Bankstown after a little over six months' ministry. Ill-health has led him to take this step. He hopes, however, later to resume the work of the ministry.

"German Protestant chaplains in the Soviet Union have written to the Berlin Church Chancellery, gratefully acknowledging receipt of the parcels of religious books (hymnbooks and special books concerning evangelism), and have begged for more. They write that religious life in the prisoner-of-war camps is very active, and describe the Easter services in detail. One of the chaplains writes that two services are held every Sunday in his camp. He mentions daily services, weekly Bible groups and communion services on special days. The chaplains are giving the theological students regular teaching."

At Fullarton, S.A., on morning of July 11, E. H. Swann, secretary B. & F. Bible Society, gave a stirring and informative address on activities of the society. There was a good attendance. At night Peter Mau conducted song service, which preceded a baptismal service, when three men and four young women were immersed. B. W. Manning baptised the men. R. J. Hooper, husband of a member, made his confession at Appelman mission; the other two young men (Methodists) sought fuller Christian life and will return to their own communion. R. Burns, of Prospect, immersed the young ladies, who were members of study class conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Burns in their home. Many visitors witnessed the ordinance, chapel being almost full, including a number from neighboring Methodist Church. Five young people gave a message in song. Annual offering to foreign missions to date is £13/6/-. Fifteen children sat for scripture examination.

Thirty-seventh anniversary services of church at Croydon, S.A., from July 5 to 11 were an inspiration. J. Turner, of Victoria, was speaker at each meeting, his addresses being of inestimable value. Series of meetings commenced on July 5 with special service for men, 70 being present. Attendance at each subsequent meeting was Tuesday, 202; Wednesday, 203; Thursday, 153; Friday, 145; Sunday, a.m., 189; p.m., 227. Meetings were planned in form of a revival, and objective was achieved; members have been edified; two men decided for Christ. At morning service on July 11, active foundation members were specially remembered and recognised by being presented with a devotional book appropriately inscribed in appreciation of loyal and faithful service for 37 years, recipients being Mrs. H. Bartlett, Mrs. W. Hewett, Mrs. H. Dempster, Mrs. M. Hill, Mrs. E. Lockyer and Miss E. Bartlett. At evening service, returned servicemen were honored, time being devoted to an impressive "in memoriam." Church deeply appreciates the work of Gordon S. Bartlett, who initiated the campaign, and who was prime mover. He had support of an enthusiastic committee.

Overseas mission appeal at Balwyn, Vic., with the annual offering contributions in duplex envelopes, and £200 from estate late Caroline Burns, has reached total of £952.

On morning of July 18, at Geelong, Vic., R. Enniss was speaker. He gave an inspiring talk on crusade for a Christian world. Evening service was taken by Mr. Pigdon, from Drumcondra, whose address on churches of Christ was illustrated with flannelboard. At Mission Band on July 14 Mrs. Webster was speaker.

Georgetown church (N.S.W.) enjoyed and profited by Appelman campaign in Newcastle. A visit of Mr. Paternoster with overseas missions pictures was appreciated on June 29. F.M. offering to date is over £12. Mrs. Brookes, wife of the preacher, is suffering a serious nervous breakdown. Mrs. Brookes, sen., is helping splendidly at manse. Marie Andrews and C. Latimer have been honored at a kitchen tea in view of their approaching marriage. Mr. Latimer is to be preacher at Annerley, Qld. Official board are preparing for a visitation evangelism campaign at end of August. Over 50 scholars sat for S.S. examination.

At North Fitzroy, Vic., during the visit of J. Turner to Croydon, Adelaide, where he conducted anniversary services, the church appreciated addresses of K. Jones and W. T. Atkin, the latter outlining objects of "the crusade for a Christian world." P. Foster and V. Foster conducted gospel services. President of the Women's Conference, Mrs. Ploog, addressed Women's Mission Band on July 14. Mr. Fields passed away on 14th after a long illness; church conveys sympathy to those who mourn their loved one. Offering for overseas missions has reached £32/1/1. A young man was baptised on evening of July 18.

We have received from W. H. Rainey, B.A., a booklet of 56 pages, bound to represent a Bible, entitled "God's Book for All." This is the annual report of the British & Foreign Bible Society in Australia. It is impossible to lay down unread this fascinating account of a noble work. It shows us that the Bible Society in Australia is not only fully alive to her responsibility of giving the Bible to the islands of the South Pacific, but, having financed her own commitments, she sent in 1947 £30,000 to London for the world-wide work of the society. It will be news to many that the Bible Society is printing, or has printed, the scriptures in Australia in twenty-five languages. They are Gunwinggu, Rennell, Ambrym, Worora, Suau, Paamese, Blanche Bay, Motu, Roviana, Malay, Kiwai, Bwaidogan, Tubetube, Nogugu, Roro, Pitjantjatjara, Nungubuyu, Misima-Panaeati, Hula, Kiriwina, Mwala-Malu, Jabima, Murut, Vaturana and Urika. Copies of report may be obtained free from the British & Foreign Bible Society, 95 Bathurst-st., Sydney.

A correspondent to a religious journal wrote: "A trades union leader recently remarked to me that he had been told so often that the churches were empty that he literally believed it to be true, and it came as something of a shock to him that, when he did attend church, he found so many people there. Indeed, he said, that in comparison to trades union meetings, or political meetings, the churches were splendidly attended. Moreover, all the political organisations in the town could not hope to raise as many voluntary workers as a single church. I would like to suggest that to talk constantly and continually of empty churches helps to empty rather than fill them, since men seeking fellowship are hardly likely to go where they believe they

will be alone, and so regarded as odd and not normal. Let us then talk, not of half-empty or empty churches, but of half-full ones."

Events in Palestine have given concern to church people throughout the world. Some are not happy about the manner in which arms are being supplied to the hostile forces. The Archbishop of Canterbury said, "Many consciences are deeply disturbed that Great Britain should even seem to be supplying arms and officers for the fighting in Jerusalem." Dr. Fisher sent the following telegram to Mr. Trygve Lie, "As president of the World Council of churches strongly support any steps to achieve truce in Palestine without prejudice to either party. Christian opinion throughout the world is deeply stirred by the horror of fighting in the Holy Land, and desires to see peace which does not do injustice to either side."

Visitation Evangelism

★ Churches at Carnegie, Cheltenham and Gardiner, Vic., Inspired.

DURING the week commencing July 11, three churches in Victoria began visitation campaigns. Encouraged by prayer and the word of the Lord, about 36 workers went into the homes of scores of people, presenting the claims of Christ to men and women. The total attendances for the three churches on Sunday evening, the 18th, reached 423. The total number of decisions and reconsecrations was 38. In each centre there are prospects that others will be led to Christ in the near future. We have received news from the church at Warrnambool that, following their special effort two weeks ago, there have been excellent meetings and two additional confessions on the 18th. On Sunday, July 25, it is expected 15 will be received into church fellowship there.

In every centre where church members have been trained and sent out to do the work of personal evangelists, brethren have been more than encouraged. God has been with them and granted the joy of victory.

At Cheltenham, where J. C. Cunningham recently began his ministry, Thos. Hagger, of Frankston, Vic., led the church in a very worthy way. Five teams visited about fifty homes. At the evening service of the 18th, 120 were present. In response to the gospel invitation extended by Mr. Hagger, nine made the good confession. Others who had signed decision cards are expected to make the public witness later.

Gardiner has been served by R. Bolduan for some years, and his ministry has been blessed. D. Wakeley, who recently responded to call of church at Hartwell, encouraged the Gardiner brethren during their campaign. Six teams visited some 36 homes. At the evening service about 160 were present. Two were baptised. In response to the gospel appeal nine decided for Christ. The preacher said, "We are now up on the mountain tops. The church is enthused by this great experience."

R. Coventry, who has been serving faithfully at Carnegie, commenced this new evangelistic programme with great zeal. D. Stirling, preacher of Geelong church, spent a week with the Carnegie brethren. Six teams went into the homes of many in surrounding district. At the evening service of July 18, twenty responded to the gospel, fifteen being confessions and five reconsecrations. One visitor said, "It has been a wonderful experience." The local preacher and church have been much enriched. Mr. Stirling has returned to his home-church very encouraged.

While there are pitfalls to be avoided, nevertheless when this method has been used prayerfully, God has granted power to many to gain successes for the church.

News of the Churches

Tasmania

West Hobart.—S. Cooper (Collins-st.), C. B. Smith (Sydney), J. C. Woolley and H. England were speakers for past two weeks. Attendances have been good. Sister N. Woolley was soloist at gospel service on July 11. Bible school continues to grow, and has doubled number of scholars since February. On July 11, kinder enrolment totalled 33, with 31 present. Two more new S.S. scholars were welcomed on July 11.

Hobart (Collins-st.).—After evening service on June 27, a social fellowship hour was held to bid farewell to John Stranger, one of the young church members and Sunday school teachers, who was leaving for mainland. Opportunity was taken to show appreciation of members and friends by presenting him with a writing outfit. Mr. Burt, Mr. Heard and Mr. Park spoke in glowing terms of John's help in church and Sunday school. During afternoon, Sunday school presented him with a "teacher's compendium." On evening of June 30, after prayer session, Indian missionary films were shown by Mr. Burt. Cottage prayer meetings have been held in homes of Mrs. Kingston, Mrs. Cumming and S. Cooper.

Western Australia

Palmyra.—Church has decided to secure a hall in order to extend youth work, and has organised a tennis club. C.Y.F. meetings have been set aside to help Hinrichsen mission at South Perth. Women's Mission Band is working hard for all Women's Conference departments. Church sorrows with Mrs. Ritchie in the loss of husband, and with Jack Moss in loss of his brother.

Subiaco.—Attendances morning and evening for June were above average for May. At a hospital service on June 13, an offering was taken for Bethesda Hospital. Two girls from Bible school were baptised on June 20. A men's tea was held on June 27 to welcome S. Reeson on his way to Carnarvon mission station. Mr. Reeson preached, and Men's Fellowship took part in gospel service. On June 28, H. E. Greenwood gave a beautifully illustrated lecture on New Zealand to Men's Fellowship.

North Perth.—Church held 43rd anniversary on June 20. Mrs. Brigatti, a foundation member of church, was present. Anniversary was continued on 23rd, when J. K. Robinson, preacher of Lake-st. church, was speaker. A choir rendered excerpts from "Under the Palms." Sunday school has been successful in attendance campaign shield in second division. Young People's Society is in healthy condition, and junior society has grown considerably. A Bible class conducted by the minister, F. Ewers, is held at 3 o'clock each Sunday. Sunday school teachers hold a tea on first Sunday of each month.

New South Wales

Mayfield.—On July 3, induction service of conference president, R. Acland, took place before a large gathering of members and friends. C. Latimer was chairman. H. J. Patterson gave charge to preacher and P. E. Thomas charge to church. Greetings were expressed by all auxiliaries. Mrs. Davidson presented a posy to and welcomed Mrs. Acland. Welcomes were accorded by Alderman Purdue (civic), preachers of sister churches, and a representative of District C.E. Union. Supper was a happy function. Church expressed appreciation of Mr. Latimer's interim ministry by a pre-wedding gift. Mrs. Ellis presented to Mr. Charles and fiancée a silver teapot. Mr. and Mrs. Acland and Miss Miriam were

received into fellowship at morning service next day. Painting of outer walls of chapel and hall is in progress, and improvements are planned for interior of building.

Wentworth Falls.—One man has been added by faith and baptism. Work is progressing favorably. Bible school hall is nearing completion and will be an asset to the work. On July 11, C. Young and his wife were visitors. Mr. Young addressed both services. Sunday afternoon broadcast service (5 p.m.) is bearing much fruit. One result is that it is planned to start a new cause at Lawson on Sept. 5. Lawson is five miles from Wentworth Falls.

Queensland

Annerley.—To assist funds for support of hospital chaplain, a special offering amounting to £4/1/- was received. Boys' club has now been functioning for twelve months. To celebrate anniversary, a social evening was held on June 25, 60 being present. Mrs. E. Potter, home mission superintendent, Women's Conference Auxiliary, addressed women at guild meeting on July 6. £4/5/- was handed to her for home mission fund.

Kingaroy.—In May, Mother's Day was celebrated and harvest festival took place, at which special addresses were delivered by Mr. Davidson. Berean Fellowship Association for young people, commenced last February, is proving helpful. Thirty-eighth church anniversary began with social on June 25. A cake donated by B.F.A. was made by Miss N. Adermann and cut by C. F. Adermann, who outlined story of beginning of New Testament witness in Kingaroy. Speaker for occasion was F. C. Hunting. A feature of anniversary was youth rally on Sunday at 2.30 p.m. Miss N. Adermann read first paper written for B.F.A., Miss M. Cole read scriptures, and Keith McNicol and Neville Adermann took offering, donated towards purchasing life-saving equipment for youth camp. Mr. Hunting's addresses were appreciated. On March 26 James Harling, of Boyneside, passed away. Though never strong, he frequently travelled thirty miles to attend Lord's Table, and was a consistent and liberal supporter. A memorial service was held on May 23.

Brisbane (Ann-st.).—Attendances have been well up to standard. Excellent services were held on July 3, when C. J. Mackenzie addressed morning meeting and G. McKelvie, church secretary, was speaker at night. Men's choir sang at gospel service, which followed a happy time of fellowship around tea table, when over 50 men met at a "father and son" tea, which was planned as part of "Men's Month" to achieve a greater degree of fellowship amongst men of church. During day adopted "fathers" and "sons" sat together during services and visited each others' homes. Various activities of day were a fitting close to a successful month of activity by men of church. Attendance at Lord's Table for day was 177. Services on July 11 inaugurated "Family Month." Families were encouraged to associate more freely and meet in each others' homes. C. J. Mackenzie was speaker at both services. Y.P.C.E. choir sang well at night, and Miss Edna Rose was soloist. 166 met at Lord's Supper during day. F. C. Hunting is progressing favorably after having undergone a successful operation. Several S.S. scholars sat for scripture examination. Recent visitors included Misses H. Leck and I. Elliott, City Temple, Sydney; C. W. and

E. Pitcher, Dandenong, Vic.; Mr. and Mrs. C. Young, Melbourne; and W. and J. A. Young-husband, Auburn, N.S.W.

Bundaberg.—Church suffered decreased attendances during June and July on account of influenza epidemic. However, loyal supporters maintained meetings at Rosedale on June 20, when W. Deoberitz preached to a good attendance, and at Bundaberg centre, where V. G. Boettcher was preacher on June 20, after opening new chapel at Sims-rd. on June 19. First service at Sims-rd. was held on Sunday night, July 4, when W. Deoberitz preached to a congregation of 19. Meetings in Bundaberg continue with fair attendance. Young people's concert in June raised £5 toward Bible school and club funds. S. Jorgensen is new Bible school superintendent at Sims-rd., and Karest Jorgensen is organist for school. Sister M. Pohle is secretary and treasurer. W. Cullen passed away on July 12 aged 86 years. Church is helping with campaign in connection with Hyman Appelmann mission, held in town from July 18 to 30. Sister Christensen, sen., is seriously ill in hospital.

South Australia

Naracoorte.—A. Hutson was speaker at all services for month of June. On evening of June 20, a service was held in memory of late Mr. Williams. Church has been saddened at sudden home-calling of secretary, K. Foster, on June 18. Mrs. Huntley has had to relinquish her position as leader of girls' club and as assistant of kindergarten and primary school owing to illness. Miss D. Killmier is now leader of girls' club.

Wampony.—Services continue under leadership of Mr. Baker, who gave a searching address on July 12. Young people's society has merged with Mundalla united Endeavor, and will hold meetings fortnightly. Mrs. G. Martlew, who was a member for many years (now of Bordertown), is undergoing a series of operations in Adelaide. A united effort to cut firewood for preacher was held recently at T. Hamilton's property. Foreign mission offering amounted to £50.

Kilburn.—F. Lawrance conducted Boys' Life Brigade on July 10 during absence of Keith Caldicott. Attendance at 10 a.m. Bible school on July 11 was 102, including four new scholars. Sister J. Pritchard has resigned as kindergarten teacher, and school is indebted to her for past service. At 11 a.m. 22 adults and 30 young worshippers enjoyed excellent story and sermon by F. Collins. During afternoon nine scholars sat for scripture examination. University group conducted 7 p.m. gospel service. Ray Anderson presided; Peter Fopp gave testimony in word and song, and David Brooks read scriptures and delivered an inspiring address. Harold Steward and Miss Green also attended. Good delegations attended Port Line group services at Craydon, and were greatly helped by John Turner's addresses.

Unley.—Two lads from Sunday school—Keith Bowes and Allan Norris—were immersed at gospel service on June 27 and welcomed into church following Sunday. Forty-five scholars competed in scripture examinations on July 11. Officers and teachers of school have completed plans for an intensive canvass of district for prospective scholars. Youth Council is co-ordinating youth activities, especially with Loyalty Month proposals for August. At Ladies' Mission Band annual meeting, Mrs. P. R. Verco was speaker. Overseas missions offering to date totals £289/12/6, several amounts being specifically for ambulance and X-ray plant. Two members of long standing—Mrs. Lord and Miss Harris—have received the home-call. Mrs. Lord was active in her ministry in homes of sick folk and in hospital visitation, while Miss Harris was a loyal member and at one time secretary of Sunday school.

Nailaworth.—At annual business meeting of Ladies' Guild on July 6, elections took place and all offices were filled. Foreign missionary offering has so far reached £30, a good increase on last year's. A 'bus-load visited Croydon mission on July 8 and enjoyed fellowship there. On July 11, six were welcomed into church, four by faith and obedience. In afternoon several scholars sat for scripture examinations, and at same time rest of school held a joint session, when film strips of Bible stories were shown. This was followed by a fellowship tea, when J. W. Carter, a local postman, spoke and afterward a film of work of post office was shown. A large number of used postage stamps was brought for B. & F. Bible Society.

Queenstown.—J. H. Cain, of Stirling East, has accepted an invitation to become full-time preacher early in new year. Ross Graham is going to help in part-time ministry for next few months, following on Mr. Ewers, who leaves on Aug. 1. Mr. Ewers has been speaker at all services during past month. At gospel service on July 4, members of football club took a part in service. Overseas mission offering amounted to—church, £26; Bible school, £9; kindergarten, £3/10/-, totalling £38/10/-. Ladies' Guild annual meeting was held on June 30. Churches were well represented, and 80 were present. A musical programme was provided by Mrs. Mildrum and party before knife and fork lunch. J.C.E. leader, Mr. Myall, with help of some of parents, gave members of society a tasty supper and social evening, because of children reaching average of 40 at their meetings. A. Harris and Mrs. Scudds have both returned home from hospital and are improving.

Victoria

'Middle Park.—Mr. Manallack is giving helpful addresses, and his visitation work is appreciated. Midweek meeting attendance is improving, and is instructive and interesting. Sympathy of members is extended to Mrs. Fawkes, Mr. Kruse and Mr. and Mrs. Brooker in loss of loved ones. Several members are laid aside by sickness.

Geelong.—In absence of Mr. Stirling at Carnegie, A. S. McDonald spoke at morning meeting, and in evening Mr. Smail gave the address and Mr. Routley presided. Wal Colman and Ray Drayton sang a duet, and a duet was rendered by Mrs. Rodda and Miss Anderson. On July 10 a social evening was held at Drumcondra, when youth of Terrace, Belmont and Drumcondra churches joined in fellowship.

Ascot Vale.—C. G. Burt has been giving helpful addresses. Prayer and discussion group on Thursday evenings continues to expand and assist work. Girls' club held a successful sale of gifts on July 3 for repairs to kindergarten hall; approximately £50 was raised. During absence of Mr. Burt through illness, fine addresses were delivered by Mr. Funston and Mr. Roberts (both of North Essendon church).

Drumcondra.—Preparations are in hand for home visitation evangelism planned for first week in August. Over King's Birthday weekend, about 20 C.E. delegates were accommodated by Drumcondra families. At morning service N. Gavros spoke, and at evening service there were testimonies by two young ladies, a solo, and an item by the 13 Horsham church of Christ delegates. Eighty young people attended first venture of church of Christ youth council of Geelong on evening of July 10, held at Drumcondra. It took form of a social. Newly-formed boys and girls' clubs are making splendid progress. Lawrence Cooke has been elected secretary of Sunday school. Resignations from S.S. teaching staff have come from Miss B. Russell, Mrs. Pigdon and Mrs. Adair. Betty Sykes and Elizabeth Matherson have been added to staff.

West Preston.—Inspiring services were held on July 18. Mr. Trezise addressed morning meeting in interests of Crusade for a Christian World. Mr. Withers preached at night. Recently 25 members of Mission Band visited Christian Guest Home, and spent a happy day in fellowship with the folk there. Overseas mission offering amounted to £30/14/1.

Coburg.—Mrs. Breen, of Brunswick, was welcomed into membership on June 20. Church regrets passing of G. T. Murdock on June 21, a former member and officer of this church. A number of members are ill. On July 11 A. E. White, director of youth work in New Zealand, gave an interesting address. Two anthems presented by visiting choirs were appreciated. A sacred concert arranged by Mr. Myerscough, assisted by churches of Christ ladies' choir, was a great success.

Boort.—Mr. Quayle's addresses to church are fine. He is doing good work here. Other brothers' help is also appreciated. Mrs. Kelvin Dyer made good confession and was baptised by Mr. Quayle. Anniversary services were held on July 11 with good attendance for day. Mr. Quayle was speaker at all services. Offering in afternoon was £3/19/-. Children sang well under baton of Allan Streader. Visitors from Wedderburn church were welcomed.

Doncaster.—Young people paid a visit to Frankston hospital and helped entertain inmates. Women's Mission Band held monthly meeting on afternoon of July 15. There was good attendance of members. Mrs. A. T. Tully gave an interesting account of a recent visit to W.A. L. Dudley has accepted an engagement with church as preacher. Mr. Banks leaves for Castlemaine at end of August. G. T. Black has agreed to carry on work until Mr. Dudley arrives towards end of year. Overseas offering amounted to £43.

Bayswater.—On evening of June 20, Mr. Langford exchanged with J. E. Allan, of Ringwood, who gave an illustrated lantern address on overseas mission work. Sunday school has commenced training for anniversary, under leadership of Mr. Gadge. Six scholars entered for scripture examination. C.E. society has prepared interesting syllabus for next six months. Tennis club held an enjoyable social evening on June 26. Church appreciates generous gift of a block of ground for a tennis court by Mr. C. Schmolling.

Carnegie.—Visitation evangelism campaign commenced on July 11 and continued through week until July 18. Church was pleased to have fellowship of D. Stirling, preacher of Latrobe-terrace, Geelong, as leader, and has had a rich experience. At morning service on July 18, reference was made to home-call of Mrs. MacIntosh, a faithful member for many years, and sympathy was expressed to relatives. Men's Society held a fellowship meeting at home of Mr. Manning on July 9, when an illustrated address was given by A. W. Cleland, representing Burwood Boys' Home, on work of home.

Prahran.—Church experienced a great uplift as result of Hinrichsen-Machin mission. Converts will be going to about eight different churches. A number were received into fellowship at Prahran on July 4, two on July 11, and three on July 18. A lad made the confession in evening of 11th. Mrs. Bertelson was speaker at monthly meeting of Women's Fellowship, and opportunity was taken to make a presentation to Mrs. O'Neill. At close of evening service on July 11, a social hour was spent to farewell Mr. and Mrs. O'Neill, who are leaving to take charge of Bethany Boys' Home, Tasmania. Both have given years of devoted service at Prahran, and prayers of church go with them in their new venture.

Emerald.—New scholars have been enrolled last three Sundays. Nine candidates sat for scripture examinations. Morning attendances are encouraging, but winter weather has seriously depleted evening numbers. Church is enjoying fellowship of visitors.

Sunshine.—Good attendances have been maintained, but sickness has kept some away. At morning service on June 27, Mr. Grainger, from North Williamstown, exchanged with Mr. Gavros and spoke in support of overseas mission, offering for which amounted to £6. Bible school has commenced anniversary practice. Mr. Gavros has decided to conclude ministry with Sunshine church at end of this year. Mrs. Dunk, Moire Campbell and Beth McKechnie were baptised on evening of July 4 and received into membership following Sunday. Sixteen scholars entered for Bible school examinations.

Ringwood.—Mr. Allan conducted a film service on evening of June 27 in support of overseas missions. S.S. made a fine contribution to F.M. offering, which showed increase of 125 per cent. on previous year. Chapel was comfortably filled for Eastern District C.E. Union rally. Interest is maintained in Y.P.C.E., and society recently presented two additional radiators for church use. Mr. Smith, Mont Albert, was speaker on morning of July 18, and Mr. Allan in evening. John Sinclair, who made his decision at Hinrichsen mission, has been received into fellowship. After long illness, Mr. Plymin is again able to attend services.

North Essendon.—Members were delighted to hear address from A. E. White (youth director of New Zealand) on July 11 at gospel service. July 18 was 22nd church anniversary. A. E. Hurren, conference president, gave a delightful address in morning. Hayden McCallum was speaker at pleasant Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m., and a fine film of Oslo youth conference was screened. Miss Betty Salisbury was soloist. A fine attendance at gospel service was a fitting climax to a successful anniversary, when C. H. J. Wright gave a forceful and thoughtful address to an appreciative audience. Annual thanksgiving appeal has reached £64/8/-, and more is expected. Ladies' Guild has given delightful jute carpets as its gift. New carpets cover platform, communion platform and both aisles and front porch. J.C.E. also made a gift of a nice pulpit cushion. A feature of all recent meetings is large attendance at gospel services. Young Women's Fellowship has plans for a sale of works. Albert Fox has returned home after a major heart operation which was a success. Choir has been a big asset to all evening services.

ADDRESS

H. G. Earle (preacher Surrey Hills church, Vic.)—5 Barry-st., Kew, E.4. 'Phone, WA8130.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY, VICTORIA.

YOUTH AUXILIARY.

THIRD ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING,

FRIDAY, JULY 30, at 8 p.m.,

in the

COLLINS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.

Speaker, Mr. GORDON POWELL, M.A., B.D.
Subject, "MODERN PROOF OF BIBLE TRUTH."

Choral Items by the Victorian Baptist Youth Choir under the baton of Mr. Rowland Thomas.

Please regard this as a personal invitation to be present.

ADMITTANCE FREE.

Offering for the world-wide work of the Bible Society.

The Australian Christian

July 20, 1948

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Obituary

Mrs. Sarah Austin

At her home in Hampton, Vic., on June 28, Mrs. Austin entered into rest at the age of ninety-four years and eleven months. She was one of the early members of the Fitzroy tabernacle, having been baptised by W. S. Houchins with her husband and two eldest girls sixty years ago. It was reported to be the first baptism of husband and wife together to be witnessed in Victoria. There were ten children of the marriage, all of whom became members of the church. One son, Clifford, died in the 1914-18 war. Another, Edwin, is well known for his work with the Social Service Department and the Properties Corporation. The other surviving children are Mrs. W. D. Lang, Mrs. Tunbridge, Mrs. Horne, Percy, Mrs. Finger, Walter and Irene, who with great devotion cared for her mother through years of declining strength. Mrs. Austin was a foundation member of the cause at Northcote, and later was associated with the church meeting at Camberwell. The last twenty-six years of her life were spent at Hampton. Mrs. Austin was greatly loved by her family, and rejoiced to have the sons and daughters and their descendants visit her. She was highly esteemed by the members at Hampton, who delighted to send her tokens of esteem when her birthday came. Owing to her great age she could not take active part in church life, but she had an encouraging word for all who came to see her, and was always interested to hear news of the work. She was laid to rest on June 30 in Melbourne General Cemetery, services at home and graveside being conducted by K. A. Jones and C. L. Lang. The church and the family have rich memories of one who was indeed a wonderful mother and a loyal and devoted servant of Christ.—D.E.P.

Mrs. C. Bird

THE church at Fairfield, Vic., has lost one of its old and esteemed members in the person of Mrs. C. Bird. Our sister with her husband and son joined the church at Collingwood during the Chandler-Clay mission, being baptised by J. E. Webb. Her membership with the church has been shared by Collingwood and Fairfield, where she was esteemed because of her loyalty and faithfulness to Christ. Had our sister lived until September she and her husband would have rejoiced in fifty years of married life. Our sister departed this life on July 9, and was laid to rest on July 12 in the Melbourne General Cemetery, Carlton. A nephew of our esteemed sister, Herbert Bass, is the esteemed preacher of the church at Melbourne, Florida, U.S.A. The church at Fairfield extends sincere sympathy to all who mourn. "Until the day dawn, and the shadows flee away."—T.A.F.

Kirby Alan H. Foster

THE church at Naracoorte, S.A., has suffered a very severe blow in the sudden death of Kirby Foster at the early age of 45 years. He was baptised here twenty years ago by A. R. Benn, of Kaniva. He has proved himself to be a faithful and useful brother throughout the years, especially so during the last seven or eight years, when he proved himself a very efficient church secretary. As a deacon for a considerable period he was ever ready to assist the church in every practical way, being very handy with tools. In more recent years he developed his powers of presiding at worship services, and exhorting his brethren to steadfastness in the faith. On the last occasion he presided, just ten days prior to his death, he focussed our attention on international affairs which some believed were pointing to the early return of our Lord. But although we did not know times or seasons, it behoved us all to be ready, and there was no better way than in

loyalty to Christian worship and service. He died suddenly in the early hours of June 18, and was laid to rest on Sunday afternoon, June 20, after a service in the chapel which was crowded, and there was a large concourse at the graveside. He was a quiet, unassuming man, but had earned the love and respect of his brethren in the church, and was held in very high regard by the whole community. His sudden passing creates problems for the small church here, but God will carry forward his work. He leaves a widow and one son to mourn his passing, but they sorrow not as those who have no hope. We commend them to the God of all comfort who comforteth us in all our sorrows.—A.H.

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IN MEMORIAM

HOLLAND.—In loving memory of Ivy, dear Christian friend of L. Robertson, passed away suddenly on July 13, 1946. "Forever with the Lord." Sadly missed.

HOLLAND.—The passing of time can never dim the memory of dear Ivy, who was called home July 13, 1946.

—Inserted by G. B. Sinclair.

UPSTILL.—In loving memory of my dear mother, who passed away July 19, 1941, aged 81 years. Resting in his everlasting arms.

—Inserted by her loving daughter, Ruby Harding.

WATERMAN.—In loving memory of our eldest son Will, late missionary of churches of Christ (China), fell asleep in Christ July 17, 1933.

As we loved him, so we miss him,
Blessed hope that in Jesus is given,
We will meet with our loved one again.

—Inserted by his parents, A. and W. Waterman.

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11 a.m., Worship and Communion.

4.30, Study Group.

5.15, Fellowship Tea.

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Preacher, K. A. Macnaughtan.

WELCOME TO DR. MCGINLAY.

Dr. McGinlay, of California, close friend of Dr. Appelman and noted preacher, will be welcomed at Collins-st. Baptist Church, Wednesday, July 28, at 8 p.m. All Christian people invited.

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The Mildmay Winter Convention will be preceded by a series of NOON-DAY MEETINGS at Collins-st. Baptist Church, August 2-6, at 12.30 p.m.

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Open Forum

FOR "CHRISTIAN" READERS.

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

CHRISTIAN UNION

IT is regrettable that Thos. W. Smith, writing in your issue of June 29, should so represent both the views of our early leaders and the nature of the present world movement towards Christian union. It is emphatically "too much to say" that 100 years of "persistent, scriptural plea for Christian union" by our movement has "made possible" the forthcoming inaugural session of the World Council of Churches. Except for a few outstanding leaders — several of them severely disowned or regarded with suspicion by their brethren — we have contributed very little to the modern movement, which sprang directly from the urgent necessity for unity in overseas mission fields.

It is nevertheless true that the modern movement is right in line with the finest things which our pioneers said and for which they worked. It is not "denominational in nature," nor does it "offer human expedients instead of the divine standard." On the contrary the W.C.C. is based upon the great creed of the deity of Christ; and it is a deliberate and devout attempt to find the mind of God for the uniting of the church.

The fact is that the problems of church unity are not nearly so simple as many of us have

naively believed. There are millions of Christians outside the ranks of the movement of which we are a part who are anxious to unite upon divine principles. It is by no means easy to find out what they are; it is not enough to say that the norm is in the New Testament. All sorts of problems of interpretation, adaptation and history enter to create difficulty in understanding. To take one example: a renowned New Testament scholar claims to find in the New Testament traces of congregational, presbyterian and episcopal forms of government; "which is right, or is there some reconciliation? To be specific — what exactly is to take the place in the modern church of an office like that of Timothy or Titus? ("appoint elders").

Alexander Campbell was aware of these problems, though many of his alleged followers apparently are not. His solution was to rely for authoritative doctrine not on one man's view, but on the consensus of faith — the mind of God interpreted by the whole church of all ages. That, as I understand it, is precisely what the modern movement to union and the World Council of Churches are attempting to do.—W. S. Lowe, N.S.W.

CONCERNING the DEATH PENALTY

THOSE that argue the abolition of the above are compelled to admit some form of punishment owing to the law of the State that exists for the protection of society organised by the sovereign, God (Rom. 13: 1-4). Civilisation might be a finer thing if the apparently

savage method of hanging were abolished and a more scientific one instituted. Then would our statute book be cleaner and more consistent with the methods used in the courts to reach such an extremity. It should never be the State's function to torture its criminals. Instead of a quick cervical fracture, I will admit the possibility of strangulation. Nevertheless the extremity remains according to the demanded penalty, "whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed," for "in the image of God made he man."

According to the teaching of the Old Testament there is definite teaching of the State's prerogative to take life. In this difficult subject I would be thankful to know where there is a basis of setting aside the State's function in the new, especially when I read in the New Testament such verses as "Things worthy of death" (Rom. 1: 32); "The few and the many stripes," and that the law was made for murderers, etc. (1 Timothy 1: 9; Matthew 22: 7).

By divine authority no extenuation or change such as life imprisonment or anything that approximated thereto was admitted. The divine mandate was: "Thou shalt take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer" (Alexander Campbell, "Popular Lectures," page 337). Does anyone ask why he should not be ransomed at any price. The answer, the reason, is one of fearful import. It is this: "The land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein but by the blood of him that shed it." So God almighty has ordained in his infinite wisdom, justice and benevolence. It is enough. He has said it.—T. J. Johnston, Tasmania.

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COURAGE



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