

# The Australian Christian

National Weekly Representing Churches of Christ



## The Year Has Gone

*The year has gone,  
Gone with its burden of hopes and fears,  
Gone with its sorrows, its trials, and  
tears;  
Gone with its sunny days so bright.  
Gone with its seasons of love and light.  
Gone for aye.*

*The book is closed.  
We have turned a page from day to  
day;  
Fair and white, when we started, were  
they.  
What are the records they now could  
tell,  
Will the Master say—"It is well! It is  
well!"  
At the last?"*

# A Restored Church for a New Age

## UNITED STATES

### Stanley Jones' Crusade for Church Union

DR. E. STANLEY JONES, who has launched a nation-wide campaign for promoting a federal church union, reports that he met such an encouraging response on his second crusade during September that a national convention will be held next autumn, which would be preliminary to calling a constitutional convention to effect an organisation.

Summarising the results of his second crusade, Dr. Jones said: "The response this year was far greater than last year. People are beginning to see that you can have union now under the federal union plan. Where they understand the plan, they have responded almost 100 per cent. . . . This includes ministers. In Chicago 485 out of 500 ministers representing a cross section of the life of the city and its environs voted in favor of the plan."



U.S.S.R.

### Latest Church News

THE Moscow Patriarchate is engaged on the publication of a new periodical, which is to be called the "Bogoslovskij Vestnik" (Theological Messenger). This will appear side by side with the "Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate," and will give regular information about the theological work of the Russian Church.

According to a press notice from the U.S.S.R., Gabriel Kostelnik, the Orthodox Bishop of Lemberg, has been murdered. Bishop Kostelnik was formerly a priest of the Uniate Church (the Roman Catholic Church with Byzantine ritual). He was one of the representatives of that church who advocated the affiliation of the Uniate Church to the Moscower Patriarchate, which was carried out in 1946.



GERMANY

### The Congregation is the Kernel of Church Life

THE synod of the Province of Berlin-Brandenburg has passed a fundamentally new order for the churches in its province. It starts with the congregation as the kernel of church life, and aims at preventing the organs of the church from being completely submerged by secular elements, as they were at the time of National Socialism. On the other hand, it wants to guard against the isolation of the congregations and create a closer link between the elders and the church members.

According to the new church order, the ecclesiastical councils will assume the task of forming an inner circle in the church, which has the right to make proposals for the appointment of elders, whereas the elders are actually elected by all the adult church members who have been admitted to holy communion. In addition to the ecclesiastical council, the new church order provides for an ecclesiastical advisory committee which includes all the officers of the church, and keeps the elders in closer touch with the congregation.

The lay element is strengthened by the fact that responsible men and women who have not studied theology may be allowed to preach.

The new order also gives the legal basis for the office of bishop, which had hitherto been a temporary one.

## EUROPE

### Cause of Europe's Plight Cited

THE wreckage that is in Europe to-day cannot be said to stem only from the recent war that made havoc of so many places and things, but it stems from many centuries of ignorance and blindness and false teachings. All over Europe to-day people are remembering the horrors of war, and are fervently hoping that another will not come. But they do not realise that the things which caused the last war are still in evidence to-day.

"It is the task of every Christian, whether at home or on a foreign field, to strive to help people build on something more than material treasures. Here in Europe, the first thing people think about when you speak to them of a 'better way of life' is what they will gain in a material sense if they accept what you have to offer. It is true that the people need help physically, but to give this help alone is not to answer the problem. They need to be taught that the way of Jesus Christ will give them treasures in heaven even though they have nothing here. It is hard, however, to make a person believe that there is an advantage to that when he is hungry and needs the necessities of life.

"What is the answer to this question? Hard work and example and prayer are three things which will do much toward bringing the people to realise their need of Jesus Christ. We have seen the Friendship Trains bring food to hundreds of people, and yet hundreds of others received nothing. Those who did receive the food ate it, and it was gone and they had nothing left. These expressions of friendship and love from the people of one country to the people of another country are wonderful and necessary, but the need here is for something more than food and clothing. The superstitions and the blind following of those who do not teach the truth are the things which are undermining Europe to-day. The people are as 'sheep without a shepherd,' and we need to sound the call of the 'Shepherd,' for those who are without the fold."—Charles E. Phipps, Orazio Antinori 6A, Perugia, Italy. ("The Christian Standard.")



CZECHOSLOVAKIA

### Relations of Church and State

A NEW law has been proposed, and is at present under discussion, in Czechoslovakia, concerning the reorganisation of relations between Church and State. The proposal is that the State should offer to all the churches, and also to the Association of Atheists, to undertake responsibility for covering all administrative expenses incurred and all stipends to pastors. The proposal requires, at the same time, that the consent of the State be obtained prior to all nominations of members of the clergy. The results of the discussions between representatives of the churches on the one hand and of the State on the other have not yet been announced. The Protestant weekly, "Kostnické Jiskry," published in one of its recent numbers a resolution passed unanimously by an Extraordinary Assembly of the representatives of the Evangelical Church of the Czech

Brethren for the district of Prague, from which we give the following extracts:—

"The church must guard its freedom and its independence, not only in spiritual but in administrative and material matters. The church is bound to serve the gospel freely, on its own foundation and through its own power. We wish the church to abide by its spiritual and educational mission, even if deprived of State support. We are grateful for the support accorded up to now to the church by the State. We ask that the system of endowments (under which the State has to-day helped to cover in part the expenses of the church) be continued for a transitional period; that the church should not be required to submit candidates for the pastorate to the previous consent of the State authorities, and that even in future it should collect voluntary contributions from its members and dispose of them as it sees fit. If this request by the church is unfavorably received, we consider that the only thing for our church to do is to resolve, humbly, and trusting in God's help, to refuse, in such a situation, all assistance offered by the State. The Regional Assembly of Prague demands that this resolution be submitted to the General Assembly of the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren, and taken into consideration when the said proposal is under discussion."



### Follow Up of Amsterdam

MEETINGS are now being organised in every country to give church members an insight into the work done by the Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Amsterdam.

A very large audience met in the Temple de l'Oratoire, Paris, on October 7, presided over by Pastor Marc Boegner, one of the presidents of the World Council. Accounts of the Assembly were given by two people who had been alternates at Amsterdam and everyone used the same word "miracle" to describe this union of friends, this family atmosphere among the members from all over the world. Everyone recognised the Assembly as a great hope for the future.

On Oct. 1 two meetings were held in Dublin to bring to the churches the message of Amsterdam. The Archbishop of Dublin took the chair at both. In the afternoon, Bishop Neill spoke to clergy and ministers about the follow-up of Amsterdam, and the tasks that the Assembly desires to lay on the churches. For the evening meeting the hall was packed out, many people having to stand, and others to sit on the edge of the platform. There was evidently a spirit of real interest and enthusiasm, making it clear that the churches in Ireland are awake to the significance of the ecumenical movement. The meeting was addressed by Dr. J. A. H. Irwin (Presbyterian Church of Ireland), and Bishop Neill, both of whom spoke of their own experiences at the Assembly, and tried to bring to their hearers something of the spirit and the achievements of the Amsterdam meeting. Plans have been made to hold similar meetings at many other places in Ireland in the course of the next few months.

On Sunday, Oct. 23, the French Protestant Federation organised a meeting at Strasbourg, where Dr. Visser 't Hooft would speak.

Finally, in Geneva on Nov. 4, a meeting was to be held in the Salle de la Reformation, at which Dr. Visser 't Hooft would give an address. The assembly film would be shown for the first time, together with gramophone recordings of some of the speeches made at Amsterdam.

# The Year's Balance Sheet

THIS year, 1948, has been a period of conflict. The East and the West have been at enmity, and many bitter words have been exchanged. Even if there has been no open war in Europe over the Berlin crisis, nevertheless the East and West have been at war in the conflict in China, Indonesia and Malaya. The shadow of war is now upon areas in South America. The reactions of this East and West conflict are being felt also within the domestic relations of various communities in most countries of the world. Revolution is in the air.

As we consider the tragic war between Jew and Arab in Palestine, we are alarmed at the possible consequences unless a settlement is reached soon. The inability of the United Nations Organisation to handle this situation is distressing. In addition to these major conflicts, there are disturbing reactions in such situations as that presented by Eire's attitude to Great Britain.

BEHIND much of this unrest there are deep spiritual problems. The question being asked in many lands to-day concerns the question of the ancient psalmist when he cried: "What is man?" Does man live by bread alone or by every word that proceeds from God? Is man destined for the grave or for eternity? Is it better to be a man dissatisfied or a pig satisfied? Only when men see the spiritual dignity of man, and appreciate his eternal destiny, will much of this conflict be resolved.

There is also much hostility between the rival policies of Rome and Moscow. We can find an answer to such a conflict only by calling men to live on a higher plane of life than that offered by either Rome or Moscow. It is not a question of either Rome or Moscow, but something more satisfying—the simplicity of a life in the Christ of the New Testament.

DURING the year several significant events have been as straws in the wind of history, indicating just how society is developing.

That group of nations once known as the British Empire has grown into a Commonwealth of Nations, in which freedom and unity have found an expression. The wider basis for co-operation allowed in this Commonwealth now permits the development of the national life of old India, of the expression of varying ways of life in Canada, Malaya and other members of this large family of nations. Here is the basis for a world family of various peoples, living together for peaceful and mutual ends. Great Britain, by losing her Empire, has gained the fellowship of new nations of similar outlook, and has won also the goodwill of most of the world. This, surely, is leadership in Great Britain which is in harmony with Christian ideals!

Once again the United Nations Organisation met to face the world problems of the year. Although there has been conflict between the great powers over some questions, yet in others there was a willingness to agree. So far this world organisation has been able to stand the great stresses placed upon it. The longer this United Nations Organisation lives, the more hope there is that international barriers will be broken down. Attention has been focussed upon the disagreements, but it must be recognised that there have been many moves made which have enabled the nations to work in closer fellowship for their mutual good.

Perhaps it may seem strange, but it is a fact that the trial of the Japanese war criminals brought to light a significant principle of major importance. The chief judge maintained that the judges who gathered

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from various nations to preside over the court revealed the existence of a world-wide sense of justice. Such a principle of justice can be the basis of a world-law to which all peoples can be subject.

Such a sense of justice and world-law are capable of developing so effectively that war could be outlawed. In this we see the eternal principles, made so clear in Bible teaching, being made manifest in this generation. The Bible teaching has emphasised that men of all nations are subject to eternal justice, and must come under the judgment of God.

Despite the failure of the World Council of Churches at Amsterdam to effect anything of great importance, nevertheless one truth was revealed by the assembly, namely, that the church is one, but divided by sin. There is a growing recognition that the church must depend upon God and come in repentance to him, if unity is to be received as God's gift.

WHILE this year has shown how strong are the differences between East and West, how bitter the conflict between Jew and Arab and between Rome and Moscow; nevertheless it has shown some remarkable developments toward world unity. If the church can hasten the growth of unity and goodwill in the coming years, perhaps the horror of world war may be averted and peace may be man's lot for generations to come. This is our hope and prayer as we leave the old year for the new year.

Within the present world situation there are many dangers and ominous evils. These must be banished if the nations are to dwell in peace. However, there are new forces at work which have had their origin in Christ. Such unifying influences must be developed, if the brotherhood of man is to be a reality. So with Tennyson we say:

"Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring happy bells, across the snow;  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true."

"Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be."



## No Holiday for Christians

THROUGHOUT the Christmas and New Year holidays much of the church's organised programme is set aside. There are advantages in this cessation of organised activity. However, church members will still be Christians, we trust, even if absent from their home district.

Since the devil never takes a holiday and usually works overtime when the church's organisations are in recess, Christians ought to remember they cannot afford to take a vacation from their Lord's service. Even in holiday camps, etc., they can set a good example in life, witness and church attendance.

As soon as the holidays are over, church members will do well to renew fellowship with their local church and take up their duties for the Master.

In view of the lag of the church to-day, it is hoped that preachers, officers and Sunday school workers will undertake progressive plans for a real advance in the near future. It is an advantage to have plans well arranged for the new year of service and to rally the church to action as soon as the holidays come to an end.

# ★ The Most Wonderful Thing About Christmas

By J. K. Robinson, of Perth, W.A.

THE birth of Jesus Christ from a human mother is probably the central mystery of our religion. It is so amazing, yet so real; so incomprehensible, yet so simple; so strange, yet so familiar; so divine, yet so human, that every honest heart can only accept the fact of it and gratefully adore God who sent Jesus into the world. For Jesus did come as an infant. At first thought it seems to us a strange and humiliating thing that the Son of God should be born like an ordinary man, and go through the stages of human growth. However, the marvel is that Christ should have become man at all. It is no additional wonder that he should have come as an infant. Sceptics the world over admit that the human birth of Jesus has appealed to the imagination of mankind more perhaps than any other event of his life.

## Facts

The narratives which tell of the birth of Christ bear all the marks of sober records of fact. They show that the facts were derived from the only persons who could possibly have known anything about the matter, namely Mary and Joseph. Matthew's account gives indications of having come from Joseph, and Luke's bears unmistakable evidence that it came from Mary. The attempts to discredit the narratives on one ground or another have been countless, but the plain, direct and beautiful records have survived nearly 1900 years of criticism, and the only effect of every assault has been to leave them more widely read and better understood than ever before. The reason is that they are what they claim to be—records of fact. Christianity is not a set of ideas, however true those

ideas might be. It is something that happened. The facts are that God sent his Son into the world to be the Saviour of men, and sent him as a babe born of a human mother, but that God and not a man was his Father.

## Human and Divine

Mary was Jesus' mother, but God was his Father. Jesus was human, perfectly, but he was also divine. An ordinary birth makes a new person; a new personality is born into the world. But Jesus was not a new person. He was one who had existed from all eternity, equal with God, but in being born of Mary he entered upon an experience of human life as God's Son.

The birth of Jesus was a direct act of God. It was God coming to dwell with man in the closest, most intimate way possible, and in order to accomplish this he chose the help and co-operation of a woman. Human faith and trust in God's purposes had a share in the birth of Jesus! Mary's faith responded to and received God's grace and God's plan. When Mary grasped the full significance of the announcement that she was to be the mother of Jesus, she said to the angel, "I am the servant of the Lord; be it unto me as you say." And Joseph's faith was no less real than Mary's, for he, too, accepted the announcement made to him about the child Mary his wife was to have from God. So here we have the wonderful truth that God and man in co-operation produced Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Did not Jesus often refer to himself as the "Son of man"? God spoke to men in many ways in olden times—by angels, and thunders, and signs, and in the night visions. But when he wanted to speak his greatest, most powerful word, his last word of love and mercy and hope to sinful men and women, he approached a humble Jewish peasant woman and asked her to bear a son which would be hers and his, and he asked the woman's husband to take care of the mother and the baby. They in faith and trust agreed, and when the baby was born the choirs of heaven sang for joy, and said to the shepherds, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord."

## The Central Wonder

Look at Jesus for a moment. The greatest miracle is not his raising of the dead, nor even his own resurrection. Jesus himself is the miracle. The marvellous facts of his life, the wonder and depth of his personality, his own claims as to who he was, show that although like us in some ways he was vastly different in others. Thought of in this way, his unique and wonderful birth is not a difficult thing to accept. After all, it is Jesus' difference from us, not his likeness to us, that makes it possible for him to redeem us, and to impart a new nature to those who believe in him. If Jesus had had a human father as well as a human mother he would have been human only, which would not have met man's need of a perfect Saviour. When he died on Calvary, it was not merely a man who died. It was a life that was richer, fuller, grander than man's life, a God-life, that was given as the price of man's redemption.

The most wonderful thing about Christmas? Simply this, that it is the season when we remember God's gift of himself to us in the babe of Bethlehem, when in his enthusiasm for humanity he paid his last and greatest price to win us for himself. Had it not been for that there would have been no Christmas, no Saviour from sin, no light to shine in our darkness, no hope for eternity. As it is, Christmas is the dawn of man's larger hopes, the shining of a light no darkness can quench.



## Bethlehem . . .

—A. Lee-Archer.

Oh, Bethlehem, the hallowed place,  
Where the Saviour, Christ, was born;  
And festive seasons now we trace  
From that first, fair Christmas morn.  
  
Bethlehem, throughout the ages;  
By his birth shall never die;  
For endless time its progress gauges,  
Marking Anno Domini.  
  
Oh, Bethlehem, you knew it not,  
When to him your doors were closed,  
That, lying in that manger cot,  
God's beloved Son reposed.

Bethlehem, for you the glory—  
God's redemptive work begun—  
To fulfil the sacred story,  
By the coming of his Son.  
  
For shepherds 'neath your starry sky,  
Heard the heavenly angels sing  
Glory, glory, to God on high;  
Hail with us the new-born King.  
  
And the morning star resplendent,  
With its light the wise men led  
Through their journey, ever pendent,  
Hovering o'er his lowly bed.  
  
With gifts of frankincense and gold,  
The heavenly Prince they greet;  
So may we, like wise men of old,  
Lay some trophy at his feet.

# Wide Open Doors

THE "Crusade for a Christian World" movement has not only fired our missionaries in India, but has stirred the Christian community. All our areas are feeling the urge, but of the Shrigonda area Bruce V. Coventry writes:-

"On their own initiative our Christians here have set the goal that they hope to reach in baptisms during the next two years at 150, and this work is going to be done a good deal by non-mission employee Christians. Relatives and friends in nearby villages are being contacted, and an effort is going to be made to break into more of these villages and establish Christian communities there."

"There seems to be a stirring among Christians such as we have not seen them stirred since coming to India. The enthusiasm and the desire to spread the gospel on the part of many are most encouraging. . . . When one thinks of the poverty of these people, and some of them are desperately poor, and then sees them forget their sorrows for a while by doing something for the kingdom, it is truly a moving scene."

Some years ago Miss Florence Cameron wrote concerning opportunities at Dhorja, which she said could be pronounced "DOOR AJAR." In the light of recent events her words were truly prophetic. Of Dhorja, Mr. Coventry adds:

"At Dhorja that night we held a gospel service in a true village setting, but one where the Spirit of God was present. About fifty people gathered in one of the village rest-houses. The service finally got under way about 8.30 p.m., and continued on till 10.30 p.m. During that time we had bhajan music, short addresses and selected Bible readings. The entire audience was seated on the floor, women at one side and men at the other. The lighting was provided by two hurricane lanterns. Towards the close of the evening, an invitation was given to any who wished to make a decision to follow Christ to stand and make their confession before those gathered. Four of those present indicated their desire to accept Christ, two being Shantivin Bhalerao and Babu Bhalerao, and both made quite a frank and open statement about the way that they had been opposed to the mission, etc., and that how they now felt constrained to follow Christ. These young men, together with some of the other young men of the Christian community, are now formed up into a bhajan party which plans to visit other villages to preach the gospel whenever they have a free night. Besides these four, it was mentioned that some others who could not be present at that meeting because of being away from the village or at home with children had a desire to accept Christ. There was certainly rejoicing that night.

"The next morning a small community of about twenty-five gathered in the bed of a nearby stream, at one side of which there was reasonably deep flowing water, and there five people were immersed, three men and two women. It is always a joy to see a husband and wife taking this step at the same time, and we witnessed it on this occasion. The other woman was the wife of one of our Christians, so that we now have another two families that we can call Christian homes. One other young man had very much hoped to be able to be baptised along with the others, but unfortunately he is very sick, and it is doubtful if he will

recover; however, he, too, was anxious that he should make an open expression of his faith in Christ. Several of us gathered in the little dark room where he was lying and heard him make this sincere confession of faith.

"Sunday of this week, we are to have anything up to another five baptisms. It is anticipated that some of those who were not able to be present on Tuesday or Wednesday will be able to be there on Sunday. When the eight to ten people who have expressed their desire to follow Christ have been baptised, there will only be three out of twenty-one homes at Dhorja among this community where there are no Christians. Here is a great opening for prayer, that this entire community will become Christians in the very near future. One woman of these three remaining homes yesterday asked us why she had not been baptised along with the others—well, she was not at the meeting, nor did we know that the message that she had heard so often had commenced to take root.

"That night some of our party remained behind at Dhorja to conduct a meeting for the new converts and Christians, while others of

us went across to Bhangaon for services there."

Latest word received indicates that, in addition to the five mentioned above, four more were baptised at Bhangaon, a further five were anticipated, with the expectation of another ten to twenty within the next few months.



Village Life, India.

Missionaries, co-workers and Christian groups are warmed as the fires of evangelism glow. Workers visit lonely farm homes and villages. Here Dr. Oldfield is attending a sick call at a farm.

## Social Service Notes and Comments

Will H. Clay.

THE annual rally conducted by the Women's Auxiliary was held at the Murrumbeena Hospital on December 11. The day was perfect, and the gardens and lawns were in excellent order. The attendance was a record. Mrs. C. Gill, president of the auxiliary, presided at the meeting held in the large marquee kindly loaned by the Home Missionary Committee for the occasion. The president of the Women's Conference, Mrs. Ploog, and the vice-president of the general conference, Mr. D. A. Cockcroft, spoke in a representative capacity, and Mr. J. S. Lechte, M.L.A. for the district, and Cr. J. Smith representing the Mayor of Caulfield, delivered short addresses of congratulation and encouragement. Mr. Lechte stated that the Government, through the Hospitals and Charities Commission, had promised £75 for every £25 subscribed by the committee. This applies to new work. It is estimated that a sum of about £40,000 was involved in the immediate undertakings at both homes in Murrumbeena. When the whole project was completed, it was expected that more than £100,000 would be needed. Both the Government and the Municipal Council promised liberal support. The main item of the rally was the bringing to the table the money raised by the women during the year, and as the amounts were announced considerable enthusiasm was aroused. When the total of over £1000 was announced the doxology was sung. The amount was increased to £1060 before the occasion closed. Miss Winnie Sandells sang two solos. Afternoon tea was served on the lawn and the building was open for inspection. All present spent a most enjoyable time. A number of churches are yet to report their offerings.

### Christmas in Our Hospitals

Our chaplain, Charles Young, has been greatly helped by the "Good Companions" of our churches under the leadership of Miss Rita Roberts. Christmas time in our hospitals of-

fers a splendid opportunity for generosity and kindness. The unfortunate sick, particularly the children, look for something out of the usual, and the hospital visitor with empty hands is placed at a disadvantage. The Good Companions have gathered, mostly by personal effort, over 1000 toys which they have given to Mr. Young for distribution. This involves a tremendous effort for the chaplain. Some of the toys are most substantial in size and have required much handling. The quality is surprisingly high, and great credit is due to all who have made the effort so successful.

### Christmas at Our Homes

The Endeavorers have once again gone to great pains to bring cheer to the guests of our homes, and their efforts have been warmly appreciated by both staff and guests. The usual Christmas gifts were distributed, and the little "extra" was practised at the table. The matrons and the staffs had gone to great lengths to see that all had a full share of happiness. Mrs. Rowse has just passed her 99th year, and has received the congratulations of many friends.

### A Car for the Secretaries

An unsolicited donation of £100 for a car for the secretaries of Social Service has been received with the comment, "This is no extravagance; your time is too valuable to be wasted on trains and trams." It is true that the work is often hampered because of the time that moving about the city and suburbs and visiting our homes takes up. The £100 is being held in trust. It may happen that others will agree that either a car or a utility truck is needed. It is certain that some direct means of transport must shortly be found.

### Preachers' Outing

It is customary for the preachers to hold their December meeting away from the city. This year the Social Service Committee asked them to be their guests, and arranged for a visit to be paid to the various properties under their control. The occasion was rich in fellowship and experience.

This department is conducted by A. Anderson, secretary of our Overseas Mission Board, 261 Magill-rd., Tramere, S.A. M.O.'s should be made payable at Adelaide.

### The Australian Christian

# Here and There

During the month of November Miss I. V. Gill, on medical advice, sought three months' leave of absence from the Victorian Young People's Department. Subsequently a letter was received in which Miss Gill tendered her resignation. The department is grateful for the work she has done during the past nineteen months.

In a few months Thomas Hagger will relinquish the work at Frankston (Vic.). He does not expect to accept a further engagement as a full-time preacher, but will be prepared to serve between ministries, or to conduct brief missions of an evangelistic nature, or of instruction to the churches, or help in any other temporary way.

W. R. Hibbert writes: "The Christmas number of 'The Australian Christian' represents a genuine desire on the part of all concerned in the journal to prove alive to the need of the hour and to constantly speak a good word for Christ and the church. Pictorial presentations merit praise. A copy of this paper in every home should be the aim of every church for 1949."

This is our last issue for 1948. The next one will be dated Jan. 11, 1949, and will be given over largely to the work of the Aborigines Mission Board. As the number had to be printed before the Austral Co. closed for holidays, news reaching us after Dec. 22 must wait for another issue. Changes of address, quantities, and agency correspondence, will be attended to as soon as possible in the new year.

Christmas tree and children's concert at Boonah, Qld., on Dec. 7 were well attended. Sunday school went into recess last Sunday in year, and first two Sundays in new year, V. G. Boettcher taking annual holidays during same period. Arrangements were made for D. G. Hammer (secretary Federal Aborigines Mission Board) to conduct services on Dec. 26. J. Christensen and C. Jenner on Jan. 2 and F. Smith on Jan. 9.

Mr. Graham's addresses at Queenstown, S.A., are appreciated. On Nov. 28 Mrs. Murphy and Miss Valma Skewes were baptised, having previously made the good confession. On Dec. 1 a social afternoon was held for mothers whose babies are on cradle roll. About 35 mothers were present, with their babies, afternoon being enjoyed by all. Elder folk amongst membership were honored at a special service for them on evening of Dec. 5. Girls' Wattle Club also gave them a social evening on Dec. 7.

On Nov. 21, at Mingenew, in W.A. Northern Circuit, a young woman, Lila Harper, was baptised. As far as is known this is the first time that Christian baptism has been practised in this town. Some 32 were present, many of whom had never witnessed an immersion. The baptistery was nicely arranged in the public hall, and a fine tone prevailed. Work throughout circuit continues with blessing. Bible school anniversary planned for Gutha on Dec. 12 had to be postponed because of an infantile paralysis scare.

A baptismal service was held at Annerley, Qld., on Oct. 21, when Corinne, daughter of church secretary, Mr. Taverner, was baptised. She was received into fellowship on Nov. 28. Mr. Latimer addressed Ladies' Guild at breaking-up celebrations on afternoon of Dec. 7. There was a good attendance, and a happy time was spent. Gifts were distributed to widows, aged and sick members. Young and old filled chapel and porch on evening of Dec. 8, when Father Christmas made his appearance. Sunday school scholars were especially pleased with gifts from Christmas tree and with supper that followed.

The church at Black Rock, Vic., held a Temple Day on Dec. 11; gifts were very generous. On 12th, three crowded meetings were conducted, and at night there was one confession. The church has been encouraged and revived by these special services.

Mr. and Mrs. Pratt continue faithful ministry at Mt. Evelyn, Vic. Church is encouraged with attendance of visitors. A building site has been purchased; many donations have been received, including £25 from aged Mr. Thompson. Fellowship was enjoyed around organ on Dec. 12, this being a monthly feature during summer months. Members visiting district during holidays are invited to meet with church at 11 a.m. communion service.

Final Christmas function for year at Kilburn, S.A., resulted in happy time on Dec. 11, when 28 intermediates played games and enjoyed party prepared by Mrs. Mann. At 10 a.m. Bible school on Dec. 12, attendance was 97. Cradle roll has had 14 babies added recently, making total of 104. 11.15 a.m. service was conducted by members of Maylands church; J. Matthews presided and L. Winckel told story to 26 young worshippers and gave an excellent address to 29 adults. R. Brown and D. Chamberlain read scriptures. Gospel service at 7 p.m. was splendidly addressed by F. Collins.

Meetings have been well maintained at Nth. Sydney, N.S.W. Mr. Allen spoke on morning of Dec. 12, and at night Mr. Paternoster preached and baptised the young man who confessed Christ previous Sunday. Miss Coral Larcombe was soloist. A successful Christmas tree was held on 14th, and on 18th, C.E. visited Aged Women's Rest Home with Christmas gifts. Mr. Lawrence, sen., has been in hospital for eye operation, but is progressing satisfactorily. Mr. and Mrs. R. McLean were visitors en route to New Hebrides. A fellowship tea was held to welcome them, and both gave helpful greetings.

After many years of faithful service at Hindmarsh, S.A., Mrs. A. Pierce was called home on Dec. 9. Sympathy is expressed to bereaved. Knights of Christ concluded a happy season of fellowship with a dinner and social evening on Dec. 10. R. Price received congratulations of party for splendid service given in leadership of order throughout year. J. Allan was thanked for showing films of educational nature. Ladies under leadership of Mrs. J. Allan worked splendidly in arrangements for dinner. J. E. Shipway has accepted unanimous call of church to remain as preacher for a further term of three years from January, 1949. Services on Dec. 12 were well attended. Mrs. L. B. Thomas is making steady recovery from illness.

On Dec. 11, a complimentary evening was tendered by church at Thornbury, Vic., to Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Shaw to suitably mark completion by Mr. Shaw of his college course, and to convey to them both the sincere well wishes of Thornbury church as they enter into full-time ministry, early next year, at North Richmond. The preacher presided, and welcomed the guests, with relatives, including four generations of the Shaw family. An enjoyable programme of vocal and elocutionary items was contributed by Misses D. Gray and Chipperfield, F. Lang, and a male quartette party, H. Hince, Les Stewart, R. Killmier and F. Mitchell. F. N. Lee as an elder spoke of the many years of faithful and valued service given by Mr. and Mrs. Shaw to the church at Thornbury; both had served on the official board, in the school, and in

other auxiliaries. Mr. Shaw was congratulated on the success of his college course, and both were assured of the best wishes and prayers of church in their full-time ministry at North Richmond. Two volumes by K. Latourette were presented to Mr. Shaw, who in his reply, thanked the church for the gift, the good wishes, and for all help given in the years gone by. Mrs. Shaw, at a previous meeting of the Ladies' Guild, had been thanked for her every-ready services, and presented with a suitable gift. Opportunity was taken to convey best wishes from the church to F. A. Mitchell and Miss Ina Stewart, daughter of the preacher, in their approaching marriage early in January. Dr. Killmier conveyed the good wishes, and presented them with an appropriate gift. Frank Mitchell briefly responded. Supper provided by official board was served. On Dec. 12 John Turner, of North Fitzroy, exchanged with preacher, and brought an appreciated address. In evening the film, "The Grace of Forgiveness," was screened before a good congregation.

On Dec. 5, teachers of Kalgoorlie, W.A., Bible school had an enjoyable time at a teachers' tea, Mr. Fewster giving an address. After tea, there was a baptismal service. To mark cessation of year's work, Women's Mission Band held a social evening on Dec. 7. President handed to treasurer of church £50 towards new buildings fund. President of Girls' Club handed over £30 for same purpose. Both these amounts were proceeds of sales of work. An enjoyable evening was spent at home of Sunday school superintendent, R. Beard, by teachers and staff. Dec. 12 saw cessation of Junior and Intermediate Endeavor. Both societies have had a successful year. In evening four young girls were baptised. Boys' and girls' clubs had Christmas tree at manse on Dec. 18. Christmas services were held on 19th. J. Wiltshire, of U.A.M., conducted prayer meeting on Dec. 8.

## MORWELL CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, Dec. 11, was one of the happiest and most helpful experiences ever enjoyed by members assembled from Warragul, Trafalgar, Moe, Morwell and Traralgon.

Mr. Jackel welcomed visitors and the guest speakers, Messrs. A. W. Stephenson and R. J. Anderson. Apologies were received from Dandenong and Berwick.

An animated discussion took place on "Gippsland—Its Needs and Its Opportunities." Arising from remarks of speakers representing four districts, it was decided to seek the H.M. committee's help.

Mr. Stephenson spoke helpfully on the relation of the committee to needy fields, and then presented an inspiring message on "Visitation Evangelism."

It was intimated that the church had the prospect of securing an allotment for building purposes, with 100 ft. frontage and a depth of 150 ft. An unlined building 30 ft. x 40 ft. was already situated on the rear of the block.

At a fellowship tea Mr. Stephenson interested all in travel talk.

The evening service was presided over by R. Hillbrick. Mrs. Byard and the young people from Warragul gave items. Mr. Anderson gave a variety of films which were well received. A gospel appeal was made after the film "Barabbas." It was a most impressive service.

The church is happy in securing an organ at a much reduced price through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Beach.

The conference reflected much credit on secretary, Mr. Read, and the sisters of church.

A married lady had been recently received by faith and baptism.—P. Byard.

# News of the Churches

## Western Australia

**Subiaco.**—Church has had much blessing from Hinrichsen-Machin mission, which concluded on Dec. 6 with fifty decisions and £460 thank-offering. Mr. Hinrichsen's addresses were inspiring, and during last week in particular overflow crowds, frequently more than 400, which completely overtaxed capacity of marquee, were evidence of interest in gospel. Enthusiasm of mission has strengthened and encouraged whole membership. On Dec. 5, 180 broke bread. On 12th Mr. Elliott preached to magnificent congregations morning and night, and eight were received into fellowship and three more baptised. Visitors have included Mrs. Machin (Caulfield, Vic.), Miss V. Louey (Lygon-st., Vic.), Miss N. Maiden (N.S.W.) and Mrs. Vawser (S.A.).

## Queensland

**Brisbane (Ann-st.).**—At a consecration meeting held Dec. 2, members of Women's Fellowship handed in talent boxes. Approximately £55 was contributed through this means to building extension fund, which now exceeds £100. John Ellerby, a former church member and now a student at Woolwich College, was speaker at morning service on Dec. 5. J. C. Mackenzie conducted gospel meeting, which took form of a choral service with speaker reading passages from Luke's account of birth of Christ, interspersed by excellent singing by choir. F. C. Hunting was absent during week-end, being speaker in West Moreton circuit. Members of auxiliaries and church generally combined in an enjoyable Christmas party on Dec. 3, when approximately 70 people enjoyed games, competitions and supper. Women's Fellowship held final meeting for year on Dec. 9—an informal social. Another pleasing function was Sunday school concert and Christmas tree on Dec. 11, when social hall was filled. Church secretary, Gordon McKelvie, performed ably as Santa Claus. There were good meetings on Dec. 12. Gospel service was well maintained, F. C. Hunting being speaker. Average attendance at Lord's Table continues to exceed 160. Home mission annual offering was a record, exceeding £60. Recent visitors included Mr. Neville Cottee, Melbourne, and Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Sloman, Belmore, N.S.W. Several members are confined to hospital through illness.

## South Australia

**York.**—High standard set by junior Endeavorers at annual was maintained by intermediates on Dec. 1. Junior department of Bible school held party on Dec. 14, followed on 15th by kindergarten and cradle roll Christmas tree and by Christmas party of Boys' Club and I.C.E. members on 17th.

**Nailsworth.**—Home mission offering exceeded £22. Church bulletin, "Christian Banner," started. "Crusade for a Christian World" now beginning to function, a representative committee having been appointed. Bible school, 162 present, with new scholars on Dec. 5. Offering for Children's Hospital cot, £24/-. A. Lambert exhorted on Dec. 5. Mrs. T. Bott and R. S. Rogers have passed away; both were buried in Enfield Cemetery. Scout parade, Dec. 5, with offering for Nurses' Christian Movement amounting to £3.

**Prospect.**—Girls' and boys' junior clubs are having interesting meetings. Tuesday night fellowship maintains good attendances. Kindergarten Christmas party was held on Dec. 11, a happy time being enjoyed by scholars and parents. C.E. Society held a debate, "That C.E. is Meeting the Needs of Young People To-day." R. Vincent and other church mem-

bers assisted Long Plains church, S. E. Itches and B. Barrett addressing morning and evening meetings. Christmas tree has been placed in chapel to receive gifts for church building fund and Christian Rest Home.

**Goolwa.**—Work goes on quietly under Mr. Cartmel, with help from visiting brethren and A. Neighbour. Gerald Burgar, son of Mr. and Mrs. Burgar, now presides at Lord's Table. Bible school anniversary was a success. Bright singing was rendered by scholars, assisted by scholars from Victor Harbour. Services were conducted by Mr. Cartmel and Mr. Lush, from Victor Harbour. A happy time was spent at picnic, in which Victor Harbour Bible school joined. There were also visitors from Mt. Compass. A well-attended business meeting of church was held. A full discussion of further improvements to church building was held, also work among young people.

**Adelaide (Grote-st.).**—Ladies' Mission Band held a successful afternoon gathering on Dec. 12. Mrs. Tuford gave an interesting talk on Ireland. Musical items were rendered by Miss D. Clark and Misses B. and K. Manning. Goods and ice cream were sold, and total proceeds were £6/12/-. A small working bee, Mr. New, Mr. Blackey and Mr. Scown, converted small platform in lecture hall into a concert platform at small cost to church. They put in hard work and overtime, and church and Sunday school are indebted to them. Mr. New willingly undertook responsibility of work. Margaret Brereton has been received by letter from Ungarra church. Several interstate and country visitors have been welcomed.

**Unley.**—Following her confession and baptism, Janice Scown has been received into membership. Mavis Peet, another intermediate, made good confession on Dec. 12. Response to home missions appeal to date totals £145. More than 150 men gathered at Men's Fellowship united meeting, when a challenging address was delivered by S. Forsyth. Music was provided by Derbyshire Male Choir. A special youth week-end started with Junior Boys' Club display, which was a credit to leaders and lads. C.Y.F. organised a fair and radio concert, with primary objective of creating fellowship. All groups co-operated splendidly, and £26 was raised for youth work. Young people are commended for way these specials were carried out. On Dec. 5, at a youth service, following took part: Thornley Thomas (leader), Ruth McCallum (children's talk), Phil. Messent (prayer), Don Barrett (Bible reading), and Ivan Hull (address). A largely attended song fellowship followed. Evening Mission Group combined with Girls' Choral Class for an evening of carol singing.

## New South Wales

**Gilgandra.**—D. H. Butler conducted memorial service in honor of aged Sister Kelly on evening of Dec. 5. There was a good attendance. Sunday school scholars, under leadership of Mrs. R. Alderman and Mrs. Webster, have been preparing for concert on Dec. 17. Senior C.E. held a combined open-air meeting in park on a Sunday afternoon. Len Burrell is hoping to enter Bible college next year. Church extends sympathy to Mrs. M. Butler in loss of her father. Sister Thompson has again been laid aside during last few weeks.

**Canley Vale.**—On Dec. 9, several ladies attended Christmas service of Parramatta District Women's Conference at Ashwood House, Pendle Hill, taking gifts for guests and staff and Christmas cakes for Boys' Home. A

street stall on Dec. 4 raised £25 for manse fund. Building is nearing completion. An Intermediate C.E. Society has been formed. Juniors, led by Mrs. Parkes, packed a large parcel of toys and other goods for Wooden-bong Aborigine Mission. Goods were displayed to church on Dec. 12. R. W. Saunders has preached at all services in last few weeks.

**Albury.**—A number of members visited Wangaratta on occasion of 21st birthday celebrations. On Nov. 21, Mr. Graham, of Protestant Society, took evening service, when a number of visitors were present. On Dec. 10 a party visited Christmas tree at Bandiana military camp, where church has a share in services throughout year. About 60 children attend S.S. there. Saturday afternoon local S.S. held Christmas tree and party, and prizes were distributed. A happy time was enjoyed by a number of parents and members. A fine spirit prevails, and plans are being drawn up for extension to building. Sister Jansen was welcomed after long illness. Visitors were present from Dandenong, Vic., Mr. Morris giving excellent addresses. A local branch of World Council of Churches has been formed, and church is represented.

**Earlwood.**—On Dec. 5 and 12, A. Hinrichsen spoke to good attendances morning and evening. One young lad made the confession. On Dec. 10 a Christmas tree in reverse yielded a number of useful gifts for Boys' Home and N.S.W. Bible College. Mrs. Tabrett, Mrs. and Miss Selby were chief organisers in arranging programme of musical and elocutionary items. On Dec. 11 a shower tea was tendered Betty McQuoin and George Steffan, to marry early in new year. N. H. Matthews arranged programme of games, followed by supper provided by members of C.E. Useful gifts were handed to guests of honor, and words of congratulation and good wishes voiced by A. Hinrichsen (preacher) and W. Casperson (secretary) for church, and N. H. Matthews (ex-superintendent) and A. Gabb (teacher and treasurer) for school. W. Thomson, superintendent of school from its inception in 1935 till early this year, has resigned owing to ill-health. His wife was a teacher for almost same period. They were presented with a water-set on silver tray suitably inscribed. N. H. Matthews, who has acted superintendent for several months and assisted both church and school in many ways since 1935, was presented with a leather brief case prior to handing over school to O. Turner, new superintendent, on Dec. 5.

## Victoria

**Carnegie.**—A sound visual recording of "The Messiah," held on Dec. 11, was given by D. and A. Thomas; proceeds of collection went to new wireless equipment for overseas mission work. On afternoon of same date kindergarten Christmas tree was held. Ladies of church concluded a successful year with a luncheon on Dec. 8. Best wishes are extended to Miss Marie Turner, who takes up nursing duties at Alfred Hospital. Young Worshippers' League held anniversary at gospel service on Dec. 12. All auxiliaries have gone into recess for holiday period.

**Castlemaine.**—On Dec. 12, 70th anniversary of church was celebrated by an "every-member-present" Sunday. During day 83 broke bread. A thanksgiving offering to help defray debt on hall realised £18/16/-. Mr. Robinson, of Bendigo, gave two forceful addresses at morning and evening meeting. After a lapse of some years, Sunday school attendance has again passed 80 mark. An enjoyable picnic was held at Malmsbury on Nov. 27. A Christmas tree was held on Dec. 17 for kindergarten and cradle roll children. At a recent afternoon held at home of Mrs. Methven, £12 was raised by ladies to be added to fund for new organ.

**Geelong.**—On Dec. 12, S. Neighbour preached in morning and D. R. Stirling at night. On evening of Dec. 6, a Boys' Club was formed with Mr. Stirling chaplain and Mr. Bennett instructor. On Dec. 10, Y.P.C.E. held meeting at home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomson at Fyansford. Church extends sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Kirby and family in tragic loss of their youngest son.

**Hampton.**—On evening of Dec. 5, Christian Men's Society conducted service and formed choir; A. McDiarmid was speaker. Good Companions' Club, under Miss Smiley, presented two Christmas plays on evening of Dec. 7. Hospital Auxiliary contribution to Social Service Hospital Fund was £100. Carols by candlelight were presented by choir on evening of Dec. 19.

**Newmarket.**—On Nov. 28 Mr. Sack concluded his ministry with church. A presentation of books was made on behalf of church and Bible school. On Dec. 5, North Melbourne members held a reunion at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Speakers were L. Armstrong and Mr. Trezise. On Dec. 12, Mr. Thompson, of North Essendon, presided, and Mr. Armstrong addressed both services. On Dec. 11 ladies of church visited Christian Guest Home.

**Emerald.**—School teachers have been encouraged by new scholars and improved attendances. A scholars' tea on Dec. 4, followed by a screening of pictures, rewarded children for their loyalty throughout year. Members of Youth Fellowship were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Hibbert at manse on Dec. 1. Eighteen young people journeyed to Silvan by van on evening of Dec. 11 to share in a spiritual gathering, attended by forty young men and women.

**Gardenvale.**—Successful Bible school anniversary services were held Nov. 21 and 28, speakers being H. Hunt (preacher-elect), Mr. Brown (Deaf and Dumb Institution), R. Muller, J. Anderson and J. Shaw. Children sang well under direction of Claude Gadge. F. Sumpton, Bible school superintendent, and W. Trivett have been absent through accidents. Many others are laid aside through illness. Unevangelised Fields Mission representative, Mr. Briggs, spoke at gospel service recently and showed films.

**Blackburn.**—Sunday school projector was used on Dec. 5 to portray trial and crucifixion of Jesus. Scholars were greatly impressed. Recent gospel message was also shown in pictures, subject being "The Life of Paul." Narrator was W. McDowell. Kitchen tea was recently given by Sunday school in honor of two young members of church—Betty Ketchell and Ken Norman—prior to their marriage. Work on manse is progressing. Mrs. James meets with church again after some weeks' absence in W.A.

**Preston.**—Women's Fellowship concluded activities for year with a picnic at Hurstbridge on Dec. 1. Mr. McCue, secretary V.L.O.A., gave an informative address in interests of local option at morning service on Dec. 5. Mr. Scarle has addressed all other meetings, attendances being good. Kindergarten Christmas treat was held on Dec. 11, each child receiving a toy, and same day Bible school conducted a social evening. Mrs. Lang was present at worship on Dec. 12, having made good recovery after operation.

**Ringwood.**—Bible school anniversary on Nov. 28 went off splendidly. Mr. Allan conducted a teachers' recognition service in morning. Mr. Addicott was received by transfer from North Richmond. Illustrated talks were given in afternoon and evening by Mr. Robinson (Presbyterian) and L. E. Brooker. Over forty stayed for basket tea. A children's service was held following Sunday evening, and scholars rendered special pieces. Speakers on Dec. 12 were D. Russell and J. McAlpine, Mr. Allan being laid aside with sickness. Church rejoices that Mr. Allan has accepted invitation to remain for a further period of twelve months.

**Springvale.**—Church continues with good meetings and splendid addresses from J. K. Bond. On evening of Nov. 27, Mr. Gross, from Burnley, gave a fine address. On Dec. 5 J. K. Martin, of Ormond, gave a splendid address at morning service. Home mission offering has reached £23. Men and lads of church are digging foundations for new chapel. Mr. Hunt gave a fine sermon at evening service on Dec. 12, Mr. Bond being at Frankston.

**St. Arnaud.**—Dec. 12 was Temple Day. Speaker was president of conference, A. E. Hurren, who was born at St. Arnaud. At 3 p.m. a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon was held with items from children. At 5 p.m., tea was enjoyed by all who partook. At 7 p.m. a gospel service, with bright song service, was well attended. Special offerings were taken at all meetings to go toward building debt, which stands at £100. Offering was £15/15/- Mr. Quayle is doing good work among four churches of circuit.

**Prahran.**—On Dec. 12, church renewed fellowship with E. C. Hinrichsen and J. Machin on their return from W.A. Mr. Hinrichsen spoke at both services. There were large congregations. Mr. and Mrs. Davies were received into fellowship from Thornbury in morning, and a lady was baptised at evening service. The Machin sisters rendered a trio. Prayer meeting continues to be well attended, over 30 usually being present. Choir, under leadership of K. Austin, has brightened evening service.

**Drumcondra.**—Ladies' Aid, assisted by Y.P.S.C.E., held a successful fete on Dec. 3. Marriage of Gwenda Cullum to Clifton Barker was celebrated in chapel on Nov. 27. Kitchen tea in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Mann was held on Dec. 1. Pre-school kindergarten is to commence next February. Mrs. Kuse celebrated her 93rd birthday on Nov. 26. Mr. and Mrs. Hill, from Lara, have been received into membership by transfer from Kaniwa. Final meetings for year of Y.P. and junior societies were held. Boys' Explorer Club visited S.E.C. power house on their break-up night. Mr. Jeffries, from W.A., was speaker on Nov. 28 at morning service.

**Montrose.**—On Dec. 4, annual Sunday school picnic was held enjoyably at Ferny Creek. Good interest is maintained in school owing to a competition rally, "blues" v. "reds" competing in a trip round Australia, concluding with social at break-up for Christmas. There are improved attendances at church services. On Dec. 5 Mr. Keatch preached farewell addresses. At conclusion of morning service good wishes were expressed by officers for his future ministry, and presentation of a monetary gift was made. Fellowship Class and young people of district also made a presentation of a copy of New Testament and Psalms. At evening service Mr. Clinton preached, and a duet by Betty Tippett and Eunice Rogers was appreciated.

**Dandenong.**—Annual meeting of S.S. teachers on Dec. 7 was well attended. Elections resulted: F. A. Youens, general superintendent; A. Smith, superintendent; W. Mills, treasurer; R. Zeuschner, secretary; Mrs. Brough, kindergarten superintendent; Mrs. Reveleigh, superintendent cradle roll. Ladies' Social Club, which had for some weeks been preparing for sale of gifts, excelled by realising approximately £60. It is aim of this club to help purchase piano for kindergarten. South-eastern District Fellowship Association held a social and Christmas service in Oakleigh chapel on Dec. 11, at which a number of young people of Dandenong church were present. Speaker on morning of Dec. 12 was Mr. Cust, from Chatswood church, N.S.W. After a great deal of preparation, work of building a manse

is under way. A pleasing ceremony was performed at evening service on Dec. 12 by Miss Gouldthorpe, State chaplain of Phi Beta Pi; officers of Dandenong club were installed. A delightful Christmas treat was accorded children of kindergarten and cradle roll on Dec. 17.

**Wangaratta.**—Church reports three decisions and baptisms on Dec. 5—a young woman (Mrs. Ray Patrick), and Alfred and Albert Le Mescam, two scholars in Bible school. All three were baptised by Mr. Wakefield. Colin Campbell is home on school holidays. On Dec. 15, kindergarten Christmas tree was held. Mr. Wakefield preached farewell sermons on Dec. 12 to good attendances.

**Warrnambool.**—Bible school anniversary services were held on Nov. 7 and 8. Visiting speaker was D. R. Stirling, of Geelong. Mr. and Mrs. Weir and family have celebrated fifth anniversary of coming to Warrnambool. These have been five happy years for everyone. Mrs. Weir is at present an inmate of Warrnambool hospital, having undergone a serious operation. She is progressing favorably. Mrs. Matthews was able to attend one of the services after long illness.

**Caulfield (Bambra-rd.).**—Church work generally is cause for thanksgiving, and reflects much credit upon leaders and the preacher, W. W. Saunders. On Dec. 5, 182 communed and 201 were present at evening youth service, when two young people were baptised. Address and fellowship of Mr. Trezise were appreciated. 100 junior, intermediate and Y.P.S.C.E. meet each Sunday morning. Recently 83 were present at J.C.E., under Miss Buckingham, superintendent. Half-yearly church report revealed nett gain of 46 members for past six months—36 by faith and obedience. Average attendance communing for past six months has been 157. Home mission offering was record. Ladies were responsible for raising £50 for proposed hospital. Prayer life is marked, and cottage prayer meetings have proved successful. Two cricket teams and three tennis teams are having a successful season. Church has a comprehensive seven-day programme which provides avenue of witness and development for all.

**Warragul.**—On Dec. 2 Mr. Broughton brought a film service to Young People's Fellowship. On December 9, R. J. Anderson, of Bentleigh, gave a parents' and children's night with sound films. On December 10 he presented a similar programme at a service, and on Dec. 12 screened films, "Go Ye" and "Barabbas." All these services and addresses were helpful. On Dec. 11 a large bus load attended a conference at Morwell. A helpful time was enjoyed. A. W. Stephenson gave an inspiring address at morning service on Dec. 12. Mrs. Davies sang a solo. H.M. offering is over £25 (including £10 from Ladies' Guild). After prayer meeting on Dec. 14, young people entertained Mr. Jackel and made a presentation in appreciation of help he has given them through year. Bible school anniversary was held Nov. 28. Mr. Martin (Ormond) was speaker for day. All meetings were well attended. Children sang splendidly, trained by Mr. Jackel. A heartening feature was increased number of scholars. Marked progress has been made both in Bible school and cradle roll, a total of 50 names having been added, making membership of 92. Anniversary was continued on Monday evening, when scholars sang enjoyable items and prizes were distributed. Children received seals and certificates from scripture examination. Congratulations were extended to Aileen Murnane, first Federal State prize-winner, and Graeme Jackel, third State prize-winner. At morning meeting on Dec. 5, Mr. Jackel spoke on "Crusade for a Christian World." At night Mr. Gale and Mr. Mitchell were present. Mr. Gale delivered the address. Mr. Jackel was at Newborough, where he gave an illustrated address at Sunday school anniversary, 85 being present. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Eastwell, whose son William passed away on Dec. 5.

**Collingwood.**—There was good attendance on Nov. 28, when church gave Mr. Cook a farewell service for Christmas leave. During Mr. Cook's absence, church enjoyed services of Mr. Hindman and Mr. Roberts. On Dec. 5 many friends and relations gathered at hall to honor Eunice Wimpsey, who reached her 21st birthday, a happy time being spent. On Dec. 11, kinder boys and girls had a Christmas party.

**Kyneton.**—On Dec. 4, a presentation and social evening were tendered to Beth Bingham and her fiancee. On Dec. 11, in chapel, Betha Bingham and Jack Anderson were united in marriage by C. H. J. Wright, with assistance of H. Walmsley. A young man confessed Christ on Dec. 5, and was baptised on 12th, when a senior boy from Bible school made confession, K. Skillicorn preaching. Educational films were shown by G. Goudie at closing meeting of Youth Fellowship on December 11.

**Box Hill.**—Chapel was filled to capacity on night of Nov. 21, when film, "The Kindled Flame," was screened. Recent efforts by Women's Mission Band resulted in £55/12/- being raised, distributed to brotherhood and other causes. Frank Egginton, a junior member of officers' board, was farewelled after morning service on Dec. 5, prior to leaving for U.S.A., where he will gain experience in oilfields of Texas. On Nov. 27, the wedding of Jack Austin and Phyllis Adam was celebrated in chapel.

**Red Cliffs.**—All meetings have been well sustained. C.E. continues to function well, and is making increased efforts to send food parcels to church at Bootle, England. Explorers' Club is gaining new members, membership now being about 23. Sister Martin is in hospital, and sympathy is expressed to Mrs. W. Hersig in death of her father. Miss J. Chivell has returned from college. N. Moore conducted service on evening of Dec. 12. On Dec. 17, Sunday school held Christmas tree, all scholars receiving a gift.

**Middle Park.**—On Dec. 8 a farewell social was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Manallack and to Thelma Gardner, who was married in chapel on Dec. 11 by D. Stewart. Gifts were presented on behalf of church and Bible school. On Dec. 15, members paid a surprise visit to home of Mr. and Mrs. Annetts in honor of their silver wedding. Christmas tree and party took place on Dec. 18. Mr. Manallack spoke at both services on Dec. 19. A Christmas service was held in evening, and a solo by Betty Tippett, of Gardenvale, was enjoyed.

**Carlton (Lygon-st.).**—Mrs. Bell and Ron Oldfield were baptised on Dec. 12, and received into membership on 19th. Mr. Stone, from Sydney, made the good confession at gospel service on Dec. 12. Mr. Wilson's children, Dal and Max, have arrived from Queensland to spend school vacation in Melbourne. At annual church meeting on Dec. 8, good reports from all auxiliaries were received. All societies of church held final meetings for year. Kindergarten party on Dec. 18 was a happy one. Mr. Pyne, of W.A., and family had fellowship with church on Dec. 12.

**Timboon.**—Meetings have been well attended. Addresses by T. V. Weir, C. F. Houston and A. E. Hurren, conference president, have been appreciated. On Oct. 1 a social evening was tendered to Patricia Brumby and William Power, when a large number of church members and district people enjoyed a programme prepared by T. V. Weir, who also conducted service on Oct. 3. The marriage of Miss Brumby and Mr. Power was conducted by Mr. Weir on Oct. 12. A presentation of a cheque, also "The Altar of Love," was made on behalf of church at social evening. Brethren from Lower Heytesbury and Curdies attended circuit meeting held at Nullawarre on Nov. 12, when question of transport was discussed.

**Frankston-Moorooduc.**—On Dec. 12, church anniversary services were held, speakers being K. A. Jones, morning; F. Youens, afternoon; J. K. Bond, evening. All addresses were appreciated. D. Streater's solos were enjoyed. Thankoffering at afternoon session for school hall fund amounted to £33. Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, from Middle Park, were received into membership. Anniversary was continued on Dec. 15 with good concert programme and address by R. C. Bolduan. Fellowship was enjoyed during supper. For closing session for year, Women's Mission Band was invited to manse, when a happy time was enjoyed. Mrs. Hagger was presented with a bouquet of flowers. Mrs. Ferguson gave an account of Federal Conference. Offering for Murrumburra Hospital was received. On Dec. 18, Christmas party was given for kinders. With regret church learned that T. Hagger, acting on medical advice, will have to relinquish work with church. T. Hagger and R. V. Holmes preached at all other services at Frankston, Moorooduc and Mornington.

**Surrey Hills.**—On Dec. 3 some forty ladies met at home of Mrs. Wilson to conclude year's work of Ladies' Guild. Over £20 was allocated to home missions, Indian orphan support, Indian Christmas cheer, Oakleigh Hospital and Sarah Meyer Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Murray, who is leaving for Balwyn after 34 years' association with guild, was presented with a token of love and esteem. Dec. 3 also marked occasion of annual Explorer Club gymnastic display. Much enthusiastic preparation was rewarded by a fine display, which was well attended. Over £36 was received for this year's home mission offering. On Dec. 5, church witnessed baptism of Mr. and Mrs. McMurray. They were welcomed into church following Sunday morning. On evening of Dec. 12, Mr. Earle told "Christmas Story" with aid of lantern slides. Youth choir and soloists assisted.

**Wangaratta.**—Ladies' Guild and Mission Band gave a farewell to president, Mrs. W. Wakefield, on Dec. 1. Mrs. Scott-Brown (vice-president), after speaking on behalf of ladies, made presentation of a reading lamp. Mrs. Wakefield's work among ladies has been appreciated. Good Companions and Explorers held a social evening on Dec. 7. Chief Companion (Miss Florence Green) spoke words of farewell and appreciation of work done by Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield. Mrs. Wakefield has been chaplain of Companion Club and Mr. Wakefield leader of Explorers. Misses Eileen Ashmead and Beryl Symmonds supported the remarks. Fred Sargent represented boys. An enjoyable supper was served. A farewell evening was given by church to their minister and his wife on Dec. 8. Chairman was J. Whittaker. Ivan Jackel (secretary) spoke on behalf of church, after which he presented Mr. Wakefield with a monetary gift from members. Many visitors and representatives were present from other communions and organisations in town. Mr. Osmond and Major Coward spoke on behalf of Ministers' Fraternal. Mrs. Osmond represented W.C.T.U. and benevolent society, of which Mrs. Wakefield was secretary and president. Auxiliaries of church also had representative speakers. During evening several small gifts were made to Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield. J. Campbell (elder) spoke on behalf of officers. Supper was served at close. Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield leave for their ministry at Warracknabeal.

#### THANKS

Mrs. W. Waterman, recently returned from New Hebrides, thanks all who kindly wrote during her recent illness.

#### TRAINING FOR SERVICE—CALLING ALL YOUNG MEN

**M**EN are wanted to give their lives wholly to the ministry of the word. Our churches call for the most consecrated, able and best equipped young men to serve as preachers and pastors.

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While styled a Deacon's Course, it is open to all young men who are ready to leave the farm, bench, workshop or office from the middle of February to the end of November in any year, to equip themselves better for a local ministry.

Write to the secretary, K. A. Jones, now and enrol.—E. L. Williams.

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#### BIRTH

**BENTLEY (Bamford).**—At Frankston Community Hospital, on Dec. 17, to Myrtle and Jim—a son (Graeme Thomas). Both well.

#### DEATHS

**OLIVER.**—On Dec. 17, at Horsham, Horatio, loved husband of Henrietta, and loving father of Nellie (Mrs. E. Milne, Mundella, S.A.), Frank, Lillian (Mrs. J. R. Berry), Margaret (Mrs. G. Nettelbeck, Springvale), John and Walter. Aged 79 years.

"Sleep on, beloved, sleep, and take thy rest; Lay down thy head upon thy Saviour's breast, We love thee well, but Jesus loves thee best, Goodnight."

**WOODGATE.**—On Dec. 12, at 6 Ballantyne-st., Thornbury, John, beloved husband of the late Anna, and loved father of Emily (dec.), George, Lucy (dec.), and Louisa. Aged 87 years. Late of North Melbourne and Newmarket.

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## Obituary

### Mrs. Edney

THE church at Collingwood, Vic., has been saddened by the death of one of its oldest and most faithful members—Mrs. Edney. She was a kindly, lovable person, and her presence will be missed very much by the church. Although in failing health, she loved to attend the worship services of the church. A large number of people attended services at the home and graveside. Sympathy is expressed to her husband and daughters, and we commend them to the love of One who understands all sorrows.—L.G.C.

### Mrs. Frank Fisher

ON Sunday, Nov. 21, after only a few days' illness, Mrs. Frank Fisher was called to higher service. President of Kensington Park, S.A., sisters' guild, a position she filled repeatedly; delegate to conference, and in every other work of the women in the churches, she will be very greatly missed. She was loved by all, and charming to look at, and was always ready to lend a hand. Few women have wielded a wider influence, and quite unconsciously. We extend deepest sympathy to her husband, her children, her mother, and father—our beloved Mr. and Mrs. Milne—and her sisters and brothers.—F.B.

### Otto Gale

OTTO GALE went to his rest on Monday, Nov. 8, at the age of 83 years. Mr. Gale united with the church at Kaniva, Vic., and for the last 27 years had been a very faithful member of the church at Brighton, Vic. The services at the home and at the Cheltenham Cemetery were conducted by Mr. C. G. Taylor. Mr. Gale is survived by his wife and daughters Ada, Hazel (Mrs. Ken Arnott) and Evelyn (Mrs. Arthur Emmett), of Darwin.

### Mrs. L. Holliday

ON Nov. 6, after a long illness, Mrs. Lena Holliday passed away. Baptised in the year 1909 by Mr. Harry Manning, she became a member of the churches of Christ and worked with the brethren at Maylands, W.A. After marriage she moved to Swanbourne, and met with the Cottesloe members, where she was in membership until her death. An active and tireless worker in the Women's Auxiliary, she served as a member on the Executive Committee, Prayer Committee, Foreign Mission Committee and Wooroloo Visitation Committee. Her devotion to Christ expressed itself in her love for the needy. As superintendent of Wooroloo Visiting Committee, she showed how strong was her love for Christ and his loved ones. Her memory is treasured by all who knew her—a life of self-sacrifice and practical Christian love—a witness unto Christ her Lord which shall be remembered by her friends and those she helped. On Nov. 9 a service was held in the crematorium chapel, Karrakatta, where a large number of friends gathered in memory of her, knowing her faith in the promise of Christ.—A.A.McR.

### Alex. McQueen

THE church at Lygon-st., Carlton, Vic., has been called upon to lose a faithful member in the sudden passing on Nov. 4 of Alex. McQueen after an operation in the Alfred Hospital. Our brother was held in very high regard throughout the congregation. Only a few months before his passing Mr. McQueen confided to the minister his resolution to give even a greater support to the activities of this church. While he was in hospital, his quiet, brave endurance and patience in suffering endeared him to the nursing staff, who made a point of paying a warm tribute. His last words were to quote the 23rd psalm. After a brief service in the home, a service was conducted at the Melbourne Cemetery. We commend to the all-sufficient grace of God his

wife, our sister Mrs. McQueen, and their children, our sister Mrs. Bastian and our brothers Alex. and Hugh.—R. M. Wilson.

### Mrs. A. Pierce

MRS. A. Pierce received the home-call on Thursday, Dec. 9. Because of failing health she had been unable to attend the services of the church for some time. Her home, however, was open for cottage prayer services, and several of these were conducted there. Coming into the church at Hindmarsh, S.A., under the ministry of the late H. D. Smith, she has been faithful over the years. She loved the worship of the morning services, and was willing to do what she could to help the work in many ways. She was a member of long standing in the Dorcas Society. She gave 28 years in service to the Hindmarsh Town Mission, and upon her recent retirement a presentation of a book was made in recognition of the service rendered. Her late husband, an elder in the church, predeceased her some few years ago. She leaves a family of three sons and three daughters. We commend them to the heavenly Father's comfort. She was a woman full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. We know we shall meet her again at that point where all our mortal journeys end.—J.E.S.

### John Woodgate

ON Dec. 12, John Woodgate, at the age of 87 years, was called to higher service. He was baptised at North Melbourne in 1879. He married Anna Woodbridge seven years later. He subsequently transferred to Newmarket church, where he exerted a big influence in training many young men for Christian service. One of the chief compensations in his declining years was to say of some brotherhood leader, "He was one of my boys." Many of our outstanding leaders to-day very gratefully and affectionately bless God for the help and encouragement received at the hands of this devoted servant of Christ and his church. After leaving Newmarket he had fellowship with the churches at Fairfield, Thornbury and Northcote, of which he was a foundation member. His life was made rich by his simplicity of faith, his sincerity and singleness of purpose. He loved the brotherhood and delighted to hear of its progress, and always had a sacrificial share in all brotherhood enterprises. He adorned the doctrine of Christ, his Saviour, in all things. He ran a straight race, kept the faith, and has gone to be with Christ and to receive his "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." We rejoice with all dear ones in that hope, both sure and steadfast, in Jesus Christ, our Lord.—W.G.G.

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### THIRD TERM EXAMINATIONS, 1948

The following is the honors list, to qualify for which a student must receive at least 80 per cent.

Old Testament.—B. Cavill, M. Leask, W. Turnell, D. Tonkin. Two others passed.

New Testament.—R. Beadle, W. Howard, B. Cavill, M. Leask, W. Turnell. Seven others passed.

Homiletics I.—R. Beadle, K. Fennell, P. Goodger, W. Howard, J. Ellerby, W. Rugendyke. One other passed.

Religious Education.—W. Turnell, R. Beadle, B. Cavill, P. Goodger, W. Rugendyke. Seven others passed.

New Testament Greek I.—K. Fennell, W. Turnell, W. Howard. Two others passed.

Homiletics II.—B. Cavill, W. Turnell. Three others passed.

Church History.—B. Cavill, E. Taylor, F. Craig, M. Leask, R. Clymer, B. Munro, W. Turnell. One other passed.

Missions.—B. Munro, B. Cavill, D. Tonkin, F. Craig, M. Leask, E. Taylor, W. Turnell, B. Munro, R. Clymer.

Restoration Movement.—B. Cavill, E. Taylor, M. Leask, W. Turnell, F. Craig, D. Tonkin, B. Munro, R. Clymer.

New Testament Greek II.—B. Cavill. One other passed.

Apologetics.—E. Taylor, F. Craig. One other passed.

Logic.—E. Taylor, F. Craig. One other passed.

Homiletics III.—F. Craig, E. Taylor. One other passed.

Hermeneutics and Exegesis.—F. Craig, E. Taylor, B. Munro.

Ancient History.—R. Beadle, W. Howard. Two others passed.

In addition to the above, others have sat for Leaving English and Ancient History, but results are not yet to hand.

—H. J. Patterson, principal.



## Federal College of the Bible

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THE following candidates obtained honors (at least 80 per cent.) in the third terminal examinations:—

Apologetics.—W. B. Burn, H. F. Gross, K. W. Dixon. Five others passed.

Homiletics I.—R. V. Holmes, M. D. Keatch, W. C. Kimber, J. H. McCormick, G. Smith. Four others passed.

Homiletics II.—Miss J. C. Chappell, R. C. Dixon, D. W. Hibbert, R. C. McKenzie, T. T. Robinson, H. M. Waghmode.

Homiletics III.—W. B. Burn, E. W. Heard, N. S. Moore, R. C. Sack, E. J. Sewell. Four others passed.

Practical Church Work.—L. G. Cooke, M. D. Keatch, W. C. Kimber, J. H. McCormick, E. K. Skillcorn, G. Smith. Two others passed.

Old Testament.—Miss R. Edgell, D. W. Hibbert, J. H. McCormick, R. C. McKenzie, N. S. Moore, T. T. Robinson, R. C. Sack, G. Smith, H. M. Waghmode. Thirteen others passed.

New Testament.—R. C. Dixon, Miss R. Edgell, D. W. Hibbert, J. H. McCormick, R. C. McKenzie, N. S. Moore, T. T. Robinson, R. C. Sack, G. Smith, H. M. Waghmode. Twelve others passed.

New Testament Greek I.—Miss T. M. Bennett, R. V. Holmes. Seven others passed.

New Testament Greek II.—R. C. Dixon, R. C. McKenzie, T. T. Robinson, H. M. Waghmode. Two others passed.

New Testament Greek III.—W. B. Burn, K. W. Dixon, H. F. Gross, E. W. Heard, N. S. Moore, R. C. Sack, J. G. Shaw. Three others passed.

Religious Education.—W. B. Burn, Miss J. C. Chappell, R. C. Dixon, K. W. Dixon, H. F. Gross, E. W. Heard, D. W. Hibbert, J. A. Manallack, N. S. Moore, T. T. Robinson, R. C. Sack, J. G. Shaw, E. J. Sewell, Miss H. L. Skuce, H. M. Waghmode, R. C. McKenzie. Three others passed.

Church History I.—Miss R. Edgell, R. V. Holmes, M. D. Keatch, J. H. McCormick. Eight others passed.

Church History II.—R. C. Dixon, D. W. Hibbert, R. C. McKenzie, T. T. Robinson. Two others passed.

Comparative Religion and Missions.—Miss D. C. Berry, W. B. Burn, K. W. Dixon, E. W. Heard, J. G. Shaw, Miss H. L. Skuce. Three others passed.

Christian Ethics.—W. B. Burn, H. F. Gross, E. W. Heard, J. A. Manallack, N. S. Moore, R. C. Sack, E. J. Sewell, J. G. Shaw, K. W. Dixon. Seven others passed.

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English Grammar.—R. Dobbs, Miss R. Edgell. Four others passed.

Leaving English.—L. G. Armstrong, W. R. Jarmyn, Miss R. Edgell, Miss B. Schurmann. Three others passed.

Leaving Greek and Roman History.—L. G. Armstrong, W. R. Jarmyn. Four others passed.

Leaving Modern History.—L. G. Armstrong, W. R. Jarmyn. Three others passed.

—E. L. Williams.



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