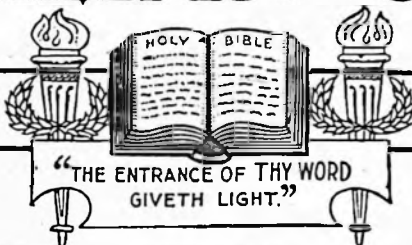


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VISITATION EVANGELISM

A CHURCH loyal to Christ is active. Faced with pagan people it finds means to win men. If one method fails another is sought. But victories are won daily. Never is the church's task easy. The fight has been very difficult; men and women have died as martyrs of the faith. To advance the church, they gave no thought to themselves. The New Testament Christians were not just faithful—they were heroic. Even when scattered by persecution, they still went everywhere preaching.

Looking over the range of history covered in the Bible story, the men who stand out were men of action. What about Abraham, Moses, Samuel, Elijah and Daniel? In the New Testament we read of Christ going about doing good. The twelve went into all the world preaching. Saul of Tarsus did not waste time in continuous thought and study. He was on the move, reaching unsaved people. The church, when true to Christ, is like a mighty army on the move. Such a church refuses to accept defeat. Difficulties must be overcome.

I.

Pioneers of churches of Christ in Australia were not overawed by their task. After the first few years of advance, they saw the need of new methods to win men for Christ. To gain the ear of the people, a trained evangelist was brought from overseas. The sacrifices involved were gladly met. H. S. Earl's coming to Australia was marked with great success. Others came and also led churches to many victories. Again the brethren were troubled about lack of progress. What must be done? "If people will not come to church, let us go to them," they said. "Let us take a tent and set it where people live!" they pleaded. Great advances were made by the churches because of the faithful witness of the tent evangelist. This means of evangelism was effective for years, even when used by those who

did not have great experience in the method. To-day this way of approach is becoming more difficult, even for the most successful evangelists. Because churches became too dependent upon this method, they are now at a loss to know how to meet the new situation. During those years of successful mass evangelism, churches lost the art of personal evangelism. We could get on without it, we thought. Churches have become centres where preachers deliver sermons to many who are spiritually inactive. While the standard of preaching is high the activity of the church is feeble. Church members are taking in spiritual food, but are giving little out in action. We are, therefore, sick. We have spiritual indigestion, due to lack of spiritual exercise. To revive the church it is not enough to seek just better preaching, but rather to set the church on the march. To have church members healthy, they must be active. This does not mean they are to attend more church meetings. They must do what is normal for gaining health; they must witness and bring men to Christ. People who are active in leading others to Christ do not complain as a rule about their preacher; they are too busy witnessing.

II.

A revival in personal evangelism in the United States of America is creating new life for the church. By applying the New Testament method of sending out trained Christian workers in pairs, the church is discovering again that business and tradesmen can be effective evangelists. After a period of prayerful instruction, groups of men and women are going to the homes of people with some contact with a local church, urging them to decide for Christ.

From reports reaching us much success is attending this method of evangelism. At Wellington, Kan., U.S.A., one hundred and forty-five prospects were interviewed by twenty-eight men and women,

calling four nights. The church secured sixty-nine additions, 'thirty-four by faith and baptism. The chairman of the board of officers said that this was the greatest single thing that had ever happened to the church at Wellington. At Ashtabula, Ohio, a church with a membership of five hundred gained ninety-two decisions by baptism and transfer. The preacher said, "Our board says it was the greatest evangelism experience in twenty years." The pastor of the church at Lima, Ohio, reported fifty additions, and said, "We have had more results in about a week's work than any other programme I know of. Central church had thirty-one additions Sunday. It has captured our laymen as no other programme would do."

One of the visitors who was associated with the evangelistic drive at Independence, Kan., said, "When we began this visitation crusade I felt sure that this was not supposed to be done by laymen; but I have changed my mind. I am convinced they are the church's best evangelists."

In a centre where a group of churches worked together and gained two hundred additions, the preacher said, "The men who did the work are especially anxious to continue the programme."

III.

There are features in this method that may not suit Australian conditions. However, a method Jesus introduced into his programme and that has proved successful in so many centres ought to be tried in this land. By careful preparation and prayer, we may find this as one of several ways of evangelising in Australia. In Victoria several preachers are preparing themselves for a venture in this approach to modern society. By applying the method in several centres, we hope to learn whether it can overcome the resistance of Australians to the gospel and make the church a virile force in this land.

NEWS OF THE WORLD CHURCH

★ SPAIN

Motives for Anti-Protestant Feeling

THE following quotations from a leaflet distributed by the Phalangists show that the action of the Phalangists who committed acts of vandalism in Protestant places of worship is instigated by utterances of certain Spanish Roman Catholic church leaders.

"For two years Protestants have been fighting to implant Protestantism within our country, and this is threatening to rupture our Catholic unity, and no less our national unity, founded as it is on the Catholic basis. . . . This very serious evil was publicly denounced by Cardinal Segura in the official ecclesiastic bulletin of the Archbishop of Seville on Sept. 20, 1947. . . . On the other hand, Mgr. Zacarias Vizcarra, General Councillor of the Spanish Catholic action, made the following inauguration speech when the central Institute of higher religious education opened its courses on Oct. 15:

"In the world of ideas, which sooner or later dominates the world of facts and social events, a new still more aggressive enemy has appeared in Spain, and is adding its anti-Catholic and anti-national action to that of our many enemies among the Left-wing intelligentsia. . . . This new enemy is Protestantism which, in various parts of Spain, has taken disquieting offensive action against the Catholic Church, disturbing the religious and social peace of our country. Not only have the old chapels and Protestant propaganda centres been reopened, but new ones have been founded on a large scale; important buildings have been acquired thanks to the financial help given from abroad, and have been placed in strategically good positions, and we do not know for what this help was really intended."

"We cannot forget that a few years ago the whole of Spain rose to defend her faith in an heroic crusade, . . . however its importance is belittled by the ridiculous Protestant sects who raise their tents on the blood of our martyrs" ('Signo,' Oct. 18, 1947).

"His Eminence Cardinal Segura writes these beautiful words in his pastoral letter, which should touch all our hearts to the call of blood and because we are Christians!"

"There is no doubt that we can cite the witness of thousands of martyrs who gave their blood to defend their faith in order to lend support to our request aimed at suppressing these centres of false religion in Spain. Undoubtedly those who have generously sacrificed their lives have done so in order to defend the Catholic faith. They speak to us and say, with the Apostle Paul, Keep that which is committed to thy trust."

"Spain will return to the unity of faith sealed by the Madonna of Pilar. All those in authority should ruthlessly extirpate this particularly serious evil. All Spanish Catholics have the duty—and we promise to fulfil it—not to consent to the development of Protestant activity in our national territory. . . ."

★ GERMANY

Practical Suggestions of the Evangelical Churches

IN the meeting of the Reconstruction Committee of the Evangelical Churches in Germany (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Deutschlands), which took place recently in Bielefeld, the leader of the Hilfswerk, Dr. Ger-

stenmaier, made a number of practical suggestions, among which we would stress the following:

Reorganisation of conditions concerning property.—"We need better justice than the ill-famed right (claimed by the Nazis) of the 'sound feelings of the people.' We must set a solidarity of misery against the horror of misery. . . . For it is the whole of Germany that has lost this war, not only those who were bombed out or turned out. To the homeless and those who have lost everything the church owes not only comfort and advice, but also undivided support of their rights. We shall have to consider a new regulation of conditions of property which must be the expression of the solidarity of the whole nation. Justice and not



the doctrine of party conflict must play the main part."

New conditions of labor.—"The reorganisation of conditions of property alone is not enough. We need new conditions of labor, and the common view that any so-called mental work is more important than manual work will have to be altered. Hundreds of thousands of us will have to learn, literally speaking, to earn our bread by working with our hands—or else to perish. The churches ought to see what has to be done, and to make better conditions of life and work possible and easier. The Hilfswerk will always do its best to give new possibilities for those who are willing to work."

Co-operation of help from abroad and local relief.—"In church matters everything is based on voluntary help, and therefore everything is the expression of faith. It was the free exercise of Christian energy that made the work of Wichern or of Bodelschwingh possible. We remain, therefore, in that tradition when we consider freedom of initiative not as a prerogative of the church but as our duty, endeavoring to find new ways, with the small means at present at our disposal, of dealing with so many various kinds of important questions such as settlement, economic conditions and development of communal life. The co-operation between help from abroad and local relief, the collaboration of all organisations for work and help, and of the inhabitants with refugees, the gathering together of all who are willing to work into settlement organisations—these are

but a few hints to show how freedom of initiative can be used to good purpose."

"We believe we can see part of the task that is before us. Outwardly, to regain the basis of living for millions of people in Germany coming from the Eastern zone. Inwardly, turning away from nihilism, the return home of millions of Germans to the quiet and calm of God's peace which, according to the word of the apostle, 'passeth all understanding.'"

★ SYRIA

The Patriarch of Antioch and the Russian Church

THE head of the Syrian Orthodox Church is Patriarch Alexandros Tahan of Antioch. There are 250,000 Orthodox Christians of Syria and the Lebanon, and about 300,000 parishioners scattered throughout North and South America, under the jurisdiction of the Patriarch.

In an interview on Nov. 7, the Patriarch of Antioch declared that he had accepted the invitation of Patriarch Alexis of Moscow to attend the Church Congress of Orthodox leaders, which was to have taken place this year in September, but which has, however, been postponed to the summer of 1948 (see EPS No. 33). At the same time he pointed out that "the Patriarchates of Constantinople and Alexandria have declined invitations, while other Patriarchates have so far not replied." The Orthodox Churches, he asserted, "ought to bless the name of God that the church in Russia has revived."

★ UNITED STATES

Missionary Flying School

AT Winona Lake, Ind., there has been a flying school for future missionaries since January, 1945. Hundred recruits have been to this centre since it was opened, and 26 of those who have finished the course are to-day flying in various countries. One of these, flying over Ecuador, had to make a forced landing in the jungle. He wandered about for six days until he was discovered by an inhabitant.

The air-field and hangars are now being rebuilt. Above the entire air-field, where there is lively activity, the motto of the pilot school is written up in large letters: "God is my co-pilot."

★ INDIA

Help to Displaced Persons

IN response to the needs of the refugees on the border between India and Pakistan, among whom medical personnel, drugs and hospital and clinical facilities are woefully inadequate, Church World Service has sent Mr. E. D. Lucas to give service to the Relief Committee of the National Christian Council of India. Church World Service is shipping medical supplies, some by air, and powdered milk, multi-vitamin tablets, wheat, blankets and warm clothing. It is estimated that there are ten million displaced persons on both sides of the border.—Items from E.P.S.

The Australian Christian

Preaching as a Life's Work

*Thomas Hagger pleads for continued loyalty
in the life and ministry of the church.*

YEARs ago, when the writer was a very young preacher, the late A. B. Maston said to him one day outside Swanston-st. chapel: "Hagger, there is nothing in the world worth doing except preaching the gospel." Perhaps that was an extreme statement; but the words have always been with me, and have influenced my life quite a lot.

And now, after having spent more than 52 years in the full-time ministry of the word, I want to say that if I were permitted to live my life over again, and knew at the beginning all that I know now, I would again dedicate that life to preaching. And that, not only because the gospel is the one thing that the world needs most; but because there are joys and consolations in the gospel, and in its preaching, that cannot be found in anything else.

Difficulties

Yes, there are difficulties, hardships, misunderstandings, sacrifices and other unpleasant things to encounter; but some other Christians also have to endure such things. And so sacrifice and suffering are not exclusively the preacher's. And there are brethren who are willing to stand by the preacher all along the line, and compensations come to him which, perhaps, do not come so much to other disciples of the Christ.

The writer is quite aware that the preacher and his wife do not handle as much money as most of the members do; but what is money? If we have food, and clothing, and a house in which to live, need we pine for more?

Doubtless there are churches who should try to give greater financial support to those who devote their whole time to the work of the kingdom; but I can testify, after all these years, that although there have been times when things have been difficult financially, and times when the wife and I could not get things we would like to have had, yet the Lord has never left us in a corner, and many brethren have been wonderfully kind.

There are some associated with some of the sects of Christendom who take a vow of perpetual poverty. Surely those associated with the plea for the pure and simple Christianity of the New Testament will not be behind in

a willingness to go without for the sake of the cause.

As a preacher I have a clear conscience, a feeling that I have done my best for my fellow-men, a sense of having worked for the glory of God. Coupled with that is the knowledge of having helped some nearer to God, and some to more victorious Christian



living, and some to accept Christ as Saviour and obey him as Lord. And that is sufficient compensation for any shortage in the past, and for any lack of means now that I am growing older which I may have had had I devoted my life to business or a profession.

A Secular Calling and Preaching

It may be urged that one could devote himself to a secular calling, and preach as opportunity offers, and still have many of the joys without the hardships. Some men have done much for Christ and the church who have so acted; but are they not exceptional cases?

It is possible for one, after having started in the full-time ministry of the word, to turn aside to some secular pursuit. There is always a temptation to do so. There will be the attraction of more money, and more comfort, and a more settled life; but it is better that, once having started, one should continue in the work till the close of life's little day. It is good to make preaching a life-work.

I know that sometimes churches and critical brethren make it hard to continue; but there are other churches and brethren who are appreciative and who should be considered.

Reasons for Continuing

There are good reasons for continuing to devote one's life to the ministry of the gospel. Chief among these is the call of Christ. He called Matthew from the receipt of custom, and James and John from their nets, and he made them apostles, and they became life-servants of the gospel.

And the Master calls us. He called the writer from a bread delivery cart, and he has called others from the farm, and others from the school, and others from the carpenter's

bench, and others from the grocer's counter, and others from the law or medicine. And he calls to a life-work; he calls to a full-time job.

Then the world is in a bad way. We are faced with a revived paganism; temperance has received a setback; there has been a loosening of morals; suspicions, greed, hypocrisy, selfishness are met with continually. And there is no peace in spite of the great world wars, and the parrot-like cries of politicians and others in connection therewith. Things cannot be put right by diplomacy, or further military preparation, or by a new brand of politics. To put things right there must be a great moral force that can change men's hearts, and such a force can only be found in the gospel. And that gospel we have been called to preach.

And it must be preached, and preached with fervor.

Besides all this there is the danger of souls being lost for all eternity, "for the wages of sin is death," and those who "obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" are to be "punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." And only the gospel can bring to such the way of escape. But to do this it must be preached, and somebody must preach it. And it must be preached in all the world, and to "every creature." Truly it is a stupendous task, and it calls for wholehearted devotion from all, and whole-time devotion from some.

With full appreciation of the splendid work that has been done by men who have given time to the preaching of the word after their ordinary work was finished, and of those who have filled gaps and undertaken interim ministries while carrying the burden of some secular calling, this article has been written. May the number of such men increase! But it has been written to invite young men to devote their lives to the preaching of the gospel, and to encourage those who, having started in the full-time ministry of the word, to continue therein till the Master shall say, "It is enough. Come up higher." There is nothing better. Nothing else can help others as much as this.

My brethren, devote yourselves to this work, and "whatever happens be self-possessed, flinch from no suffering, do your work as evangelists, and discharge all your duties as ministers."



The Noblest

THUS spake the poet with a sigh—
Then added, with impassioned cry,

As one who feels the words he speaks,
The color flushing in his cheeks,
The fervor burning in his eye:—
"Among the noblest in the land,
Though he may count himself the least,
That man I honor and revere,
Who, without favor, without fear,
In the great city dares to stand
The friend of every friendless 'beast,'
And tames with an unflinching hand
The brutes that wear our form and face,
The were-wolves of the human race."

—Longfellow.



Australia's Immigration Problem

P. C. D. Alcorn, B.A., our Queensland correspondent, reports on racial questions, education, forty-hour week, and the opportunities of old age.

QUEENSLAND is welcoming many immigrants from England and Scotland. Some of our churches are benefiting. Among those who have arrived is a Baptist minister, who plans to press for the establishment of an industrial chaplain service. He said that in Glasgow railway shops ministers of all religions in the industrial chaplain service visited men and women at their work to help and guide them, and to conduct lunch-hour services.

Secondary school boys in the final selection in the "Herald Tribune Forum" test said that immigration was the greatest problem confronting Australia. One expressed the opinion that in Australia there is too much class prejudice. People coming here are classified by various names. The fact that Italians in North Queensland have kept to themselves can be traced to the frigid attitude of people around them. Another expressed the opinion that Australia with its vast area should try to reach some agreement with Asiatic nations.

Education

Slovenly and slangy speech came in for criticism at the annual school speech days. Pupils were told that it was a matter of obligation and of pride to see that our national speech was good, our voices clear and musical, and our every-day communication reasonably dignified and within the king's English.

"The country desperately needs people with educated minds," said the Governor, Sir John Lavarack.

The Secondary Education superintendent stressed the importance of debate and drama. "So many people had not been taught at school to reason and debate, to reach their own conclusions, and to stand up for their own opinions," he said.

40-Hour Week

The 40-hour week has set educationists and church leaders thinking. Archbishop Halse said

he had no objection if working hours were reduced to 20, provided we produced in those 20 all that was necessary, but what were we going to do with the other hours? Were we going to train people to use their leisure—to get them interested in beautiful things and things of lasting value—or were we just going to twiddle our thumbs?

With the 40-hour week an established fact it was essential to teach children to use their leisure in other ways than by going to the pictures five nights a week, to the speedway, or the races. For this reason children should be encouraged to have hobbies such as gardening or stamp collecting, said the principal of a girls' school.

Dean Barrett suggested that the change might lead to a more Christian observance of Sunday than we have had for some time. He suggested the following use of leisure time:

Saturday: Sport, the garden and development of mental or manual hobbies;

Sunday: Free, for worship.

The Enjoyment of Old Age

In reply to Professor Joad's opinion that at 56 there is very little left in life for him to enjoy, an octogenarian writes: "I have always been a very active man, and have enjoyed hard physical work and sport. But though these are denied to me now, there are plenty of other simple pleasures that make life worth living. My garden and carpenter's bench supply some of these, while good music, and wonders of nature and science, and the joy of true friendships, both old and new, provide others.

"Not the least of my pleasures is the general sympathy and consideration that I receive in my journeys into and about the city. Truly this experience is some recompense for growing old.

"And last, but certainly not least, is the joy I have experienced, especially in later years, in the contact with little children."

Students in Conference

FOR eight days four hundred students from universities, teachers' colleges, theological colleges and technical colleges in every State of the Commonwealth faced urgent questions of church and society. Led by well-known churchmen from all over Australia, forty groups met in the morning for Bible study based on the study book, "What Think Ye of Christ?" which dealt with the revelation of the living God in Jesus Christ.

The author of the study book, Dr. Siegfried Hebart, principal of the Immanuel Theological Seminary, Adelaide, gave the first address on "Jesus Christ, Ideal or Reality?" The emphasis in both address and study book was on the acceptance of the challenge of Christ and personal commitment to his service. "There is no sitting on the fence in the war between good and evil within us," Dr. Hebart said.

Alan Walker addressed the conference on the subject of "God and the Australian Community." He expressed deep concern at the failure of the church to influence Australian society. He

described it as a tiny minority movement with a continent to win, and went on to say that it would only do this as it began to concern itself with the whole of the social environment of the people. It must interest itself in the working classes and the trade union movement, and look to the radio, newspapers, films, the education system and State institutions as possible spheres of activity. The church in Australia must be alive to the hugeness of the task with which it is faced and learn to live in the modern world, becoming an oasis of new values and new fellowship in the desert of secularism.

The Bishop of Armidale said that individualism was a mark of the church in Australia. Most Australians, he said, had no conception of the church as the body of Christ, and thought of it rather as a place where the individual sought satisfaction. He said that Australians must grow to a spontaneous desire to worship in fellowship. Furthermore, the church was too often regarded as consisting of "clergy"

alone, and the "lay" people had become passengers in the ship of the church. The rank and file should have considerable influence in a healthy church, and it was both wrong and harmful that they did not accept this responsibility.

The weakness of Christian groups in the universities was stressed by Mr. Maurice Brown. He referred to the failure of the universities to fulfil the specific tasks for which they should be responsible, notably their function of speaking to the whole person about the whole universe. He said that the university world was

★ The annual conference of the Australian Student Christian Movement was held at the New England Girls' School, Armidale, N.S.W., Jan. 7 to 15. The subject of the conference was "The Living God."

a crucial field for Christian evangelism, and for this Christian students and the church generally must take the responsibility. The Christian ideal for students would involve an attack on the prevalent fashion in the universities to have no convictions about anything and to revel in detachment.

The conference was profoundly disturbed by reports given by three delegates recently returned from the World Conference of Christian Youth at Oslo. They were Bruce Mansfield, of the Presbyterian Church; Hayden McCallum, of churches of Christ, and travelling secretary of the A.S.C.M.; and Frances Paton, secretary of the A.S.C.M. They described the intense physical suffering of people all over Europe and in Asia. Mr. McCallum spoke of the disappearance of the basic values of respect for human life and personality, which are taken for granted in Australia. He said that Australians could do their part in recreating this respect by taking more sincerely to heart the needs of peoples in other countries. They should take every opportunity offered them to render assistance, and themselves find ways to help the starving thousands of Europe. This remark was typical of many which urged that Australian youth must take up where Oslo left off. They, too, must take their full share of the blame for the world's suffering, and repent for it. Mr. Mansfield said that the central act of the Oslo conference was one of repentance, and that in this act the conference perceived that God was active in its midst, and knew that Jesus Christ was Lord as he united them when they failed to unite themselves. "Because he is Lord of all life," Mr. Mansfield said, "we found ourselves called to be witnesses in every sphere of human life, including politics."

Immediately preceding the annual conference of the A.S.C.M. about thirty theological students, representing eleven colleges and six denominations in all States except Tasmania, met in the second national conference of theological students. The theme was "The Christian Gospel of Salvation."

FEAR NOT

DESPAIR not though the way be hard,
The footfalls dark and deep;
Some angel goeth on before
Thy wavering feet to keep.
There is a Presence at thy side
By angel footsteps led,
Go, listen for some angel thought
Nor fear the path to tread.

—George Klinge.

The Australian Christian

A Traveller Returns Home

MISS VAWSER, who had leave of absence from India to visit the World Convention of Churches of Christ, Buffalo, returned to India via Europe. She has promised to write in more detail about her journey, but her personal note to the Federal secretary reveals the personality and enthusiasm of our missionary delegate:—

"It is wonderful to be back, and the lovely trip seems as if it was all a dream. I have had the greatest pleasure in getting unpacked and settled into this nice bungalow. You will remember that last January I was in my element getting straight. This time there was very little to do compared with last year after having been packed up for three years. However, it is fun coming across things which have been put away for so long. Can you imagine that I have been all the way round the globe, and that now after two days at home I feel that it is unreal? I must be happy. The boat could not go fast enough when my face was turned homeward, and yet every day was absolutely marvellous. When asked what we liked the most we are absolutely stumped—it was all so perfect. I do hope that the experience will be of very great benefit in the future, and to the work in this part of India. I have learnt a very big lesson from the nations among which we sojourned. Those that are conscious of the need of God are the only nations which show any prosperity. The churches in some cities are empty, and oh! our hearts ache for the people, for they are not happy. We thought that the people of Holland had made wonderful progress since the terrible devastation from which they suffered. Every seat was filled in the church where we attended, and the spirit of reverence was profound. France was in a terrible condition, and since then the world knows of the condition of those people. The lot of the poor was awful. Food was unrationed, but only the rich could afford to eat a square meal. Belgium was very good for the people with money, but the rationing was evident; prices were quite high. The rationing in England is fair, and extras are exceedingly expensive. The people look well and fat, but they do not have the resistance which they should. The churches in London particularly were quite empty, but in Scotland conditions were better. It makes one realise the need to be up and alive to the necessity of living for Christ. In America I was among the cream of the Christian people, and the Sunday school work was truly astonishing. I do wish that we could put into operation many of the splendid ideas which we saw there. The church people are alive, and the Crusade for a Christian World which our people are working for is something that we, too, should try. The enthusiasm and the consecration of the people were exhilarating. I am glad that I have had all this pleasure this year, but now that I am home again I am very glad too!"

MISS VAWSER'S NEW ROLE

IT would be hard to describe the work of Miss Vawser, for her talents have enabled her to fit into whatever task needed her immediate control. She has acted as teacher, had charge of Shrigonda girls' home and the boys' home, Baramati; been in school and evangelistic work. Throughout the greater part of her time in India she has acted as treasurer. In this role she has helped the field and board considerably.

It has been felt for some time that the work of secretary-treasurer should be a joint office, thus allowing the business side of mission to be in the hands of one person, and allowing

others to engage more fully in the evangelistic tasks of the mission. Miss Vawser has now been appointed secretary-treasurer of the mission, and in addition will have charge of the boys' home, Baramati. Mr. Bruce Coventry, former secretary, and Mr. Colin Thomas, in charge of home, both rejoice in being free from these duties, enabling them to plan more widely their evangelistic work. Quite a deal of their evangelistic work during the past year has been a joint work to the mutual advantage of missionaries and co-workers.



Miss Edna Vawser.

We wish Miss Vawser well as she undertakes her new tasks. It will be seen that our missionaries are not on a forty-hour week!



BAPTISMS, INDIA

WE are happy to report that, despite the unrest in India, many are glad to hear the glad message of salvation! Mr. Bruce Coventry reports from Shrigonda:—

"Over the Christmas season we had four baptisms here, two from Pargaon and two from the home. At least the two from the home are girls who are now away in training somewhere. With life here, very often lacking the sense of reverence there is in Australia, because of living in the midst of predominantly Hindu atmosphere where Christmas means nothing and business goes on as usual on Sundays, these occasions on which we witness the solemn yet joyous experience of one being born again through the waters of baptism, one feels very closely drawn to our Lord and Saviour. In speaking with the Christians of Pargaon yesterday about witnessing and leading people to Christ, they stated that this year they will each try to lead at least one to our Lord during this year 1948. Pray that this may be so."



UNITED TRAINING COLLEGE

SEVERAL of our young men who recently completed the course at the United Training College have now been given appointments in the mission. This is in keeping with our policy to train our own workers. Unfortunately, those willing and capable of higher training do not nearly equal the demand.

Christianity's Onward Sweep

★ Norman Shrapnel reported in "The British Weekly" a remarkable address delivered by the world's leading church historian.

PROFESSOR LATOURETTE, the American historian, speaking at Manchester University about the Christian outlook in this "greatest transition period of recorded human history," maintained that it was not the task of the Christian faith to save any particular civilisation. He traced it as a resurgent force defying the fall of states, and found directions in this menacing century in which its influence was greater than ever before. He mentioned, parenthetically, that he had gathered a "wholesome impression of solid, substantial church life" in this country.

Christianity, said Professor Latourette, had a remarkable way of surviving the death of cultures with which it was intimately associated; in this it was unique among the world's religions. Not only had it time after time survived such a crisis, but after recuperating from the blow dealt by a culture's death, it had moved on in fresh triumphs, advancing in quite unexpected quarters, ever extending its influence through its impact on the human race.

Germes of Revolution

Born into the Roman Empire, within five centuries it had won the nominal allegiance of the vast majority of that empire's people. But the Roman Empire was already sick when Christianity was born. It did not save the empire; nor did it, as some historians supposed, cause its downfall.

Christianity was sometimes called the "bulwark of civilisation," but he did not take the view that it was the business of the Christian faith to save any particular civilisation. Always it carried the germs of revolution; the impulse to change profoundly any civilisation in which it found itself. The Roman Empire fell through internal decay, and there was decay, too, of Christian leadership in the church itself. The tremendous invasion from the south-east tore away half of Christendom from the church, a territorial loss from which it had never fully recovered.

One might have said, watching this, that Christianity was finished. But it went on, with a slow but great expansion, in north-west Europe—an unpromising part of the world. In the east it was handicapped by State control; in the west the State collapsed, and the church took over many of its functions, creating a new civilisation, a distinct culture. Released from the grip of the Roman State, it had enough vitality to win the barbarians in the north of Europe, and spread itself more widely than any earlier religion had succeeded in doing.

Then came decline, with humanism paying lip-service to Christianity but denying it. Yet a great new burst of life in the most rapidly expanding part of the world brought the Protestant and Catholic reformations. The eighteenth century again saw Christianity in a bad state, with Spain and Portugal dying as colonial powers, the expansion of the church also waning, and a growing scepticism. The end of Christianity was soberly predicted; it belonged to the old order; it was a superstition of the past.

But once more a burst of vitality shattered these predictions, and again in the most unexpected places. In the very parts of Germany that had suffered most in the thirty years' war, "displaced persons" from Bohemia found a faith

(Continued on back page.)

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Here and There

A Hinrichsen mission was commenced at Carramar, N.S.W., on Feb. 8. Although the district population is small a good start was made.

H. E. Greenwood leaves Queensland at the beginning of March to go to Perth to take up the duties of conference secretary and home mission organiser in Western Australia.

The conference secretary advises that E. L. Williams, M.A., principal of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, Vic., is to preach the conference sermon this year at the Victorian Conference.

A. D. Pyne, secretary Federal Conference, W.A., announces a necessary alteration in dates of Federal Conference. Instead of being October 14-21, conference will be held Oct. 15-22.

Eight German pastors of the Evangelical church in Germany have reached England to serve in prisoner-of-war camps. Some fifty pastors are expected to serve in this way. They are civilian volunteers, and will replace prisoner-of-war chaplains who are due for repatriation.

Dr. James Black, in "The Christian World," Jan. 1, made reference to the influence of great journals and newspapers in Great Britain. He then wrote: "I should like to urge upon all good Christian people some of the same loyalty as marks the buyers of technical papers. I should like to see a good church paper supported by all the people of our churches who are really interested in the welfare of Christian causes. Buy and support these papers; they are a great means of touching and arousing the Christian conscience, so apt to slumber."

Bishop Berggrav, speaking at Oslo Youth Conference, told a story of the awful war years. It showed how the Bible helped the people of Norway. Bishop Berggrav said that a Norwegian (not a very religious man) told him afterwards that as he was being taken away by the Gestapo from his own home, his eyes lighted on the family Bible open on the table. The very sight of it gave him immediate comfort. "I knew," he told the bishop, "that God was living." The book became to him, as indeed it did to many another, as "an outstretched hand."

W. J. Platt, assistant general secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, writes: "Masses, formerly inarticulate, groan to work out their own salvation. They may have their own ideas as to who are their enemies, but few of them have any criticism of him who came that they might have more abundant life. And at this very moment the Bible societies are faced by overwhelming appeals from every country in the world for copies of the Christian gospel. These appeals in hundreds of languages demand at least two score millions of scriptures. Never, perhaps, in our long history, have we known a time when the requests for scriptures were so insistent and so widespread."

The report of seven American Protestant ministers on their visit to Yugoslavia has been released. It states: "There is in Yugoslavia to-day a genuine equality of religion before the law and the beginnings of a true tolerance. Of course, only two and a half years after a terrible war, there are tension points yet to be resolved with the possibility of occasional outbreaks of violence. But the basic pattern seems sound, and the door seems open to a religious peace such as the Balkans have never known in the past." The group says it was given complete freedom on its tour to talk to "anyone to whom we wished to speak, and to go where we wished, without government representatives present, an opportunity of which we took full advantage."

F. L. Ewers, who has served the church at Shenton Park, W.A., has been invited to minister with church at North Perth.

The president of the Victorian Conference, J. Holloway, and the Executive Committee, commend to all Victorian churches and preachers the War Nurses' Memorial Appeal, for their sympathetic consideration and co-operation.

At Aldgate Valley, S.A., during January worship meetings were well attended. Chapel was filled on Jan. 18, when H. Waghmode, Indian student from Glen Iris, gave a good address. On Feb. 3 Mr. Burrows gave a fine lantern lecture on Bolivia, in interests of B. & F. Bible Society. At annual church business meeting income for church work in 1947 was reported to be a record. The preacher, J. H. Cain, is working wholeheartedly both here and at Stirling East.

"Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton, C-in-C., Portsmouth, England, as a result of inquiries he has been making, says that of young men aged 18 and 19 who are joining the Navy, only 23 per cent. could repeat the Lord's Prayer word perfect, 20 per cent. were partly correct, and 40 per cent. knew only the opening words. Although 70 per cent. knew who Christ was, only 20 per cent. knew where he was born, only 83 per cent. knew what Christmas Day celebrated, only 65 per cent. knew what Good Friday commemorated, only 45 per cent. knew about Easter, and only 25 per cent. knew about Whitsun."

The repeal of prohibition in the U.S.A. has been an absolute and hopeless failure, according to the "Scottish Temperance Reformer." The late President Roosevelt promised that when prohibition was repealed the booze business would never be allowed to go back to its old excessive and degrading proportions. Further, under repeal all bootlegging would stop and the law and order be restored. What is the result? The United States is on the crest of a tremendous drinking wave, the old saloon with its degrading associations has re-emerged, and illicit distillation is rampant. During November, 1946, Federal Officers seized 445 illicit stills and arrested 641 persons on charges of illicit manufacture of liquor. But, of course, British daily newspapers, so full of reports of such incidents during the prohibition era, are now silent and unconcerned.

BOYS' HOME, GERMANY

CHURCHES of Christ preachers from U.S.A., who have gone to Germany, are gaining successes. The home for homeless boys is meeting a need. Two boys, Paulus Muhs (16 years) and Helmut Prochnow (17 years) have been baptised. Paulus came to the boys' home from Berlin shortly after it was opened. He had fled from Berlin to escape working for the Russians. He was very poor when he came. When the doctor examined him before he was admitted to the home, it was found that Paulus had what is called a galloping heart due to malnutrition. Paulus had walked most of the way from Berlin, and his shoe soles were completely worn out with the exception of a few shreds that were holding them together. He took an immediate interest in the study of the Bible.

Helmut Prochnow was in the home when taken over from the Neue Presse. At that time there were nine boys living in the home with no windows, no doors, no water, no lights, and nothing but cots to sleep on. Helmut was sick at the time. It was learned that he had a light form of meningitis. He was near the door of death for several weeks. It was not known how he felt about Christianity at that time, but the missionaries were

very impressed when he said, "Please pray to the God of heaven that I might live."

A Bible class for the boys in the home is held at 7.30 a.m. At that time they are also taught to sing and to speak English. On several occasions Helmut has acted as interpreter, since the boys must be still taught through an interpreter.

THE LORD'S TABLE

The Heart of the Gospel

IN a very helpful little book by Dr. S. I. Hebart, we are brought to the heart of the gospel and to the meaning of the Lord's Supper. Here we are told that Jesus regarded his death as a sacrifice undertaken to re-establish the life-giving communion between man and God, broken by sin. His words at the last supper are very pointed. He took the bread, gave thanks for it, blessed it, broke it and gave it. Likewise he gave thanks for the cup and gave that. It is clear he referred to his death when he said, "This is my body . . . this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." The action was a symbol of the meaning of Christ's death; it is plainly sacrificial. The body was broken and the blood shed. His words "for you," "for many" again point to his awareness of being the Suffering Servant (Isa. 53: 12) "who bare the sin of many." Jesus regarded his death as an action for the benefit, and instead, of many. It was a vicarious sacrifice. Since men ought to pay the price but cannot, he did. He offered himself, he performed the sacrifice; and he was, at the same time, its victim. This and the picture of the testament or covenant takes us into the Old Testament atmosphere of sacrifice. The twelve disciples would recall the meaning of the Passover Feast. They were reminded again how blood gained a great deliverance from disaster.

Jesus in the last supper was not performing a mere symbolic act. As he gave the bread to the disciples he knew also he was giving his life a ransom for many. At the last supper he showed how he was to give himself as a sacrifice. Each time we commune we are brought to see that Christ gave himself for us, and in giving himself, brings us back to God. The death of Jesus brought about at-one-ment between God and man. Here in this supper we are made aware of this new unity we have gained with God because of Christ's death on the cross.

BROADCAST SERVICE

FEBRUARY 15.—Swanston-st., Melbourne, 7 p.m., 3XY (The Church Hour). Preacher, K. A. Macnaughtan.

AT SWANSTON STREET

(opp. Public Library),

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1948.

Preacher, K. A. Macnaughtan.

11 a.m., Worship.

7 p.m., "The Sands of Time." Service broadcast 3XY (The Church Hour).

THE NORTH SUBURBAN CONFERENCE, including Brunswick, Moreland, Coburg, North Fitzroy, Northcote, Thornbury, Preston, West Preston, East Preston, Reservoir, Fairfield and Ivanhoe churches, will meet at

RESERVOIR CHAPEL,

on Thursday, February 19.

Speaker, J. Holloway.

Anthems by West Preston choir.

The Australian Christian

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News of the Churches

Queensland

Albion.—Sunday school, Endeavorers and boys' club have commenced activities for year after Christmas break. Annual business meetings of church were held on Jan. 28 and Feb. 4. Secretary's report for year ended Dec. 31, 1947, showed membership 162. On Jan. 18 Mr. Miller, from Rockhampton church, gave the address at morning service.

Silverdale.—On Australia Day church and Bible school picnic was held at McLean's Crossing. During luncheon prizes won at Sunday school during year were presented by Mrs. A. A. Lobgeiger. On Jan. 27 and 28, men of church, under direction of Norman Warwick, of Boonah, completed lining of chapel at Silverdale, and a thanksgiving service was led by E. T. Hart on Wednesday evening. Representative speakers from Rosevale, Mount Walker and minister of West Moreton circuits, A. Caldicott, gave congratulatory talks. Opportunity was taken to say farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Hart, who have accepted a call to Toowoomba church after a ministry of four years with Boonah-Silverdale circuit. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs. Hart on behalf of Bible school by Valma Kruger, and a buttonhole to Mr. Hart by Mary Schulz. Church secretary, D. Schulz, was chairman for this section of meeting, and J. Kruger, church treasurer, expressed appreciation of work done during Mr. and Mrs. Hart's ministry. J. Christensen and A. Hinrichsen, together with A. C. Caldicott, spoke on behalf of West Moreton. Mrs. M. Duckmann made a presentation of a handbag to Mrs. Hart on behalf of members, and J. Farrow presented a travelling rug to Mr. Hart. Supper was served to the large crowd.

South Australia

Naillsworth.—On Feb. 1 Mr. Russell, conference president, addressed church. N. Wiley preached in evening, occasion being Aborigine Sunday, when a number of children from Colebrook Home rendered special singing. Offering toward home realised £8. Annual offering received in morning reached £11. All departments of work are progressing satisfactorily. Many brethren have been on holiday, but meetings are now almost back to normal. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher have commenced their second year of ministry.

Adelaide (Grote-st.).—During absence on holidays of Mr. and Mrs. Beiler, church has appreciated addresses given by C. Schwab, J. T. Train, A. Mercer, G. Ellis, A. Glastonbury, T. M. Glover and Rex Hollar on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. Y.P.S.C.E. has been reformed and meetings are being held on Tuesday nights. On Feb. 1, W. Beiler was speaker morning and evening. Morning service was broadcast. Choir, under leadership of A. Glastonbury, sang anthems, and Miss Phyllis Ash a solo. Offering for aborigine work was received. W. Beiler commenced his fifth year of ministry with church on Feb. 1. Church is happy and united in purpose.

Prospect.—Mr. and Mrs. Vincent and family have been on holiday at Pt. Victoria. C. Schwab exhorted church on morning of Jan. 11; good attendance. At night R. Allison gave an enjoyable address. Mrs. Reg. Bradshaw (Preston, Vic.) was amongst visitors. On Jan. 18 W. Russell, conference president, led church in worship. At night R. Allison was preacher. Commencement of Sunday prayer meetings was made with good attendance. K. Crosby exhorted church on Jan. 25. At night B. Barrett preached. Special prayers were offered throughout day for brethren at Long Plains in loss of chapel through fire; also for recovery of Mrs. Vincent, who has been ill.

Kilburn.—On Feb. 1, Mr. Molscher, of Prospect, presided, and F. Collins exhorted church. 18 adults and 4 Y.W.L. members were present. Evening meetings in huts are planned to start on March 7. School would like to borrow for anniversary word sheets or music of "Hymns of Praise," No. 1.

New South Wales

Lismore.—Attendances have been smaller owing to many people being away on holidays. Mr. Vanham has been speaker at all services. Sunday school re-opened on Jan. 25, and inter-class competition is being conducted for three months. School held annual picnic enjoyably at Ballina on Australia Day.

Taree.—Church gained encouragement from visit of E. C. Hinrichsen. On way from Queensland he addressed church on morning of Feb. 1, and later visited brethren at Wingham. After lunch he left by car to keep an appointment with one of the Newcastle churches. Same day, minister of church, A. B. Clark, conducted gospel service at Comboyne in afternoon. Three men responded to invitation, making five additions during past few weeks.

Marrickville.—Splendid attendances were maintained during holiday season; many country visitors have been welcomed. All auxiliaries are resuming after recess. Members are supporting mission at Tempe conducted by Rockdale young people. Tom Benson is now secretary of Bible school in place of Ted Rugendyke, who is leaving to take up country teaching appointment. Boys' Brigade attended evening service on Feb. 1. Two men recently made the good confession.

South Auburn.—Considering holiday season January was a month of good services. Sunday attendance had average of 85. Visiting speakers have been C. Bowser and R. Hickin. These, with local brethren, A. Kallmier, W. Simms, R. Bartholemew, R. Hickin and W. Youngusband have given addresses. On Jan. 25 conference president Mr. Morris paid a surprise visit at evening service. Week-night prayer meetings for month improved, various brethren and sisters conducting. Mission Band, Dorcas and clubs resumed first week in February.

Earlwood.—Preacher resumed on Feb. 1 after holiday. A splendid gospel meeting was held, with Miss Reynolds soloist. Addresses at both services were uplifting. Chapel was beautifully decorated by sisters for marriage of Miss Alice Berry to Mr. A. Beddingfield on Jan. 31. Women's Fellowship presented bride with suitable gift at close of prayer meeting on 28th. Miss Shirley Francis, kindergarten superintendent, was made a presentation prior to her departure to take up work in Tasmania. Miss Margaret Tumulty succeeds her. Bible school, under direction of A. Smith, is practising for anniversary. Some scholars spent an enjoyable time at Y.P.D. camp at Narrabeen.

Victoria

Ararat.—On Jan. 25 Mr. Mudford was preacher. Meetings are well attended. During college vacation church is indebted to Messrs. Selwood, Gason and Weeding for taking services.

South Yarra.—Church has settled down to another year of work. Good attendances have been recorded, and two young men of Bible class—Jock McGregor and Don Cooper—have accepted Christ. An impressive service was held on evening of Feb. 1, when they were baptised. Members extend sympathies to Mr. and Mrs. J. Elliot in death of their daughter Nita on Feb. 2; also to Norm and Irene White in death of their mother on Jan. 29.

Swan Hill.—On Dec. 26, eighteen young people from district travelled to Mildura for Murray Valley youth camp. A wonderful time of fellowship and spiritual uplifting was enjoyed by all.

Portland.—J. Wiltshire was appreciated speaker on Jan. 25. Church has received much blessing by taking part in Portland convention. Other speakers during month were T. Davey, T. Rivett and G. Stevenson. Fellowship with many visitors has been enjoyed. Church is working for thanksgiving day.

Merbein.—On Jan. 16 a welcome social was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Whitmore. Chapel was comfortably filled, and there were representatives from Sunraysia churches of Christ, Mildura District Council of Churches, as well as from the local religious bodies. Items and supper closed a happy evening of fellowship. On Jan. 18 Mr. Whitmore gave inspirational addresses to excellent congregations morning and evening. A prayer meeting has been commenced; splendid attendance at first meeting. On Jan. 31, Sunday school picnic was held at Henny Park.

South Melbourne.—Annual business meeting of church was held on Feb. 4. Reports showed good, steady work, and witness maintained. Brightest spots were Bible school, where a splendid work is being done under leadership of R. Tyler. Reorganised Women's Mission Band spent a useful year. Mrs. J. Tipping has taken over secretaryship from Mrs. Bowtell, who has served faithfully for some years. Junior clubs are holding fairly well, but senior work lags. Preachers E. H. Randall and J. Manallack have done faithful work throughout year.

Kyneton.—A Bible school Christmas party on Dec. 20 was largely attended. A young married woman, and two senior girls from Bible school, confessed Christ on Jan. 11. E. K. Skillicorn preaching. They were baptised on 18th, and with another baptised believer, received into fellowship on 25th. Miss Lucy Costelloe, of Melbourne, sang a solo at evening meeting. Central Northern District Conference held at Kyneton on Australia Day, was much enjoyed. A girl from Drummond Bible school confessed Christ there on Feb. 1. E. K. Skillicorn preaching. Bible school has record number, now 65.

Carnegie.—Church held a picnic at Warrandyte on Australia Day. Recent visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Scudde, of Queenstown, S.A. Fellowship was also renewed with Bruce Ward, home on leave. Albert Trezise was recently received by transfer from North Richmond, also Mrs. Trezise, a convert at Hinrichsen-Morris mission, East Preston. There were good attendances at all meetings on Feb. 1. Gospel meeting was conducted by a team from Mildmay Movement, Colin Arthur being speaker. An open-air service was held after church outside railway station. Auxiliaries have re-commenced after vacation.

Ballarat (Dawson-st.).—All auxiliaries have been in recess over holidays, but have re-commenced. In absence of G. J. Andrews on holidays, speakers have been Messrs. Methven, Benson, Wilkie and Stirling. Edith McGibbony has been accepted as a student for College of Bible. New teachers added to Bible school are Dawn Stephens, Sylvia Dagleish, Max Peacock and Geoff Reed. A team of workers visited Hall's Gap to make improvements for camp at Easter. Ladies of church entertained and made a presentation to Mrs. Smith on occasion of her 80th birthday. Church is looking forward to coming of Hyman Appleman mission. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Tempest, of Mt. Clear, Miss Franklin, Mrs. Reed, Mr. Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. K. Price in home-call of loved ones.

Newmarket.—On Jan. 25 Dr. Williams addressed meeting. On Feb. 1 Mr. Gardiner spoke at both services. Mr. Hutton, of Essendon, presided at morning service on Feb. 8, and Mr. Gardiner addressed both meetings.

Dandenong.—Mr. Youens addressed all meetings on Feb. 1 and 8; good attendance. Bible school held an enjoyable picnic at Carrum on a recent Saturday. All auxiliaries of church are at work after recess for holidays. 112 broke bread on Feb. 8.

Burnley.—Members have returned after holidays, and meetings have become more regular in attendance. Attendances are still below usual averages. Midweek prayer meetings have re-commenced, also club auxiliaries. During absence of Mr. Gross on vacation, addresses were given by J. McKenzie and Mr. Wedd.

Preston.—J. E. Searle, who commenced his ministry on Feb. 1, was at morning service on that date, with Mrs. Searle and two sons, welcomed into fellowship. He addressed church, and conducted evening service, when choir and gospel singers assisted. Prospects for future are bright and encouraging. On Feb. 7 the marriage of Joyce Sinclair to Herbert Gray (son of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Gray, formerly of North Carlton) was celebrated in presence of a large assemblage, Mr. Searle officiating.

Malvern-Caulfield.—On Feb. 7 a working bee had a large attendance. This was followed by homecoming on 8th, when a large number of past and present members attended dinner and tea provided in Sunday school hall. A pleasant Sunday afternoon on 8th was also largely attended, when Attorney-General, Mr. Oldham, was speaker. A visiting brother gave two euphonium solos, Mrs. Cole also sang, and choir rendered an item. Chapel was almost filled for evening service. A visitor sang two solos. Mr. Cole preached at night.

Footscray.—All auxiliaries are functioning after holidays. During January, church attendances were good. On 27th, 32 ladies were entertained by Lady Mayoress, Mrs. McNab, at an enjoyable afternoon. On Feb. 1 there were two confessions. On 8th A. E. Hurren started his second year with church. Mrs. G. Jones has undergone an operation in hospital. Sympathy has been expressed to G. Jones and family in passing of his father. Tennis club is having a happy time. K.S.P. and P.B.P. are also having success in new members and experience under Mr. and Mrs. Hurren.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—All auxiliaries of church have commenced work and service for year. R. Enniss has taken over pastorate of church until a new minister arrives. He has visited many sick members. Congratulations are extended to Howard Hopkins on receiving his B.A. degree. R. Hilford, of W.A., was preacher on Feb. 1. F. Prittie has commenced his 25th year of faithful service as deacon. Women's Mission Band held first meeting for year on Feb. 4. Mrs. Lee was speaker, Mrs. Valentine soloist. Mrs. H. Phillips is making good recovery after operation at Heidelberg House, and has returned home. Aborigines offering is now £12.

Wangaratta.—Bible school has recommenced for new year. Y.P.S.C.E., J.C.E., boys' and girls' clubs are meeting after holidays. Visitors have included Mrs. Squires (isolated member). Miss Florence Green accompanies girls from Wangaratta and district to Lord Mayor's camp at Portsea again this year. Mrs. Kershaw and Stan Cordy have returned home after period in hospital. Neil Campbell is still attending Melbourne for treatment and is progressing favorably. Home mission offering taken Feb. 1 amounts to £41/3/-. Money-boxes put in homes by P. Patrick are responsible for this large amount, and church congratulates him on his wonderful effort and interest in work of home missions.

Geelong.—Mr. and Mrs. Stirling and Campbell have returned after a holiday in Ballarat. Mr. Stirling spoke at both services on Feb. 8. Fellowship with many visiting brethren has been enjoyed through holiday season. Sunday school is preparing for anniversary.

Coburg.—During absence of A. R. Lloyd on holidays, Messrs. Barnden, Young, Gray and Rasmussen assisted. On Feb. 1, there were good meetings, Mr. Lloyd preaching. At close of evening service two young men made the good confession. At splendid meeting on Feb. 8, the two young men, previously baptised, were received into fellowship. Several students of church and school have been successful in passing university examinations.

Kaniva.—On Feb. 1 B. J. Combridge commenced his ministry with churches of Kaniva circuit. At 11 a.m. all gathered at Kaniva for worship, chapel being well filled. Mr. Combridge addressed gathering. He also spoke to combined J. and I.C.E. meeting. Following morning worship, about 80 joined in a fellowship dinner in old chapel. At 2 p.m. a fine gathering assembled to express a warm welcome to Combridge family. Several appropriate items were rendered, and welcome function was a fine success. At 7 p.m. Mr. Combridge gave a fine gospel address. On Feb. 3, annual meeting of church was held. All organisations presented reports and revealed much work done. R. Goldsworthy was re-elected secretary and R. Rowe treasurer. Elders and deacons were all re-elected, and H. L. Williams added to board of officers. Balance sheet revealed £804 subscribed to brotherhood funds, £475 to general fund, and £294 to building fund during year. General fund shows debit balance of £55 to commence new year.

East Kew.—Church congratulates Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Wigney on completion of two years' faithful service. On Jan. 19 a working bee cleaned up chapel grounds. On Jan. 24 Edgar Miller spoke in evening, and two young ladies reconsecrated their lives to Christ. Prayer meeting on Jan. 28 was largest for a long time (34); R. McDougal gave a challenging address. On Jan. 31, about 30 people gathered in home of Mr. and Mrs. Snibson for a meeting addressed by Stan Hoyle (Glen Waverley Methodist). Feb. 1 was first day of a series of special evening meetings for February. H. R. I. Bailey (C.I.M.), recently returned from China, spoke, and after service conducted an interesting lantern lecture. Prayer meeting on Feb. 4 had 38 in attendance. On Feb. 5 Mr. Kent Hughes, M.L.A., lectured at K.S.P. club on "East Meets West." On Feb. 7 young people visited Fairfield church for a squash conducted by F. H. Elliott and addressed by W. A. Wigney. East Kew orchestra assisted. On Feb. 8 E. L. Williams (College of Bible) spoke to an "every-member-present" service in evening. Mr. Fitzgerald, from Fairfield, addressed morning meeting. Bible school is preparing for anniversary.

WORLD OF BOOKS

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

THE Australian Students' Christian Movement has published an excellent manual for youth groups to study. The author, Dr. Siegfried Hebart, is principal of Immanuel Theological Seminary, Adelaide. The fine, scriptural treatment of Jesus and his mission, Jesus on the cross, and Jesus Christ, the risen and living Lord, are worthy of wide reading. That students of our universities are provided with the opportunity of studying these great doctrines of the New Testament is most encouraging. This faithful presentation of the truth is another proof of the trend of theology back to the fundamental facts and teachings of the New Testament. Price, 1/-; posted, 1/1½.

CHRISTIAN HELP TO THE LEPERS

AT the annual convention of the American Mission to Lepers meeting in New York City, Dr. R. C. Williams, assistant surgeon-general, chief of the Bureau of Medical Services, declared that "for the first time in the history of mankind we feel we can now say to the person who has leprosy: 'There is hope.'" The American Mission to Lepers, an interdenominational agency of Protestant churches, aids 125 leprosy stations, clinics, and colonies in 29 countries, providing food, clothing, buildings, and general maintenance for these stations. It provides funds for religious work in these colonies, maintains homes for infected children and healthy children of infected parents. It carries on a general education programme in support of improved care and treatment of leprosy victims.

Experiments with the use of sulfa drugs in the treatment of leprosy are proving successful, declared Dr. Williams. Two sulfa derivatives, diasons and promin, have now been in use over a five-year period with patients at the United States Leprosarium at Carville, La. Where from ten to twelve patients were hitherto released annually as symptom-free, between thirty and thirty-five are now being discharged. Beneficial results in the treatment of sulfa drugs are now being confirmed in other countries.—E.P.S., Geneva.

JOHN PATTEN RETIRES

"THE Answer is There" is the arresting title of the popular report of the Bible Society for the current year. There is a touch of sadness in recalling that it will be the last report which will come from the pen of John Patten, the society's editorial secretary. For fifteen years he has given us a series of volumes which are in a class all by themselves. They have placed the work of the society in the framework of contemporary events and needs, and therefore given to them far more than the ephemeral interest and value which attaches to the literature of annual reports, and it is good to know that this is being recognised in the publication in book form of the collected prologues which Mr. Patten has written during his fifteen years' service. It will be eagerly welcomed by the wide circle of those who have looked forward to each new report from his pen, and who have never been disappointed. But, best of all, is the fact that Mr. Patten's great gifts as an interpreter and writer are to be used as the historian of the society in continuation of William Canton's centenary volumes published in 1904 and afterwards. Mr. Patten will bring that great record up to date in two volumes, and it is hoped that he will be able to write the story up to 1954, the year of the society's triple jubilee.—"The Bible in the World."

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The Australian Christian

The Superintendent Resolves Christian Youth and Cinema

★ B. F. Huntsman, chairman of Federal Bible School and Young People's Department, supplies the following practical suggestions.

1. I will pray and read the Bible every day.
2. I will attend all services of the church.
3. I will boost the church, defend it, advertise it, work for it, pray for it, invite others to attend the worship.
4. In every way I will support the minister, the board of officers of the church; not alone the Bible school. My purpose will be to co-operate in the general work of the church.
5. My office is one of high responsibility. Those in the school look upon me as their superintendent. I must be true to this trust, living the Christian life every moment of every day, trusting in my Lord Jesus Christ for strength, lest I fail and thus harm his little ones.
6. I will study, plan, and work diligently to lead the school in growing bigger and better.
7. I will have a programme of progress for the whole school for the entire year, with definite goals for measuring advancement, and will strive earnestly to achieve these goals. Among them will be increases in enrolment and attendance, more and better training for the teachers and other workers, regular monthly conferences of all workers, adequate literature and other equipment and supplies for every class, and such other "specific aims as will best meet the needs of our Bible school."

Each superintendent can no doubt prepare his personal list of good resolutions that will include these and others.

A Few Practical Suggestions for the Superintendent.

1. Begin the year with the "52 Club" to be made up of those who attend every Sunday in this year. Announce a special honor awaiting those who do not miss a Sunday during the year.
 2. How is the record-keeping system in your Bible school? Can it be improved? Seek advice on record-keeping systems from your State youth department, and see whether your school would not do better with better records. Is your school cupboard tidy and orderly?
 3. Many babies were born in Australia during 1947. Does your school have an active, aggressive cradle roll superintendent, whose department enrolls every baby in the community not enrolled in some other church?
 4. Now is the time to talk with teachers about training. Enlist young people to prepare themselves for teaching in the Bible school. Link them with a class or commence a class in your district.
 5. This is leap year, with the unusual experience of the extra day, Feb. 29, coming on a Sunday. Plan to make much of this gift of an extra Lord's day by having a special programme.
 6. Here is a good attendance plan for the year. Ask each class to increase its attendance only one person per month, on the average. Keep a "star list" before the school, with the names of the classes. Each class making the goal is to be honored with a star after its name on this "star list." Urge every class to keep on the star list.
- Never forget this—the superintendent is the most important person in the Bible school.

ADDRESSES

K. A. Jones (secretary and organiser College of the Bible).—College of the Bible, York-rd., Glen Iris, S.E.6, Vic.
A. J. Mackenzie (preacher Peel-st., Ballarat, Vic., church).—Flat 2, 11 Skipton-st., Ballarat. Phone, Ballarat 1006.
P. R. Whitmore (preacher Merbein church, Vic.).—C/o Church of Christ, Merbein.

FINDINGS OF RECENT SURVEY

THE Inter-Church Girls' Committee, Victoria, conducted an enquiry into the reactions of young people toward the modern film. The opinions of young women, mainly in Victoria, and a few in other States, were sought. The report also indicates that the survey is "not an entirely feminine effort, as several young men's fellowships and mixed groups are included." Replies from 4000 young people were examined.

Answers to the question: How often do you go to a cinema? reveal the following facts: 2.1 per cent. go twice weekly, 50.6 per cent. once weekly, 23.5 per cent. once fortnightly, 10 per cent. once monthly, 12.7 per cent. occasionally, 1.1 per cent. not at all.

To the question: Do you go for somewhere to go or to see a certain film? the replies: For somewhere to go, 13 per cent.; to see a certain film or certain actor or actress, 87 per cent.

To the question: Do you like all films? If so, why? If not, why? The answer was unanimously "No." The main reasons given were: 1. So many films are unreal and utterly untrue to life. 2. Many are of a low moral standard and have a bad influence on young people. (This from the young people themselves!) 3. Many of the stories and much of the acting are crude and an insult to the average intelligence; particularly is this the case with wild westerns and noisy musical shows.

To the question: Do you think the films influence us in our ideas on clothes, habits and friends? Clothes, Yes, 65 per cent; No, 35 per cent. Habits, Yes, 57 per cent.; No, 43 per cent. Friends, Yes, 38 per cent.; No, 62 per cent.

Are there any pictures which you consider should not be shown? If so, why? Horror films, underworld pictures, glorification of crime, cowboys and Indians, immoral pictures, gangster pictures, "B" class musicals, pictures with over-emphasis on sex, bias on international hatred, crime serials, those showing a degrading picture of marriage and family life, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde type, ugly side of life (waste of time when there are so many beautiful films to see), many propaganda films because they show exaggerated conditions and are misleading. More discretion should be exercised in choice of pictures shown at children's sessions. Serials are all right for children, but suggestions were made for a better class of story, such as "Treasure Island," "Seven Little Australians," "Green Gables" series, etc. Murder pictures should be banned because pictures are an education, and we do not want education for crime.

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BIRTH

RANKIN.—At Women's Intermediate Hospital, Brisbane, on Feb. 3, to Don and Jessie, Collins-st., Woody Point, a son (David Jeffery). Brother for Gloria and Erwin.

PEARL WEDDING

SESSON-GITTINS.—Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sesson have much pleasure in announcing the 30th anniversary of their marriage which took place at the Foley Park Methodist Church, Kidderminster, England, on Feb. 9, 1918, by Mr. John Dudley. Present address, Tankerton, French Island, Vic.

DEATHS

BALL.—On Feb. 5, at Lindfield, Sydney, Hannah, eldest daughter of the late Mewburn and Eliza Dale, and loved sister of Florence, Saide, Mrs. Bowman, Fred (dec.), Percy (dec.), Lillian (Mrs. Barkla), and Leslie; aged 75 years.

Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep,
From which none ever wake to weep.

WHITE.—Clara Florence, of 21 Bendigo-ave., Bentleigh, called home on Thursday, Jan. 29, 1948. Loved wife of Frank and dearest mother of Irene and Norman.

"God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble."

WHITE.—On Jan. 29, Clara Florence, of 21 Bendigo-ave., Bentleigh, the dearly esteemed friend of Ettie.

"A closing of eyes grown weary,
A folding of hands at rest,
A message to ease the sorrow,
That God, in his love, knows best."

IN MEMORIAM

BLACKWELL.—In loving memory of our dear mother, called home Feb. 12, 1946.

Always loving, gentle and kind,
A beautiful memory left behind.
We loved thee well,
But Jesus loved thee best.

—Inserted by her loving daughter Hazel, son-in-law Frank, and granddaughter Norma Burbidge.

BURDEU.—In memory of our loved wife and mother, Pearl, who was called home on March 3, 1946.

"And with the morn, those angel faces
smile,
Which we have loved long since and lost
awhile."

—Inserted by her loving husband, son and daughter.

DOWELL.—In loving memory of my dear husband Gordon, and dear daddy of Helen, Feb. 12, 1945. Treasured memories.
—Muriel.

GORDON.—In loving memory of our dear ones, Dad and Lily, who passed away Jan. 23, 1933, and Feb. 17, 1936.

Memories are the lamps
That light the darkest road,
To the beautiful hope of reunion
When we meet at the end of the road.

—Inserted by Mrs. Gordon and family.

LEE (on Active Service).—In loving memory of our dear son and brother, W/O Mervyn Thomas, R.A.A.F., presumed lost near Gibraltar Feb. 12, 1945; loved brother of Aub, late A.I.F. (dec.), and Kenneth Victor, A.I.F. (dec.).

We are, O Lord, deprived of three
Who were to us most dear;
Teach us to say, "Thy will be done,"
Although we miss them here.

—Inserted by his loving mother, father, and brothers Ray and Rod, ex. A.I.F.

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LEE (on Active Service).—In loving memory of our dear nephew Mervyn, W/O, R.A.A.F., missing, presumed killed air crash Gibraltar Feb. 12, 1945, aged 27 years.

His life a beautiful memory,

His death a silent sorrow.

—Inserted by Auntie Beck, Sylvie, Uncle Tom and Eli.

LONG.—In loving memory of our dear mother, Elizabeth, passed away Feb. 17, 1939; also our dear father, William, Oct. 23, 1943, late of Bendigo.

Things have changed in many ways,

But one thing changes never—

The memory of those happy days

When we were all together.

—Inserted by their loving family, South Yarra and North Richmond.

OLSEN.—In loving memory of my dear daughter Rita, loving wife of Will, and loving mother of Frank and Fred, who passed away Feb. 15, 1947.

Sheaves after sowing, sun after rain;

Light after mystery, peace after pain;

Joy after sorrow, calm after blast;

Rest after weariness, sweet rest at last.

Severed only till he come.

—Inserted by her dear ones.

TO LET

Furnished rooms vacant from Feb. 14.—F. E. Jackel, sen., Box 83, Lakes Entrance, Vic.

Holiday shack at Sorrento to let. Vacant Feb. 17 to March 13, then March 22 onward.—Claude Gadge, U3029, after 5.30 p.m.

Hampton, Melbourne, small furnished flat, minute station, beach, vacant from March 13 on for holiday periods.—23 Orlando-st., Hampton. Phone, XW1438.

WANTED

Flat, house or rooms wanted between Melbourne and Sandringham, near train.—L., 61 Armadale-st., Armadale.

Help wanted one day a week, no washing. Modern conveniences. Personal references.—I. Hare. Haw. 2951.

House or shop and dwelling, of not less than four rooms, wanted most urgently.—Claude Gadge, 27 Northcote-rd., Armadale. U3029, after 5.30 p.m.

Melbourne business lady wants board in Christian home.—Ring WA2356.

Piano wanted for purchase by East Preston church, urgently. Write to A. Greig, 11 Goldsmith-ave., East Preston, or phone JU3153.

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 29 (Sunday).—Cliff-st., South Yarra, Annual Home-coming Services. Past members and friends cordially invited. Special speakers and soloists. Luncheon and tea provided. To assist in catering, please notify E. H. Wilson, secretary, 50 Arthur-st., South Yarra, BJ4800.

MINISTERS' WIVES ASSOCIATION

Annual picnic at Fitzroy Gardens, Friday, Feb. 20. Meet opposite kiosk at 2 p.m. Basket afternoon tea.

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Chapel, corner Douglas-pde. and John-st.

WEEK OF WITNESS AND TEACHING.

THURS., FEB. 19, to WED., FEB. 25.

"Churches of Christ—Their Message to the Modern World."

Speaker, Mr. F. T. Morgan.

Also

Re-union Tea, Sat., 21st, 6 p.m.

Re-union Communion, Sun., 11 a.m.

Re-union P.S.A., 3 p.m., J. Burns.

Past members, please come! We will arrange hospitality.

An event you will never forget.

—G. A. Grainger, W'town 715.

RICHMOND-COLLINGWOOD DISTRICT CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST. FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

at Church of Christ, Balmmain-st., on

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1948.

3.30 p.m., Business Session.

6 p.m., Fellowship Tea.

7.45 p.m., Song Service.

8 p.m., Great Inspirational Meeting.

Speaker, S. Neighbour.

Subject: "Christian Imperialism."

Plan to be present.

—J. Searle, President; L. Blackburn, Sec.

WE SHALL REBUILD!

For Christ and the Church at

MALVERN-CAULFIELD,

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

Launching of "Church on the Increase Campaign" and "Every Member Present" Sunday.

Services:

11 a.m., Every Member Present for Worship and the Lord's Supper. Speaker, Mr. Charles Cole. Subject, "The Church at Work." (Launching the Campaign.)

5 p.m., Every Member Around the Tea-Table. Speaker, Mr. A. W. Stephenson, M.A. Subject, "Through U.S.A. and Impressions of World Convention of Churches of Christ, Buffalo, 1947."

7 p.m., Every Member Witnessing. Speaker, Principal E. L. Williams, M.A.

Soloist, Miss F. Cowper.

You are Invited.

SUDAN UNITED MISSION

(Victorian Branch),

ANNUAL MEETING

will be held in

LOWER MELBOURNE TOWN HALL,

Monday, February 23, 8 p.m.

Preceded by Business Meeting, 7 p.m.

Song Service, 7.30 p.m.

Leader, Mr. A. Mac Sandland.

Speakers, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Lunn (Field Superintendent on Furlough).

Musical items: Australian Nurses' Christian Movement Choir.

Conductor, Mr. A. Mac Sandland.

Spiritual Uplift Meeting—Come!

PUBLIC INAUGURAL SESSION

of the

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108th ANNUAL PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION
will be held in

THE INDEPENDENT CHURCH, COLLINS ST.,

Tuesday, February 24, 1948, at 8 p.m.

A. Law, D.D., Presiding.

Speaker, H. M. Arrowsmith, Th.L.,

Vicar of St. John's, Toorak.

Musical Programme by Independent Church Choir.

Organist, Mr. Cedric Gower, L.T.C.L., T.T.C.L., L.A.B.

Director of Music, Mr. David Plummer.

A brief report of another record year will be given by Mr. S. Russell Baker, General Secretary.

Devotion—Inspiration—Challenge.

Please regard this as a personal invitation to be present.

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I WONDER if churches have any concern for preachers who are growing old.

I WONDER if churches realise that the slender salary of a preacher and financial extras make it difficult to provide adequate security for the eventide of life.

I WONDER if churches realise that the Preachers' Provident Fund is the brotherhood's concern in this matter.

I WONDER if you or the congregation with which you are identified has made a gift during the past year.

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Queensland:—H. W. Hermann, Milman-st., Eagle Junction, N.S.

Western Australia:—T. Banks, 73 Holland-st., Wembley.

Tasmania:—F. R. Burt, 27 Allison-st., West Hobart.

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

The Australian Christian

Obituary

A. Cook

WHEN we had fellowship with Archie Cook on Sunday, Jan. 18, no one thought that it was the last time that we would gather thus with him. On Thursday morning, 22nd, he left his home as usual at about 7 o'clock and rode out about four miles to his work, and at about 7 o'clock at night his body was found in a paddock where he had collapsed earlier in the day. His mortal remains were laid to rest in Colac Cemetery on Saturday morning in the presence of a large gathering of relatives and friends. Our brother was baptised at Colac during 1911 under the ministry of Andrew Connor, and for a number of years has rendered sterling service as an officer, and for some time was chairman. His service for his Lord has been consistent and faithful, and we prayerfully commend Mrs. Cook to him who is able to comfort in all tribulation.—L.S.

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.).

NEW TESTAMENT TERMS

IN a church report I notice it stated that two Bible school scholars were baptised. In the same report it also stated that two young ladies were immersed. If the latter two were baptised, why not say so? If it is really necessary to use the word immerse, say baptised by immersion. I have seen so many people immersed that had no relation to baptism that I think it much better to stick to the good old scriptural phrase "baptise." All church of Christ people and most others know that their baptism is by immersion.—J. G. Snow, Bangalore, N.S.W.



CHURCH AND WAR

THE Victorian Social Service Department is to be commended on the issue of the booklet, "Peace and War." The arguments against war advanced by the pioneer stalwarts of our Restoration Movement are quite unanswerable. Nevertheless we all know by recent experience, that church folk, like others, believe in wartime, not what is true, but what they want to believe. The war record of our organised churches of Christ is a shameful one. Compromise and surrender of vital principles were almost universal. God gave us, as a professing New Testament church, a unique opportunity to witness against war, and we threw it away. No organised protest was made by us even against the use of that culmination of scientific devilry, the atom bomb.—W. G. Gordon, Ungarra, S.A.



CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT

IN Jan. 20 issue the Social Service Notes point to scourges that need weeding out of our surroundings. The writer goes on blaming this or that Government. It is a poor effort to sit back and do nothing and then abuse the Government. The time has come, not for the church to decry this or that Government, but to encourage every true Christian to join this or that political group so as to clean it up and see that only church men are elected to Parliament, then all these difficulties will pass. Our present attitude does not help the church. It has the tendency to drive some people against the church. The biggest ob-

stacle to the country churches is the farmer who pays his laborer less than the basic wage and then travels in his car to church, although he has robbed that employee. When we have Christian men at the helm, we will not need to judge, and what is more our industrial strife will pass.—B.M., South Aus.

Our Young People



TASMANIA

CHRISTMAS Christian service camp was held at Mole Creek from Dec. 25 to Jan. 1 under the capable leadership of H. E. R. Steele, of Victoria. Twenty-nine were in attendance, and had a great time of Christian learning and fellowship. The theme for study was the Bible and "Christianity in Practice," and some very interesting and helpful thoughts were brought out.

State Youth Dept. assisted Margaret-st. C.E. Society to go further afield for their picnic this year, when on Jan. 26 a combined Youth Department C.E. picnic was held at Lagoon Beach, Lowhead. A great time was had by the 82 who took the opportunity to visit the beach as a rest from Launceston's heat-wave temperature of 93 degrees. Arrangements were in the hands of Colin Orr, recently appointed social activities convener for department. A typical remark about the picnic was, "The best yet."

At a recent meeting of the department, it was decided to elect members of committee to act as conveners for departmental activities. Those elected are: Bible school, A. Orr; kindergarten Sister J. Barton; postal Sunday school, Sister M. Arnot; C.E. societies, V. Burt; social activities, C. J. Orr.

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S. Aust.—Mr. E. H. Kentish, 29 Warwick-ave., Toorak Gardens.

Tas.—Mr. Lynden Smith, Stormlea, Tas. Pen., Tasmania.

Vic.—Mr. C. L. Lang, Flat 2, 27 Gordon-st., Hampton, S.7.

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CHRISTIANITY'S ONWARD SWEEP

(Continued from page 53)

that led to the impulse of John Wesley and the evangelical awakening. The nineteenth century saw the greatest extension of all, both geographically and in the righting of collective wrongs, in social reform.

A Great Transition Period

What of our own day? We were living in the greatest transition period of recorded human history. All mankind was in process of revolution. What the future had in store no one knew. Yet, since 1914, there were four ways in which Christianity had established a wider and deeper influence on mankind than it had ever achieved before: in its numerical spread throughout the world, in the passing of the leadership of the younger churches into the hands (and they were capable hands) of their own members, in the extended range of its influence as exemplified by Gandhi's acknowledgment of his debt to Christ, and by a drawing together of the Christians of the world.

In two thousand years, a short time in humanity's life, its onward sweep had been remarkable. Some of mankind's hereditary ills, such as negro slavery, it had cured. But in asking whether Christianity was ultimately to win one was faced with a strange parable: "Let the wheat and the tares grow together."

The full story was not to be found in history's human story: it was to be found beyond what we thought of as the grave.

From its past record we could hope and expect that Christianity would continue to spread, to be a growing influence on mankind; but the culmination of that influence was beyond the orbit of history.



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Northgate, Qld.

W. J. Crossman, 69 Campbell-st., Surry
Hills, N.S.W.

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Send Donations to—

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