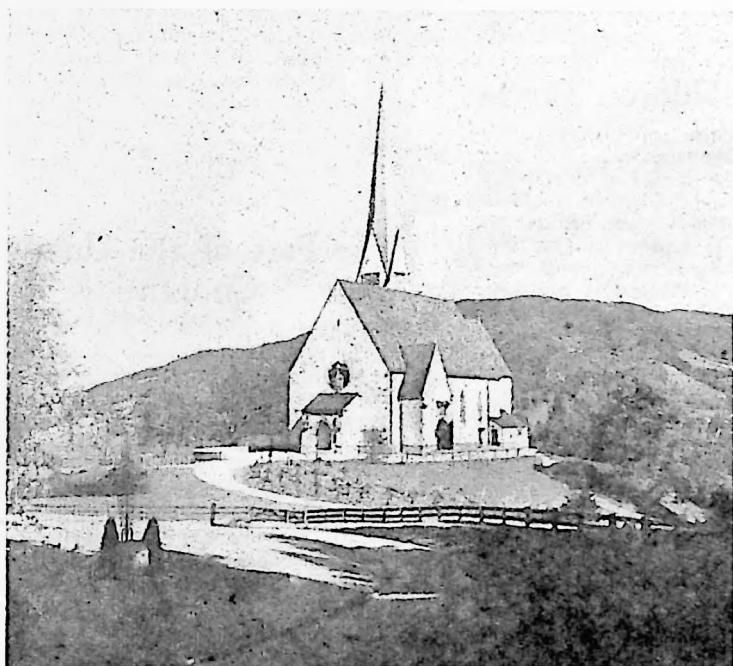


The Australian Christian

National Weekly Representing Churches of Christ

Make Truth Beautiful in Holy Living



Watch Out For Men Who Carry Brass Shields
Making Out They are of Gold

FLOW significant are the words of the apostle: "That they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things!" What a privilege for the Christian to adorn, to make beautiful, the teaching he professes!

One Christian has said:

"We want religion that softens the step, and tunes the voice to melody, and fills the eye with sunshine, and checks the impatient exclamation and harsh rebuke; a religion that goes into the family and keeps the husband from being cross when dinner is late, and keeps the wife from fretting when the husband tracks the newly washed floor with his boots, and makes the husband mindful of the scraper and the door-mat; keeps the mother patient when the baby is cross, and amuses the children as well as instructs them; cares for the servants, besides paying them promptly; projects the honeymoon into the harvest moon, and makes the happy home like the eastern fig tree, bearing on its bosom at once the tender blossom and the glory of the ripening fruit. We want a religion that shall interpose between the ruts and gullies and rocks of the highway and the sensitive souls that are travelling over them."

Church's Light Penetrates the Darkness

Newspaper Evangelism in China

DR. FRANK HOUGHTON'S book, "China Calling," in its new and revised edition, has an informative survey of extra-church means by which Chinese people learn the gospel of Jesus Christ, among which he includes books, broadcasting and newspapers. There is hardly a city in China, he states, that has not at least one newspaper and scarcely a remote hamlet without a newspaper reader. Sympathetic editors will frequently admit a statement of the gospel as ordinary reading matter. Much material of the same kind appears in the advertisement columns, and this interesting book contains a specimen page of a form of Christian propaganda by means of advertisement. An address is always given to which an inquirer may write, he adds, and experience shows that this is a method which deserves to be more widely adopted.

Imprisoned for Circulating Bibles

OPPORTUNITY and trial have come in near succession to G. A. Hadjiantoniou, a recent Greek visitor to Britain.

Writing to Mr. H. M. Gooch of the World's Evangelical Alliance a letter of happy appreciation, he told his news that the Friends' Armenian Mission, whom our visitor was able to impress while over here with the need for a Christian printing house in Athens, have offered for his work a factory they own in an Athens suburb, and a gift of £500 towards machinery.

Almost at the same time he was summoned before a criminal court, at the instance of the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church, for circulating in the island of Rhodes and in Greece scripture copies and other publications without having them stamped "Protestant."

He refuses to submit to that condition. "I don't believe," he writes, "that the Word of God, which these publications contain, is 'Protestant.'" A cable received on Monday reports a sentence of two months' imprisonment, and "strongly protests to the Christian conscience of the world."

Mr. Hadjiantoniou, in his letter, asked for the prayers of his supporters, and Mr. Gooch will receive further gifts towards the cost of equipping the printing house.

Aeroplane Scatters Christian Literature

MR. DAVID CLASS, speaking on "seed sowing in Brazil" at Westminster Chapel, Oct. 6, had an astonishing story to tell of response to the gospel. The Christian church in that vast country was increasing as never before, many conversions taking place solely through the reading of scripture portions, thousands of which had found their way into the interior. So great was the demand for the scriptures that Roman Catholics were finding themselves compelled to reverse their policy and print copies for distribution. These, however, were copiously annotated with Roman Catholic doctrine. Mr. Glass told of the success of an experiment which had been tried in the north, where

scripture leaflets dropped from an aeroplane were eagerly seized by the population. The plane was now being fitted with a loud-speaker to give a message from the air before scattering literature.

Mary Slessor Centenary

THAT intrepid pioneer missionary of outstanding personality, Mary Slessor of Calabar, was born on Dec. 2, 1848, and centenary celebrations are to be held throughout Scotland. In Dundee, where Mary Slessor worked as a factory girl, the Presbytery is making arrangements for an exhibition, and an appeal is being made for exhibits from those who can supply anything connected with her life and work. It was in Aberdeen that Mary Slessor was born, and she was eleven years of age when her family removed to Dundee. Mr. W. P. Livingstone, whose massive biography did so much to make Mary Slessor famous, said that "many could not see her greatness for what they called her eccentricities. But when her life is viewed as a whole, and in the light of what she achieved, all these angles and oddities fall away, and she stands out, a woman of unique and inspiring personality, and one of the most heroic figures of her age."—*"British Weekly."*

New Light on Hudson Taylor

IT was Baptist Noel who predicted that, out of the revival evangelism directed against the citadel of sin in the East End of London, some unknown Luther and Whitefield would be produced. Two remarkable men engaged in work in the East End of London at that time, William Booth and Hudson Taylor, both comparative nobodies, both at the end of a chapter of frustration, both on the verge of achieving great things for God. If ever the spirit of prophecy was given a man, it was surely given Baptist Noel that day.

George Pearse, of the Chinese Evangelisation Society, wrote a letter to a tired and frustrated young missionary, James Hudson Taylor, saying, "You will be glad to know that the revival has reached London and hundreds are being converted." The same year, 1860, Mr. Taylor returned home. During the five years following he kept no diary, hence his chief biographer has designated this period "The Hidden Years." The young missionary devoted much of his time during the passing weeks to medical studies and translation work. Was that all? Could a man of Hudson Taylor's intensity be content to study quietly whilst a great revival swept the metropolis?

So Hudson Taylor devoted his week-ends to revivalism in the East End of London, in particular in the Twig Folly Mission in Bethnal Green. Of course, he was not the outstanding missioner; he was not even an outstanding missioner; he helped. But a noted infidel was converted whilst he labored there, and many of the converts of the revival were there baptised. As William Booth and Hudson Taylor saw the power of God at work in the East End, their minds were drawn into different channels of action, one to found the greatest home mission in the world, the other to found

the greatest foreign mission in modern times.

To privileged Brighton came Hudson Taylor in the summer of 1865. He visited his friend George Pearse, and with him attended the Brighton meetings in the warm afterglow of revival. The gatherings were marked by great enthusiasm and easy soul-winning, but the very atmosphere of the place depressed the young missionary. The revival, then in progress, was a revelation in the homeland of God's power to bless (wrote Marshall Broomhall) whilst 1,000,000 a month dying in China without God was its appalling contrast. On Sunday, June 25, 1865, unable to bear the sight of a thousand or more Christian people rejoicing in their security, while multitudes were perishing for lack of knowledge, Hudson Taylor walked the beach and shed the tears of an intercessor.

The prayer-life of British Christians had reached an all-time high level. George Muller's example in launching out in faith was stirring all sorts of people to plunge into the waters of dependence upon God. Evangelism was being carried on in an extraordinary way. Hudson Taylor quietly took the prayer and faith and pure-evangelism principles of the 1859 Awakening, and applied them to the need of China's millions.

The vision of the China Inland Mission was not an isolated ray of faith in the lonely soul of Hudson Taylor. It was the collective rays of the power of the Spirit in the revival finding focus in the magnifying-glass of a soul of crystal clearness, kindling a little flame which caused a conflagration in the stockade of the destroyer of souls.—Edwin Orr.

The Fate of the Uniate Church

PATRIARCH JUSTINIAN, head of the Orthodox Church of Rumania, announced that Uniate Christians (Roman Catholic Church of the Byzantine rite) have severed their ties with Rome and joined the Rumanian Orthodox Church.

Thirty-six priests and two archpriests of the Uniate Church, representing 423 priests of their rite, had met at Cluj on October 1, and voted unanimously to submit a petition for reunion with the Orthodox Church. Simultaneously the conference issued an appeal to Uniate believers to accept their decision.

A Uniate delegation was sent to Bucharest to submit the conference's decision to the Orthodox Patriarchate. The delegates were received at a session of the Orthodox Synod, and later participated at a special celebration of the Orthodox liturgy, which was broadcast throughout the nation.

The Uniates of Rumania, numbering about 1,250,000, were united with Rome in 1697, when an Act of Unity was signed at Blaj, Transylvania. The Uniate Church is said to have 1,725 churches and more than 700 priests, headed by a metropolitan and four bishops.

Reunion of the Uniate Church with the Orthodox Church has been anticipated ever since Patriarch Justinian, at his enthronement last May, had urged Uniates to return to Orthodoxy. Many newspapers published articles recalling the return of the Uniates in Russia to the Russian Orthodox Church in 1946, and asking, "Will our people have the same joy?" Many Uniates are said to be opposed to the reunion with Orthodoxy.

WHEN FRIENDS FAIL

JEREMIAH had a troublesome fault. His "friends" seemed to suggest by their attitude that he was troublesome to them.

Jerusalem was in danger. The citizens of that city, while claiming to be God's people, had departed from God's words and commandments. While these people gave lip service to God, they did not produce deeds in accordance with their claims to be followers of the Lord. Those people considered there were certain advantages in assuming allegiance to the Lord, but they were not prepared to honor in life and action the plea so often upon their lips. By certain excuses which they manufactured in their minds, they tried to justify departure from God's word. There was in their heart a desire to be like the people around them. Those pagan practices of the ungodly made an appeal to these citizens of Jerusalem. Not being ready to stand out against those who denied God's way of life, they sought to justify their behaviour. Those citizens of Jerusalem were weaklings. They lacked character and the finer elements of leadership. They were prepared to go the easy and popular way and to drift with the crowd. They were afraid to stand alone.

While there may be some immediate gains to be had by such a policy, nevertheless the more distant results of compromise are full of tragedy. The people of Jerusalem were blind to the dire judgment about to come upon them because of their neglect of the word of the Lord.

Just as they were not ready to allow their own minds to think straight about their behaviour and its consequences, neither would they let anyone tell them of their foolishness nor of the judgment about to come upon them. The man who dared to speak the truth in their presence was marked out as dangerous. He who persisted in telling people what God required of them was not popular. Only because Jeremiah loved God and was heroic in spirit did he dare to stand alone.

II.

JEREMIAH was no coward. He was prepared to face the crowds and to tell them what the Lord required. He pointed out clearly the nature of the disasters about to come upon the city. There was only one way to avoid these terrible judgments. Let the people change their ways and repent, Jeremiah urged, and then they will be saved.

Jeremiah was speaking for the good of the people. He was out to help them. Unfortunately they treated him as an hindrance to their progressive ways. He was looked upon as old-fashioned. In their "modern" world such a "conservative" was out of place. It never dawned upon their drowsy minds that this "conservative" and "old fashioned" fellow had more light in his heart than they had ever seen.

One day Jeremiah became discouraged. He refused to speak the word of the Lord. He had reached the place where he was ready to let the people go their own foolish way. However, he could not rest. God's word burned in his heart. There was only one thing for him to do—speak the truth as God revealed it to him, and then to take the consequences.

III.

WHENCE were Jeremiah's friends? There were those who claimed to be his "friends." While many in the city cried, "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" the "friends" of the prophet walked cautiously. They were not prepared to run any risks. They actually watched for him to make a false step. "Perhaps," they whispered, "he will make a slip, and then we have him—then for our revenge!"

EDITORIAL

Does human cruelty and man's inhumanity to man sink lower than when a man's friends turn from him and watch for his fall just because that man has dared to stand by God's word!

Jeremiah cared not for the scoffs of enemies, nor for the deceitfulness of "friends." Why? He knew he was in the right. The friendship of God is better than the uncertain allegiance of unreliable men. Jeremiah cried, "I have the Eternal on my side, a dread and doughty champion!"

What would become of those who persecuted the man who stood by the word of God? Jeremiah replied, "My persecutors shall collapse and miss their aim; bitter shall be their shame over their failure, a lasting shame to them, never to be forgotten."

Despite the loyalty of Jeremiah to God's word, his heroic action and persecution, the people of Jerusalem were not spared the judgment. Resisting the truth and going stubbornly on their foolish way, they came to one great disaster after another. Here we see that it is not enough for heroic men to stand up and warn the people. If people are to be saved, they must heed the "writing on the wall" and repent.

Only ignorance and foolishness allow people to despise God's word as revealed in the Christ of the New Testament. Human "wisdom" has tried to bring God's word to nought many times in the world's history, but those who have worshipped at the shrine of "Worldly Wisdom" have suffered judgment and defeat. Those who stand by God's word to-day will be the lights in a corrupt generation.

They may not be popular among those who may appear to be "friends," but they will have the unfailing companionship of God.

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Justice for the Innocent

THE message of Christmas seeks to encourage "goodwill" and "peace" among men. We recognise that peace can be secured only among men who have goodwill. There is need for a new spirit in the community. The will of men must be directed to a good purpose or end.

If selfishness rules each section of the community, then there will be strife. One of the most unfortunate developments of recent years is the strong pressure that organised groups bring to bear upon ordinary citizens. If a section wants an advantage, then action is taken which brings hardship upon innocent people.

For the most part the troubles have affected none more than the housewife. If there were goodwill in the organised group, nothing would be undertaken to allow the innocent to suffer. It is not just to seek an advantage at the expense of the innocent.

The trend of modern society is moving toward that state of affairs when conflict brings suffering, not to the parties concerned, but mainly to the innocent. This was so in the dreadful bombing warfare in Europe and Asia, and it will be so in future atomic wars. The weakness of man is revealed in his willingness to gain an advantage at the expense of another.

May we learn again from Christ that it is better to suffer innocently than to escape only at another's expense. No doubt various groups in society need to be treated justly, but let that justice come without robbing others of their justice. Men of goodwill will treat others justly and thus encourage peace in the community.

When To Close Down

G. R. Stirling, B.A.

WE should be working hard for the time when churches of Christ may cease to exist as a separate body. This time will come when New Testament Christianity has been restored to the life of the church and the world, and Christians are one, even as Christ prayed. Then we may consider our work done, as we merge into one united church. Until then it seems reasonable for us to continue as a vigorous body of people intensely loyal to churches of Christ, as these express our unique message to the church and to the world. That message is that the New Testament is the only rule of faith and practice for the church, and that it is the only effective basis for the union of all Christians.

Wm. Robinson said: "If we wish to know what Christianity is, both in form and spirit, it is to the small yet unparalleled group of documents produced within the bosom of the early church and within the apostolic age, inspired by the Spirit of God, and by his providential guidance collected into what we now call the New Testament, and to these documents alone, that we must go, interpreting them in the true spirit of history." This was the great discovery of our pioneers. They could see that no creed could be produced that would be acceptable to all. Tradition could never be the basis of Christian unity as traditions differed. The New Testament alone was the authoritative basis of union. The pioneers were careful to point out that an appeal to the New Testament did not mean devising certain beliefs first and then going to the New Testament for proof texts to back them up. It did not mean taking certain parts of the New Testament and looking on them as the whole of Christianity out of relation to the other parts. It meant going to the New Testament with an open mind, and examining it in the light of all that reverent scholarship has been able to discover about it, and finding there, and there alone, a sane and adequate basis for union.

Has the Time Arrived for Closing Down?

It might well be thought that this plea for union on the basis of the New Testament is not as relevant now as it was then, and that we can water it down and drift slowly into the denominations. Some might say, "Did not the World Faith and Order Conference of 1937 state unanimously that the New Testament was the norm and standard for the church?" That is true, but the churches there could not agree to revoke the authority of creeds and traditions and confessions, in favor of the New Testament as the *only* rule of faith and practice.

Others might say that we have achieved union. "There is a spirit of unity abroad," they may say, "and that is the achievement of what we've hoped." However, it takes very little imagination to see that this spirit of unity is merely the shadow of things which must come, if the church is to survive and do her work amongst men.

Mere Fellowship is Not Enough

The fact that the churches are moving closer together than ever before is something to be grateful for, but no reason for us to soften down the message for the restoration of New Testament Christianity as the basis of Christian union. In fact, this moving closer together carries with it a danger that has to be watched. It is the danger of confusing fellowship with union. In the days when Christians tore at one another's throats, the evils of division were so evident that all sane people strove for unity. Now that we have learned to have fellowship

with one another, there is the danger of the enjoyment of fellowship blinding us to the fact that there still exist evil, time-wasting, crippling divisions of the body of Christ.

There is the added danger that, finding these other Christians as good as, even if not better than ourselves, we wonder whether our message is as important as we thought. We need to remember that we have never considered ourselves superior or better than others, or that others have none of the truth. We have set out all along to demonstrate to others a basis of union that will bring us all together to conquer the world for Christ.

If we appreciate fellowship with other Christians, we must make it real, by giving it a

"the more we are together the merrier we'll be" type).

3. That persons scrap their own views and accept others altogether, so that virtually another denomination is formed, although it masks this fact with the cloak-word "undenominational."

It is refreshing, then, to find that at last a body has come into existence where we can sit with other Christians and all frankly state our cases, and that this may happen in all parts of the world wherever the World Council is represented. This great new fact makes it all the more urgent for us to know what we mean by restoring the New Testament as the basis of the united church. Our pioneers, struggling on the fringe of the denominations and getting a hearing from only a few for their plea, never dreamed that within a few years the way would be open to state our case, along with others, at conference tables throughout the world. They would have us present a strong case, by being unwaveringly loyal to the plea.

The World Council of Churches is a sign that at last the churches are getting down to the serious business of finding a basis for union. They have gone beyond mere fellowship to a business-like search for the cure for division. We have been claiming for 140 years that we have a cure. No others have made such a claim as ours. Surely it would be folly to weaken our message at such a time as this!

Pure Speech

Thomas Hagger.

THE pioneers of the movement which seeks to restore New Testament Christianity to the world to-day contended, very earnestly, for what they called "pure speech," and frequently referred to "the language of Ashdod."

They were anxious that Bible things should be called by Bible names, that Bible answers should be given to Bible questions, and were of the opinion that if it was not possible to speak of anything religious in the language of the Bible, it was because the idea was not to be found in the book.

Doubtless those pioneers made some mistakes; they were but human beings. But their idea that "pure speech" should be used could hardly be called wrong.

There would seem to be a need for the plea for pure speech to-day, judging by some of the religious language heard.

Sometimes we hear the term "Christian Sabbath" applied to "the first day of the week," and our Lord's day schools spoken of as "Sabbath schools."

Baptism is sometimes spoken of as "baptism by immersion." When our pioneers heard that they would often say that is really speaking of "immersion by immersion."

The term "sacrament" is sometimes used of the Lord's appointments of baptism and the Lord's supper. But such terms are not used anywhere in the guide book.

One term that is often heard now is "the world church." If our pioneers were here they would doubtless ask for a definition of that term, and as to where such can be found in the New Testament.

And so we could go on; but enough. Surely it is important to preserve purity of speech as well as purity of doctrine, and purity of life.

American citizens spent last year two per cent. of the national income on the education of their children, and five per cent. for intoxicating liquors to harm themselves and their children.—"The Christian Crusader."

The Australian Christian

Planning for Christmas

A. Anderson, secretary of Federal Foreign Mission Board, calls attention to special needs of Indian field.

THE sum of £150 has already been forwarded to India for Christmas celebrations. These funds were sent in expectation that the usual amounts would come forward for the purpose. To date, very little has been received towards this worthy object.

Not only does the Christian community around the mission stations share in the gifts and festivities provided, but even the smaller villages far away are not overlooked. Those too distant to come in are visited by our missionaries and co-workers and thus made to feel they belong. The difficulties of past years cause even our co-workers to live with rigid economy, and the few extras at Christmas are real red-letter days, especially for the children.

Some of our new children in the orphan homes will share for the first time some of the "luxuries" that will be brought to them. An ordinary meal for us is a banquet to them.

Plans are also under way to send the usual gifts for our island Christians. Their needs are few, but they delight in seeing their children happy at Christmas time and to share in things not usually available.

Our missionaries themselves will also share in gifts from the Christmas Cheer Fund. For those with families it will make Christmas planning so much easier.

Let your gifts flow easily and early for our Christmas Cheer Fund!



CALLING FOR SUPPORTERS

ALMOST every mail from India tells of more admissions to the homes. It is hard to refuse admittance to children whose parents cannot care for the needs of the little ones, or in many cases applicants have no parents. The homes have supplied a real need for over twenty years, and apart from saving these young people from actual starvation and privation, the spiritual dividends have been gratifying.

The need is so urgent that the Government have asked us to take at least twenty of their well-behaved children from Government homes because of the benefit they will gain by coming under our control. Six of these have been selected, and the money given helps the home finances. One such boy, a Jain by religion, said, "I am acting like a Christian, I am behaving like a Christian, and if I stay here I will soon be a Christian."

We have many names and reports for allocation, and would be glad of new supporters.



Shrigonda Motor Vehicle.

By means of this up-to-date motor Mr. Bruce Coventry and co-workers will be able to contact all the outlying Christian villages at Christmas time. In recent years such trips had to be made in slow bullock-cart.

Several applications for children have been made in recent weeks, but the need is still beyond the demand. It would be a wonderful gesture if a family or a society or guild were to take one of these children into their hearts and homes at this Christmas time. Read the following, and in the light of this, and guided by your ability, make your decision.

"If someone came to you for bread,
Some child perhaps, with arms flung wide—
If someone frozen, almost dead,
Dropped in a sudden swoon beside
Your home—if someone poorly clad,
Left bloody footprints in the snow—

Would you give of the bit you had?
Or would you bar your door and go?
If India were across the street
Instead of many seas away,
Would you give India food to eat,
Or would you pass it by to-day?
If Christ with tender hands outstretched
Should smile at you from heaven above,
Would you, by one small shred of doubt,
Betray the splendor of his love?"



DO YOU KNOW?

THAT one of the handicaps of missionaries is the white man who drinks?

That the severest rebuke to distillers and brewers would be to have them stand in the police court every morning and study the faces of men and women charged with drunkenness?

That instead of poisoning the brain we should cultivate it?

Social Service Notes and Comments

Will H. Clay.

Christmas and New Year

THE Social Service Committee, the Women's Auxiliary, the staff of the office and staff and guests of our homes, join in best wishes for the coming season to all the churches of the State. The year just closing has been crowned with blessing, and we desire to thank all who have in any way sought to further our aims. The success of the past gives us assurance for the future. The Christmas season is the special time for thankfulness and an overflow of generosity. We confidently submit the claims of the department and our homes to all our friends.

Our Homes

The three properties, one in Oakleigh and two in Murrumbeena, which it is intended shall comprise a unit of homes for aged and infirm, are to be given immediate attention to bring them into service. Two semi-detached cottages to accommodate two married couples or sisters are already being erected at Oakleigh. These are expected to cost in the neighborhood of £2500. Sketch plans have been submitted to the Building Directorate for endorsement, and permits to convert and make structural alterations and additions have been obtained for both Murrumbeena properties. It is expected that upwards of £30,000 will be expended, from 60 per cent. to 70 per cent. of which will be advanced by the Government through the newly-formed Hospitals and Charities' Commission. When completed churches of Christ in Victoria will own and control one of the most up-to-date group of homes for aged and infirm in the State. As a further link in the chain of homes, the committee has secured a five-acre property with a small cottage on the ridge of a hill overlooking the Warburton Valley. The committee has in mind the building of an hostel to which such guests of our homes and other aged folk who could be transported with safety might be taken for a short holiday. It must not be overlooked that, regardless of the comfort we might afford in our homes, many guests are virtually prisoners. To have the prospect of an occasional change in the beautiful mountain district would be an indescribable joy. It is possible that someone may have it in his heart to bring this to fruition, which would be a unique finale to the completed scheme.

The Matter of Staff

The Social Service Committee is moving toward an objective which will embrace three homes and a hostel which will offer a field for about 30 workers, including matrons, sub-matrons, nurses, semi-trained nurses, cooks, maids, tradesmen and handymen. Trainees will also be required. We have faith to believe that we shall find these in our churches of the Commonwealth, and those desiring Christian service of this nature are requested to communicate with the Social Service office.

The Annual Women's Rally

On Saturday, December 11, the annual gathering organised by the women of the churches will take place at the Murrumbeena home, Wahgoorrd, at 2.30 p.m. Mrs. Ploog, president of the Women's Conference, will represent that body. The General Conference and the Caulfield Municipality will also be represented. Mr. J. L. Lechte, M.L.A., the Member for the district, will be present to represent the Government which is giving generous support to the aims of the committee. Arrangements are in hand to cater for 500 persons. It is certain that many will wish to see the recently acquired properties.

United Nations' Appeal for Children

The churches have made a splendid response to the appeal, and although it closed on Oct. 24, amounts continue to come in. The total received to date is £751/1/8. We would advise that any further contributions be sent direct to the office of the appeal, Mitchell House, 3rd floor, corner Lonsdale and Elizabeth-sts., Melb.

De Facto Wives

The following report was featured in the Melbourne "Herald" on Nov. 13:—

"Mr. Clay said his church opposed the legislation because it gave de facto wives equal status with women who had conformed with the recognised legal and religious practices of the land."

The contribution by W. H. Clay stated further that these churches feel that if the offensive legislation is removed some substitutionary legislation should be introduced which will prevent a serious injustice being done to many women who are illicitly joined to de facto husbands and upon whom depends the home life of their children.

Training and Preaching in Australia

Luff-Dewberry-Gibb Mission

LIDCOMBE, N.S.W.

A FORTNIGHT'S mission conducted in the chapel by J. A. Luff (preacher at Enmore), L. S. Dewberry (preacher at Wiley Park), J. "Scotty" Gibb, song-leader, Mrs. Baker (pianist) and Miss V. Argall (organist) proved to be a great blessing to the church, and Lidcombe will reap the benefit for many days to come. The attendances were excellent, and



J. A. Luff.



L. S. Dewberry.

as a result of wide publicity visitors came from distant as well as neighboring churches. There were special musical items each night, including solos, duets and trios. All of those taking part in any way were members of the churches of Christ. The two missionaries proclaimed the gospel with no uncertain voice. Mr. Luff and Mr. Dewberry are both graduates of Woolwich Bible College, and the manner in which they presented the gospel to the Lidcombe public reflected very great credit on the institution. With a rare combination of logic and eloquence they drove home the great truths of the gospel and the principles of the Restoration Movement. It is impossible to tabulate the full blessings of the mission, but visible results include five confessions of faith and six reconsecrations of life. One of the highlights of the mission was the Wednesday night of the second week, when four splendid young men were baptised. Lidcombe has enjoyed a great spiritual feast. Mr. Gibb possesses a pleasing manner as a song-leader. On Tuesday night, Nov. 23, at a social conducted by the K.S.P., presentations were made to each member of the mission party. Spokesmen for church were Mr. Le Cornu (secretary), Mr. Armstrong (choirmaster) and Mr. Baker (preacher).—A. Baker.



Visitation Evangelism

COUNTRY CHURCH HAS SUCCESS.

ON Sunday, Nov. 21, Kaniva church, Vic., commenced a campaign of visitation evangelism, following preparation over past months by weekly meetings, by prayer and by careful planning. Mr. Combridge led campaign with untiring zeal.

In a small place, with a population of 700, of whom most consider themselves belonging to one or another body, and where others live three, five, seven, ten, twelve or more miles from the chapel, the task is somewhat different from that in a large city where distance is not the same consideration and where the prospects can be named in scores.

However, the Kaniva brethren, under Mr. Combridge, put their hands to the task and sought God's guidance. Mr. Mathieson, of Horsham, assisted in the campaign with a ready understanding. At 7 a.m. on Nov. 21, the church

met for prayer. Twenty-one attended. At 11 a.m., seventy attended worship. Mr. Mathieson preached. At 3.30 p.m. visitors gathered for an hour's instruction. At gospel service at 7.30, Mr. Mathieson presented the gospel. At the invitation three young ladies made their stand for Christ—Beth Jory, Shirley Gent and Dawn Hawker. Following the service two were baptised.

On Tuesday and Wednesday evening, visitors met at 6.30 for tea and prayer, prior to going out to bear witness. About 125 miles were travelled, and twenty homes contacted. Not one prospect was antagonistic, though some were non-committal and non-co-operative. Some were very ready to respond, and others very glad to talk concerning their spiritual welfare. In almost every case those visited were very thankful, and visitors were able to pray in each home. Seven prospects signed cards, pledging themselves to make the public confession, and seven others signed, pledging themselves to renew fellowship with church. Others are considering further the claims of Christ. On Sunday, Nov. 28, 7 a.m. prayer meeting was attended by fourteen, seeking God's continued blessing and continued presence of the Holy Spirit. At 11 a.m., sixty attended worship. Mr. Combridge spoke. At 3 p.m. service at Yearninga, Gil Hawker made the good confession. At 7 p.m., 101 gathered for gospel service, during which five confessed Christ and three renewed their fellowship with church. This final service of the campaign was conducted by Mr. Combridge.



College of the Bible

GLEN IRIS, VICTORIA

WE are very happy to acknowledge the gift of fifty copies of "The Bible and Modern Scholarship" made available to staff and students by Jas. B. Nicholson, of Sydney.

After several years of valued service, Mrs. V. R. Price has resigned as matron of Ladies' Hostel, owing to indifferent health. The board of management is pleased to announce that in 1949 Mrs. Doris Curtis, of S.A., will take up the position of matron. Our sister is well known in S.A. churches, particularly at Balaklava and Glenelg.

An anonymous donor—a past lady student of the college—has made a generous gift in providing a new carpet for the hall of the hostel.

The annual offering indicates an increase over last year, and is thus a record. Notable advances have been made by some churches.

The college closed its 42nd year of brotherhood service on Friday, Nov. 26. An impressive ordination service, which was largely attended, was led by the principal, E. L. Williams, and T. Hagger. The address to outgoing students was given by J. E. Allan. The graduation service in the evening was a memorable occasion. The chairman of the board, Dr. W. A. Kemp, presided, and students rendered choral items. Brief addresses were given by E. J. Sewell and J. A. Manallack, and a response by J. G. Shaw. The principal presented F.M. certificates to Misses D. C. Berry and H. L. Skuce, and diplomas to W. B. Burn, K. W. Dixon, E. W. Heard, J. A. Manallack, N. S. Moore, R. C. Sack, E. J. Sewell and J. G. Shaw. It was a pleasure to have among the large gathering many interstate visitors. By the kindness of the officers' board,

both meetings were held in Swanston-st. church.

All the students have accepted appointments, and their locations will be as follow: Misses D. C. Berry, H. L. Skuce and Messrs. E. W. Heard (India), W. B. Burn (East Malvern), C. G. Burtt (Ascot Vale), K. W. Dixon (Milang-Pt. Sturt, S.A.), F. Langford (Yarrawonga), J. A. Manallack (Berri, S.A.), N. S. Moore (Nedlands, W.A.), R. T. Roberts (Maryborough, Qld.), R. C. Sack (Bassendean, W.A.), E. J. Sewell (Cottesloe, W.A.) and J. G. Shaw (North Richmond).

Applications are now being received for entrance in 1949. Intending students should apply without delay.—K.J.



Woolwich Bible College

N.S.W.

THE student college year came to a successful conclusion on Friday evening, Nov. 19, at City Temple, when a capacity congregation, representative of the churches, gathered to do honor to three students, graduates, who were presented with their diplomas. E. Davis, because of the indisposition of the chairman of the board, Mr. Stimson, presided. Frank Donald Craig, Bruce Kingsley Munro and Ernest William Taylor were the students completing the course, and it is gratifying to know that all three are being engaged by the churches where they have worked as students.

This closing service was of a high order, for there was a splendid spirit in the whole meeting and the addresses were of merit. A. W. Ladbrook, M.A., Dip.Ed., gave a fitting message admirably suited to the outgoing students. Marrikville choir and Miss Kath Morrison made good musical contributions to the programme.

The principal reported that the standard required of students had been raised, and that this year the college had commenced the new Four-year Course. The following had lectured during the year: The principal, H. J. Patterson, M.A.; A. W. Ladbrook, M.A., Dip.Ed.; R. Amos, E. Davis, R. Greenhalgh, E. C. Hinrichsen (early part of year), I. Paternoster, E. W. Rossey and Mr. Harrison-Allen.

Prospective students for the year 1949 promise a record enrolment.



North Suburban Conference

THE annual meeting of the North Suburban Conference (Melbourne) was held on Nov. 18 at Preston chapel. F. Chipperfield presided. Two anthems rendered by Preston church choir were appreciated.

Conference officers appointed were: President, E. Miles; past president, F. Chipperfield; vice-president, Dr. E. R. Killmier; secretary, R. W. Vautier; treasurer and organist, L. W. Morstew.

Re Coburg's request for assistance to buy a block of land at West Coburg as brought forward at previous rally, the secretary, under instructions from the Conference Executive, had written to the twelve churches asking their views. Several churches had sent replies which were indicated to the meeting by the president. W. Gray, Coburg, explained the latest developments concerning the project. It was moved and seconded that an offering to assist Coburg church in purchasing a block of land at West Coburg for a future new cause be taken at the February rally of the conference.

Stan Neighbour, director of the Crusade for a Christian World, gave a stirring address, pointing out need for every Christian to be an evangelist for Christ.—R. W. Vautier.

Here and There

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Finger, returning on furlough from New Hebrides, will leave Aoba by the "Morinda" on Dec. 7.

For the second year in succession, £1000 annual offering has been contributed by the Christians on Aoba, New Hebrides.

"Marquee at Subiaco, W.A., was hopelessly crowded out on Dec. 5; eight adults decided; grand meeting; forty to date.—Machin."

We give early notice that the last issue of "The Australian Christian" for 1948 will be that dated Dec. 21 and the first for the new year Jan. 11. The dropping of two issues is made necessary by the Christmas and New Year holidays.

On Friday, December 17; a meeting will take place in the Melbourne Town Hall, when several parliamentarians will declare against the liquor traffic, and some plain speaking will be heard. Messrs. Edmunds, Lechte and Norman deserve the support of all church-going people and particularly of the anti-liquor forces. The Mitcham Choral Society will bring some interspersing items.

Chas. Cole, the preacher of church at Malvern-Caulfield, Vic., has returned, with his wife and family, after a long illness, and has again taken up duties. He preached morning and evening on Dec. 5. At close of evening service a welcome was given preacher and family. Attendance at Sunday school on Nov. 28 was 71. A concert party arranged by W. Morley entertained old folk at Christian Guest Home on Nov. 27.

Church at Marrickville, N.S.W., has been spiritually strengthened and uplifted as result of home visitation campaign. Under direction of P. E. Thomas, a team of 20 visitors went out and were well received in homes contacted. Twelve decision cards were signed, and at following Sunday night service eleven made confession of faith. It is believed that others are interested and will follow later. The effort has been well worth while, and will be repeated from time to time.

Owing to the impossibility of securing a building and the impossibility of any longer accommodating a growing school in the manse, Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Edwards have resigned from further service at Port Lincoln, S.A. Regret is expressed that the young people who attended no school, whose parents attend no church, will be allowed to scatter. Twenty of these young people entered the school exams. Six received merit certificates and eight others certificates. On Thursday nights there has been an average attendance of twenty at J.C.E. At a function on Nov. 5, on a vacant block of ground, the Mayor of the town drove up and presented a case of drinks. Around the fire supper was served to parents and children, and hymns were sung. A Christmas tree is arranged for Dec. 10. On medical advice Mrs. Edwards has been away for three weeks.

A missionary meeting was held at Lygon-st. chapel, Vic., on Nov. 29, at 8 p.m., to farewell new missionaries for India, Mr. and Mrs. E. Heard (nee Dorothy Berry) and Miss H. Skuce, and welcome Miss E. Caldicott, who arrived from India by "Stratheden." R. C. Bolduan, chairman of Overseas Committee, presided. Mrs. J. Turner and Mrs. J. Ploog, presidents of Federal and State Women's Conferences, spoke and presented beautiful floral tributes to women missionaries. Greetings were given by R. Enniss, E. L. Williams, A. E. Hurren, presidents of World, Federal and State conferences, and A. Heard, secretary of Tasmanian conference and father of E. Heard. Miss Caldicott brought a greeting from India. Programme was provided by Miss M. E. Pitt.

man, Miss W. Lee and J. Osborne, and Miss St. Clair Saunders. Mr. and Mrs. E. Heard and Miss H. Skuce will leave Melbourne for India by "Strathaird" due to sail on Jan. 15.

At Hindmarsh, S.A., an echo meeting of Federal Conference with epidiascope pictures proved interesting. In absence of J. E. Shipway in W.A. and Gawler, services were acceptably taken by F. G. Banks and S. L. Patching. S.S. anniversary services over two Sundays were well attended. There was hearty singing by scholars, and fine addresses from visiting preachers E. R. Sherman, G. Stirling and A. J. Fisher. Lyall Aird and Joan Gaskin assisted in orchestra. Annual concert proved a great success. Dorcas Society held final meeting for year with outing to Waterfall Gully. Work in all auxiliaries is going well. Mrs. Pierce is in Royal Adelaide Hospital; and Mrs. L. B. Thomas in hospital at Hamley Bridge.

On evening of Nov. 20, church at Bankstown, N.S.W., held a farewell and presentation to preacher, Mr. Moran, and wife. Mr. Moran is temporarily retiring from ministry for health reasons, and he and his popular wife will be missed. Brethren are faced with problem of securing another preacher, and some difficulty is anticipated. In interim, several students and other brethren are preaching on Lord's day evenings. Sunday school anniversary services in October were held under capable musical training of Mrs. Cox, children acquitting themselves well. Bible school work continues in good heart. Mr. Coxhead, who was acting superintendent, having been succeeded in that capacity by Mrs. Cox for an interim period. Church physical culture classes held an interesting display in Soldiers' Hall which attracted considerable interest.

At Whyalla, S.A., Oct. 23, Bible school held prize-giving and annual tea for scholars. Kinders rendered several items in evening. Bible school took charge of evening service on Oct. 24. M. Lawrie, of Ungarra-Tumby Bay circuit, spent week-end at Whyalla and gave address at all gatherings. Bible school had increases last month of eight new scholars and eight in kindergarten. Ladies' Guild reports progress in work for Christmas tree. J.C.E. has good attendances with increasing numbers. Youth clubs are growing rapidly and much progress is being made. At annual church business meeting on Nov. 3, reports augured well for prosperous future. Mid-week prayer meetings have been revived. Church tea held on Nov. 6 was a great success: 31 adults and 16 children sat for tea; a social evening followed. Church anniversary services were continued on Nov. 7; S. E. Matthews was speaker at all gatherings.

Home mission Sunday and C.E. anniversary day was held at Fullarton, S.A., Nov. 28. Meetings were excellent. In morning B. W. Manning's exposition was masterful. Gospel service was in charge of Endeavorers. J.C.E. and I.C.E. formed a choir with a few helpers, and presented several items. Elva Philp sang a solo; Ted Treloar led responsive reading; Rosslyn Gooden recited 23rd Psalm; a testimony was given by Miss Joan Niemann. B. W. Manning conducted the meeting, which was preceded by a song service. Gospel address was powerfully presented by Archie Dawkins, a steward on s.s. "Macedon." After service many remained for a singing and social hour, at which Archie Dawkins gave some of his experiences and Miss Wordie sang. A cup of tea was served at close. Appreciation has

been expressed of the day's meetings. Home mission annual offering amounted to £12/13/-.

"H. M. Long tent mission, Harlaxton, Qld., concluded with crowded services and fourteen decisions; total for mission, thirty-eight decisions; three restorations; two baptised believers and nine reconsecrations.—Winter."

Owing to pressure on space, we have been compelled to hold until next issue results of College of Bible examinations and other news items reaching us Dec. 6. We appreciate brevity in reports, and to that end seek co-operation of reporters.

Bible school anniversary services at Bet Bet, Vic., were held on Nov. 21. Both afternoon and evening services were well attended. The interesting address given by R. McKenzie was appreciated. Visitors attended from Dunolly and Maryborough. Singing of children and young people was a delight. Thirty-two enjoyed fellowship around tea table. Church is sorry to lose services of T. Robinson, who gave farewell addresses on Nov. 28. Church extends sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. E. Chiswell in loss of their daughter Joan.

Cricket club of church at Carlton (Lygon-st.) held annual church parade at evening service of Nov. 14; Lyall Williams was soloist. Membership day at Lygon-st. on Nov. 28 was a great occasion, when many members re-dedicated their lives and services to church and work of their Lord. Reg. Enniss gave an inspiring address at morning meeting, and in evening R. M. Wilson gave an appealing gospel message and invitation. At morning service Mrs. Bell, Mr. Tate and Ron Oldfield made first confession of faith in Jesus Christ. At evening service Mr. Chong and Neville Jackson made the good confession. Forty were present when Women's Mission Band held a social afternoon to wind up year's work. Swanston-st. ladies were guests. At a church social on Dec. 2 gifts of money to amount of £350 towards purchase of a manse were presented to treasurer by auxiliaries and members of church. The marriage of E. W. Heard and Dorothy Berry was celebrated in chapel on Dec. 4.

A splendid spirit prevails in all aspects of work at Brisbane (Ann-st.), and good attendances are maintained at all meetings. Gospel meeting on Nov. 13, conducted by F. C. Hunting, was broadcast over 4KQ, and presented so that full advantage was taken of presenting the plea. Choir assisted ably with Mrs. G. Gwynne soloist. There were two rededications at conclusion of address. A series of special meetings led jointly by both ministers was held on Nov. 14 to 19. Object of the meetings, second series of its kind, is to assist deepening spiritual aims of church, and results are encouraging. Prior to gospel service on Nov. 20, young people prepared a tea, when C. R. Burden was speaker. G. J. Mackenzie conducted evening meeting. Addresses by both ministers during past month dealt with and emphasised importance of stewardship in all its aspects. This was in line with a stewardship campaign conducted by State brotherhood in November. F. C. Hunting addressed morning service on Nov. 27, and G. J. Mackenzie led gospel meeting, when Mrs. W. Keeble was soloist. Average attendance at Lord's Table during November exceeded 170. Mrs. B. N. Stanway has resumed attendance following a series of illnesses. Miss Dierdre Fox and Mrs. James recently underwent operations. Church regrets loss through transfer of Miss L. Tunley, formerly kindergarten superintendent, and Bert Stanway, Bible school secretary, following long period of faithful service. Miss Daphne Schulz and Alan Burnham have taken over vacancies in work. Recent visitors included J. A. Thom, Caulfield, Vic.; A. D. Handley and Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Sloman, Belmore, N.S.W.; Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Bridge, Perth, W.A.; Mervyn Taylor, Burwood, N.S.W.

News of the Churches

Queensland

Townsville.—Members met on night of Oct. 29 to farewell Mrs. D. Williams, whose husband has been transferred to Brisbane. Her faithful service will be much missed. In appreciation she was presented with an engraved silver vase. The preacher, C. Beale, and family have returned from annual holidays. Three communion chairs matching communion table have been donated to church by Sunday school, boys' Explorer Club, and two members.

Boonah.—The man who recently made his decision was immersed on Nov. 28 during gospel service. At conclusion of service a young lad from Sunday school indicated his willingness to follow his Lord. Annual home mission offering so far has amounted to over £33. Several members attended mission at Harlaxton. Church is planning to hold a mission to begin in April next year. Church Fellowship is having final meeting for year at "Black Pinch" in conjunction with Mt. Alford fellowship.

South Australia

Prospect.—Following Tuesday night fellowship meeting (Nov. 23) a further working bee was held to clear ground in church yard. Ladies' Guild held meeting at home of Mrs. Riches, when an offering was taken for Christian Rest Home. Junior girls' and boys' clubs are active, and tennis and cricket clubs are engaging in matches. New equipment has been purchased for kindergarten and other youth groups. R. Vincent was speaker at both services on Nov. 28.

Glenelg.—After a break of some weeks, mid-week prayer meeting recommenced under leadership of J. Webb. A series of special meetings has been arranged for December. A girls' club has been commenced to provide recreation for young ladies' Bible class. Leaders are Misses O. and N. Inkster, and N. Doe. Junior Endeavor Society is meeting with encouraging results, and steadily growing in numbers. A C.E. nursery rally was held recently, delegations from Sturt District Union being in attendance.

Kilburn.—Junior department of Bible school held a successful Christmas function on Saturday, Nov. 27, when 31 children enjoyed sports programme, and party arranged by Mrs. G. Edwards, junior superintendent, assisted by other teachers. Lifeboys Brigade also held final meeting for year on that day, and plan to resume next February. Attendance at 10 a.m. Bible school on Nov. 28 was 111. F. Lawrence conducted 11.15 a.m. service, when 22 adults and 33 young worshippers appreciated addresses by F. Collins, who also spoke at 7 p.m. gospel service. H.M. offering exceeded £11.

Cottonville.—Sunday school night was observed on Nov. 7, teachers and scholars sitting together in their classes, and gospel service specially adapted to them; it was very successful. Home missions were stressed during month, and first Sunday's offering was £19/11/5. Average general offerings have been £11/9/10. Current appeal for Christian Guest Home has reached £23/17/5. New officers elected at annual business meeting were: Colin Butler and E. Pope (elders); Frank Cleveland, W. Ferris and A. Williams (deacons). A. Hollands, through pressure of business, did not seek re-election; he was warmly thanked for his years of service. From Nov. 21 to 28, Mr. Norris helped Mr. Brooke in a campaign of preparation of membership, "Calling the Crusaders." Addresses on building

up the spiritual life and personal evangelism were splendidly received. Mr. Norris was presented with a book as a token of appreciation, and Unley church was thanked for releasing him to help.

Berri - Winkie - Moorook Circuit.—State and Federal conferences took numbers of members away from regular fellowship; all have since returned. Plans for local effort in connection with "Crusade for a Christian World" have been considered. Full diaconate, with the embodiment of deaconesses, constitute crusade committee at Berri and Winkie, under direction of preacher. Anniversary services of Bible school at Winkie and Berri respectively were held during November. Attendance of parents and friends at all services was inspiring. Illustrated addresses were given by R. W. Marshall and Mr. Weir. Sickness and epidemic of children's ailments affected attendances at Bible school at Berri anniversary. L. A. Chapple, Winkie, and Alan Clark, Berri, are commended for their efforts, which were attended with successful results, in training children's choir for anniversaries at each place. Resignation of Mrs. J. Robertson as kindergarten superintendent and Bible school secretary was received with regret at Winkie, on account of her departure to Loxton land settlement area. A token of appreciation of service rendered over many years was presented at anniversary social on Nov. 15. Mrs. J. Searle has taken up kindergarten work in succession to Mrs. Robinson. At a well attended social gathering at Berri on Nov. 24, Alan Chapple and June Evans were recipients of many useful items for their new home. A sale of work by sisters of circuit was culmination of many months' work. It is expected that over £50 will be netted by sisters' effort, and that their special objective for year will be a new kitchen fund for manse.

New South Wales

Earlwood.—A young girl made the good confession when A. Hinrichsen preached to a large congregation on Nov. 28. O. Turner gave a helpful exhortation in absence of preacher at morning meeting. Sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Alan Graham (May Thomson) in sudden home-call of their baby son. K. Fennell, college student, after several months' valued assistance, has received a call to serve elsewhere. A token of esteem was presented to him at Bible school on Nov. 21. Prayer has been answered for recovery of deacon Reeves' daughter Margaret, undergoing operation. On Nov. 26 Mrs. Tabrett gave Seekers' Club a party in honor of daughter Marjorie's 16th birthday. Members presented Marjorie (club secretary) with a C.E. brooch.

Bexley North.—On Nov. 21 R. Greenhalgh challenged members in an address to church, and J. Moran preached at night. B. G. Corlett (Belmore) gave an expository sermon on morning of Nov. 28. Mrs. L. Eagleson was welcomed by letter of transfer from Kingsford church. Special meetings held by women's fellowship and girls' physical culture classes were well attended. Miss I. Bye was speaker at sisters' anniversary, when 75 women were present. £6 was raised for building fund from girls' gymnastic display. Debt now stands at £53, and church treasurer has £20 in hand towards finalising this matter. Property Trust now serves as trustees of property. Sympathy is expressed to Mrs. Rowles in death of her hus-

band, and to T. Hallop in death of his father.

Penshurst.—On Nov. 20, Bible school annual picnic, held at Gunnamatta Bay, proved a happy outing. Ladies' fellowship final meeting for 1948 took form of a market day on Nov. 24. Annual contribution of sisters to building fund was handing in of individual money-bags. That night a meeting, and presentation of balance sheets and reports, was held at home of Mr. Wotherspoon. On Nov. 28, church anniversary was well attended at both services. At 11 a.m. Mr. Wotherspoon, presiding, was assisted by Messrs. Marshall, Miles and Brody. Children's address and exhortation were given by Mr. Morton of Burwood. An excellent gospel address at 7 p.m. was given by Mr. Read, of Chatswood.

Broken Hill.—C.E. Society visited Old Folks' Home and held a fine meeting. Musical items were contributed. Fruit, sweets and dainties were distributed. Books and papers are distributed regularly on behalf of C.E. Combined Bible schools picnic at North Broken Hill Park on Nov. 27 was enjoyed, but there were several accidents and illnesses. Roma Hilford, 11-year-old daughter of preacher, was knocked down by a motor car and is in hospital with three broken ribs, slight internal trouble and shock. She is now progressing favorably. Mr. and Mrs. Hilford were due to leave for Adelaide following Monday, where Mrs. Hilford was to go into hospital for operation. A. Clarke was taken seriously ill while driving his car home from picnic; he is progressing slowly. Mark, small son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Warmbrunn, needed doctor's attention soon after arrival home. Sunday's attendances were depleted by sickness in these families. Church was grieved to hear of passing in hospital of Mrs. A. M. Warne at age of 78 years. She has been a member for about thirty years, but was away from Broken Hill a lot in recent years, and recently was in membership at Grote-st, Adelaide. She came back and stayed for several months with her daughter, Mrs. E. Rogers, then recently left for Sydney to live with her other daughter, Mrs. C. O'Brien. She came into church in late H. E. Tuck's ministry. Sympathy goes out to her two daughters—Mrs. C. O'Brien, Sydney; Mrs. E. Rogers, Broken Hill.

Victoria

Geelong.—Meetings continue to be especially good. On morning of Nov. 28, J. L. Davey, of World-wide Evangelisation Crusade, was speaker. Three were received into fellowship. Mrs. Jeffery, of W.A., was present. At evening service Mr. Stirling spoke, and one brother was baptised. On evening of Nov. 26, Endeavorers held a camp-fire at Queen's Park. On afternoon of 24th, Ladies' Aid held a successful birthday afternoon.

Brighton.—During past month church and school buildings have been Spring-cleaned by members. On Oct. 31 a missionary film service was given by F. Briggs on behalf of Un-evangelised Fields Mission. Hospital Sunday offering amounted to £40/11/-. At S.S. anniversary on Nov. 21, some of the children gave a missionary pageant during afternoon. On following Wednesday concert was enjoyed. An aged but very active member, O. Gale, passed away on Nov. 8.

Wedderburn.—Church has decided to continue in Middle District Circuit for twelve months. On two occasions Mr. Duns, from Bendigo, has taken services. Manse has been renovated throughout and a garage erected. Mr. and Mrs. Quayle are carrying on a good work in circuit. Transfer of membership of Mrs. Quayle has been received. Mrs. Drysdale, one of the first converts of the church here, and who for over seventy years continued faithful in her witness, has passed to her reward. Home mission offering so far amounts to over £27.

Ballarat (Peel-st.).—At conclusion of gospel service on Nov. 21, a young man and a young woman made the good confession. At Bible school anniversary on Nov. 28 L. Trezise was speaker at all services, his addresses being much appreciated. Singing by choir under A. Graham and Tom Coad was delightful. All auxiliaries are healthy. At recent combined fair £40 was raised for school hall renovations.

Yarrawonga.—A happy time was spent at annual talent social, and £97/12/- was handed in to Ladies' Guild. Much work has been put into making the tennis court, and a club has been formed. Play started on Nov. 27. C. Young has paid two appreciated visits to help church while without a preacher. He interested all in his ministry of hospital visitation. At Sunday school one scholar responded to his appeal.

Stawell.—D. Hibbert was preacher on Nov. 14 and 28. In absence of A. Mudford on Nov. 21, Mr. Mortyn and Mr. Tromph took charge of services. Mr. Mortyn gave both addresses for day. A solo by Mr. Tromph was enjoyed. Mr. Mortyn conducted prayer meetings and C.E. Society during illness of Mr. Mudford. Mrs. Mudford and family have also been sick. Ladies' Guild held a gift afternoon on Nov. 18. Gifts were given for Bible school Christmas tree. Sympathy is felt for Mrs. Wilcock in her bereavement.

Echuca.—At S.S. anniversary on Nov. 7, all meetings were excellently attended. L. Trezise, special speaker, held children's attention throughout. Arthur Rosendale trained children, and singing was good. Concert on Nov. 9 was attended better than any yet held and greatly enjoyed. On Nov. 16, Youth Fellowship held wind-up, when members had a moonlight hike. On Nov. 18, Ladies' Auxiliary conducted final effort and raised £13, which brought year's efforts to about £65, passing aim set for year. Junior Boys' Clubs had final night for 1948 on Nov. 23. Most auxiliaries have gone into recess. Church will soon lose Mr. and Mrs. Dudley, who are transferring to Doncaster. Mr. and Mrs. W. Turner were farewelled, and left on Nov. 27 for Kyneton.

Essendon.—On Nov. 20, officers held final social evening for year. On morning of Nov. 21 Mr. McIlhagger was speaker and Mrs. Robens was welcomed after illness. In evening Mr. Gross (college) preached, choir rendered anthem, and Shirley Tedge was soloist. On Nov. 23, Ladies' Fellowship combined with P.B.P., when Matron Chapman, of Russell-st. police headquarters, gave an interesting talk. Ladies' Guild held final afternoon for year on Nov. 25, when sale of work brought in £15. Temple Day offering amounted to £162. Mr. Neighbour preached at morning service on Nov. 28, and after Mr. McIlhagger's evening sermon Mr. Dalton confessed Christ. In morning a commencement was made for work at Pascoe Vale. Several brethren met in home of Mr. and Mrs. Marr for breaking of bread.

North Essendon.—A. W. Stephenson, A. B. Withers and F. T. Morgan have delighted with thought-provoking addresses in specially arranged series of meetings on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings in November, a feature being a question half hour at conclusion of address. A social evening to Mr. and Mrs. J. Manallack and Miss Hazel Skuce was held on Nov. 20, when a large gathering of friends took opportunity of showing love and esteem, and of wishing them well in their new sphere. A travelling rug was given to Mr. and Mrs. Manallack and to Miss Skuce. At conclusion of morning service on Nov. 28, a pocket Bible handbook was given to R. Dobbs, who has splendidly presided at organ throughout year. All meetings are well attended, and a fine spirit is evident; much co-operation is being given

with fine addresses from C. H. J. Wright. Mrs. Millar and Mrs. Wilson were received into membership on Nov. 28.

ADDRESSES

R. Macdonald (secretary Dimboola church, Vic.)—Anderson-st., Dimboola.

E. Peters (secretary Camberwell church, Vic.)—26 Stanley-grove, Canterbury, E.7. 'Phone, WF2783.

BIRTH

HOUSE (nee Chipperfield).—On Nov. 22, to Mavis and Geoffrey, 35 Barry-st., Reservoir—a son (Gregory Malcolm). Both well.

SILVER WEDDING

ANNETTS-DOWNS.—Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Annetts announce with pleasure and gratitude the 25th anniversary of their marriage celebrated at church of Christ, Lygon-st., Carlton, on Dec. 15, 1923, by the late A. Eaton. Present address, 17 Campbell-gve., Hawthorn, E.3.

IN MEMORIAM

BROWN.—In loving memory of our dear friend Frank, who was called home on Dec. 7, 1947. Ever remembered.

—Inserted by J. and C. Hall.

PERKINS.—In loving memory of my dear husband, William Henry, who passed away Dec. 11, 1942; also devoted father of Ralph, Horace, Percival.

"I have lost my life's companion,
A life linked with my own,
And day by day I miss him more
As I walk through life alone.
In all the days of passing years
His memory shines through silent tears."

—Inserted by his loving wife, May.

WANTED TO PURCHASE

By elderly preacher, small cottage, any condition, in any suburb of Melbourne.—"Preacher," c/o Austral Publishing Co. Ltd.

WANTED

Couple, church members, require furnished flat or house for period (3, 6 or 12 months), no family, Sydney. 'Phone, M0423, exten. 388, business hours.

Young Christian couple require S.C. flat or house in Kew, Balwyn, Box Hill areas. Accommodation is required urgently to enable bride's English parents to visit. Reply C. I. Mott, 43 Argyle-rd., Kew. ('Phone, Haw. 57.)

Young couple about to be married require a house (to rent), flat or rooms. Any Adelaide suburb. Reply Mr. H. R. Thompson, 55 Olive-st., Prospect, S.A.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

Applications are invited for the permanent position of book-keeper. References. Closing date, Dec. 15. Applications in writing to general secretary, 241 Flinders-lane, Melbourne.

TO LET

In country (Selby), clean comfortable four-roomed cottage, five minutes from shops, £4/4/- per week. Not vacant Christmas. Apply 87 The Avenue, Coburg.

Four-room bungalow, self-contained, electric stove, four minutes beach, seven minutes station, February onwards.—N. Brown, 20 Kalimna-st., Carrum.

The Australian Christian

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 15 (Wednesday).—Victorian General Dorcas will meet in Swanston-st. lecture hall from 10.30 a.m. till 4 p.m. Bring a gift and buy a gift afternoon at 2 p.m. All are invited.

BLACK ROCK CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Officers of the church cordially invite all past members and helpers and friends to our **TEMPLE DAY AND HOME-COMING SERVICES**, **DECEMBER 11 and 12.**

Special speakers; special singing. Every member present. Hospitality for all visitors.

Sunday night, Dec. 12, Mr. Sewell's farewell service.

ANNOUNCEMENT EXTRAORDINARY.

PRAHRAN CHURCH, HIGH ST.

Missioners E. C. Hinrichsen and J. Machin will conduct both morning and evening services on December 12.

Singing by mission choir.

Come early and secure a seat.

ASCOT VALE CHURCH OF CHRIST

will hold annual

TEMPLE DAY SERVICE

on SUNDAY, DEC. 12, at 11 a.m.

All past and present members are urged to be present.

"THE CHRISTMAS STORY"

in Song, Colored Picture and Story.

SURREY HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST,

The Avenue,

SUNDAY, DEC. 12, at 7 p.m.,

by the Youth Choir, assisted by soloists: Miss F. Stock, Mrs. M. Cooke, Mr. Will Newham.

Preacher and narrator, Mr. Howard Earle.

Carols and excerpts from "Messiah" and Maunder's "Bethlehem."

SWANSTON ST. (opp. Public Library).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12.

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7 p.m., Choral Service and "The Messiah."

Soloists: Miss M. Ruddell, Miss P. Collett, Mr. R. Hardy, Mr. H. Helmore. Conductor, Mr. H. T. S. Brown.

MORELAND (Davies-st.).

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7 p.m., DECEMBER 19.

Speaker, E. J. Miles.

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Obituary

Mrs. Winifred Fisher

THE church at Beulah-rd., S.A., was saddened by the sudden passing of Mrs. Winifred Fisher on Sunday, November 21. Born 46 years ago, Mrs. Fisher was soon associated with the life of the Bible school at Bordertown, where she was known as Winnie Milne. At the age of fourteen she made the great decision, and was baptised in Bordertown chapel by Mr. Edwin Edwards on July 20, 1916. Later the Milne family moved to Marion, and the family became foundation members of Cowandilla church. It was at Cowandilla that Winnie Milne met Frank Fisher, and twenty-four years ago they were married on Christmas eve by Mr. Geo. Tease. Settling in Tranmere, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher entered into the work at St. Morris, and have continued actively in service right up to the present time. For a number of years Mrs. Fisher was a Bible school teacher, and at the time of her death was president of the Sisters' Guild. Always active in brotherhood women's work, Mrs. Fisher had served on the sisters' F.M. Committee, and at the time of her passing she was a member of the State Sisters' Auxiliary. With her husband she was also an active member of the District and Bush Nursing Society. Mrs. Fisher was a capable woman, but in true humility, always demonstrated a spirit of self-effacement. It was often said of her that no one had ever heard her speak an ill-word of anyone else. Although suffering from indifferent health for some years, she was never heard to complain, and during the difficult days of the depression, when she was rearing a young family, her courage and devotion were such that many still speak of her fortitude with great admiration. Mrs. Fisher was always in her place at all the services of the church, and moved amongst the members with a gracious Christian spirit that has inspired goodwill and harmony in the life of the church. She was always busy in practical Christian service, and when she passed she left almost finished a few small garments, the last of many bundles made by her busy fingers for orphan children. A few days before her death Mrs. Fisher was taken to hospital for what appeared to be a routine check, but on the Saturday night there was a sudden stroke, and without regaining consciousness, in the presence of her family, her spirit passed into the presence of the great Father of our spirits. The funeral was on Nov. 22, and she was laid to rest in Centennial Park after services conducted by the writer, assisted by her second cousin, Mr. W. E. Fisher. We commend her husband Frank, and the children, Elva, Harold and Joyce, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milne, and all other loved ones, to the care and comfort of God, with confidence that their rich and full faith in Christ will see them through the valley of the shadows. —G.R.S.

James Smith

DURING a roadside luncheon, when motoring home to Ballarat from Kaniva on Nov. 10, James Smith passed away, suddenly and peacefully, at the age of 88. Our brother was born at Strathalbyn, S.A., in 1890. As a boy of twelve he accompanied his parents when they moved to Bordertown. At the age of twenty-one he moved to Lawloit, and later to the Kaniva district, where he established himself as a very successful farmer. In 1890 he married Miss A. M. J. Finey, of Kaniva, and later became a member of Kaniva church, during the ministry of Mr. W. W. Tomlinson. From Kaniva, Mr. and Mrs. Smith moved to Sebastopol in 1923, from which date both have been loyal and lovingly regarded members of Dawson-st. church, Ballarat. On Nov. 12 many friends gathered with Mrs. Smith at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bell, at Sebastopol,

whence the cortège left for Ballarat new cemetery. There were floral tributes and expressions from both Kaniva and Ballarat churches, and the services were conducted by Mr. G. J. Andrews. We commend Mrs. Smith, also her two sons and four daughters, and other sorrowing ones, to the ministries of the great Comforter.—G.J.A.

Mrs. M. J. Hessey

ON Nov. 22, after a short illness, Mrs. Hessey passed from our midst to be with the Lord. It was during the ministry of Mr. A. R. Lloyd at Wangaratta, Vic., that she was received into the membership of the church. Her ministry was of the quiet type, and appreciated. She will be missed very much by the church. A large number of people attended the services at the chapel and the graveside. A service of remembrance was conducted by the writer the following Sunday evening. Sympathy is expressed to her husband and daughter, Mrs. Lloyd Jackel, and all sorrowing ones. —W.H.G.W.

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Youths' Magazine

OUTSTANDING KINDNESS

G. M. George, Oldhall, Paisley.

"A cup of cold water only."—Matt. 10: 42.

CHARLES KINGSLEY wrote "The Water Babies" and "Westward Ho!" but his younger brother Henry wrote good stories too. In one of them there was an old man, wicked and hard of heart. He was ill, and getting blind; but even so, his own son tricked him and deceived him time after time, and the father was so angry that he refused to have anything more to do with his son. Just before he died the old man was thinking of all the unkindness that had been shown to him, when he remembered one kind deed that someone had done, and he decided to leave two hundred pounds to the man who had done it, though he might have been his enemy. That one little kind action stood out in his mind in his last moments.

Jesus often spoke about kindness, and one of the things he said was that even a cup of cold water given in love is a very big thing indeed. Amid all the unkindness there is in the world, it stands out as something different. It helps to turn men's hearts to love and goodness. And even if we feel we can't do big things, we can do outstanding things in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Some stories from the time of war teach us the same lesson. There was a man who belonged to the French Resistance Movement who was put in prison by the Germans and treated very badly. They tried to get him to betray his friends. They cooped him in a narrow cell and only allowed him a little time each day to read his Bible. He got very little to eat. But one day one of the German soldiers guarding the prison stole in very quietly and stretched out his hand to offer a plate of cakes and apples. The Frenchman was taken aback with surprise at the unexpected kindness. "What ever is this?" he asked. "What made you bring me this?" "I am a Christian, too," said the German soldier.

Or, again, take this story from the other side of the world. Four British soldiers

had been wounded by the Japanese, and were lying helpless by the roadside, when two or three Japs came along. The Britishers were wondering what was going to happen to them, for they knew how cruel some of the Japs could be. But these came forward kindly. They spoke English and they offered help. "We are Christians ourselves," they said. "and we hate war." So, amidst all the horror of battle, amidst all the cruelty of men, that little act of Christian kindness stood out, and the story of it has been heard by thousands of people in other parts of the world.

If, then, you and I are serving Jesus Christ, we do not need to look for some imposing way of showing off. Jesus gives power to the smallest acts of kindness and helpfulness. There may be someone in school beside us, or in the street where we live, who finds the world a hard and cruel place. One kind word from us, one little deed of love, will shine for him like a light of hope and happiness in the dark. Let us speak that kind word, let us do that good deed, for Christ's sake.—"The Expository Times."



HE GAVE ALL

FEW stories of giving up for the sake of others can compare with that of Father Damien, the missionary to the

leper colony of Molokai, in the Pacific Islands. The Hawaiian Government used to send all lepers to this island, where they were left to shift for themselves. Damien heard that they were not only left without any help, but were without proper houses to live in or food to eat. Their pitiable state made him volunteer to go and help them.

He well knew that once he went to the leper island he must say goodbye to all his friends and to ordinary life. Without hesitation he went, believing that it was the call of Jesus Christ. For years he gave his time and strength to helping the stricken lepers. He taught them to build houses, to grow food, to give up their drunken habits. He changed their lives enormously for the better. Above

all, he taught them about the love of God, so that when their disease had worked its course they were prepared to pass on.

A story is told of one of Father Damien's rough journeys, which shows us the sort of man he was. One day he learned that across the mountains on his island were some people he ought to visit. Without hesitation he set out and began to climb the mountain height.

The mountain was so steep that after a little while Damien had to climb on his hands and knees, slowly and painfully, till he reached the top. Then he looked eagerly for the village—but all he could see was another mountain across a dangerous precipice!

But Damien would not be defeated. He was used to doing hard things, and that had made him strong in body and mind. He climbed down the mountain, walked across the valley, climbed the third mountain, and late in the evening reached the people on the other side. Damien was a good soldier of Jesus Christ, ready to endure hardness for the sake of helping others.



STORY OF THE SACRED CANDLE

AN old story belonging to the days of the Crusaders tells how Raniero, a famous Crusader, was allowed to light a candle from the flame that burnt in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre outside Jerusalem. Holding the lighted candle, Raniero felt that here was the most precious thing he could find to take home. And securing a great bundle of extra tapers to keep the flame burning, he started on his homeward journey. When a band of robbers waylaid him, he allowed them to take all his money and possessions, saying to the robber-chief, "Take what you will, but do not harm my light."

Once on a lonely mountain path a woman ran from her cottage calling, "Stranger, give me a light from your candle. I pray you! My fire has gone out, and I can bake no bread for my children!" "Nay," said Raniero, "the light I carry is too sacred for common use."

But the woman cried, "The light I would guard is my children's lives. It will not lessen your flame to give it to me!" So Raniero lighted her lamp, and after that his flame burnt more brightly. But later that night a terrible storm

blew up and put out his little light. Raniero was utterly discouraged at first, then suddenly cried with relief, "The woman's light is also a sacred flame. By giving I have saved it!" He went back to the cottage and re-lit his candle. Do you see a parable here? Does the story remind you of a hymn you may have sung as a little child: "Jesus bids us shine with a clear pure light, like a little candle burning in the night?"



POLLY FOILS THE BURGLARS

WHEN an Edinburgh lady returned to her home recently she found a back window had been forced open, and called in the police. While an examination was being made of the forced window a piercing whistle and a cry of "Get away!" was heard, but no one could be seen. Then it was found that the owner of the mysterious voice was a parrot in a neighbor's window, and the police came to the conclusion that it was probably Polly who had scared away the thieves. Polly who had scared away the thieves, for nothing was stolen from the house.



STILL MISSING

Peter was struggling with his homework. "Oh dear," he sighed, "I can't find this Least Common Multiple!" "Is that thing still lost?" queried father, looking up from his paper. "My teacher had me hunting for it when I was your age."

"What made you bring me this?" "I am a Christian, too," said the German soldier.

Or, again, take this story from the other side of the world. Four British soldiers

