

MARCH 20, 1965

FIRE



"ANTI-BOREDOM
CLINICS"

By
J. E. BROOKE

THE AUSTRALIAN

CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL WEEKLY OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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FIRE BURNS

When you are counting your blessings this week, enjoying the comforts of your home, and admiring the accumulation of your treasures from your TV set to the gimcracks in the shadow box, spare a thought for those who have suddenly lost their homes and all of their possessions.

Sometimes disaster comes to us slowly. We can see its development and its threat. We can take some evasion action and even avoid some of the losses. When a bushfire comes, with its fearsome aspect and terrifying noise, it is too late for anything but to run. Many who ran were thankful to escape with their lives. Some ran too late and perished in the flames. Dozens of homes, which were so recently the centre of the life of families, were brought in a few minutes to smoking ruin.

In the consideration of causes of the disastrous fires in New South Wales and Victoria, many factors and some individuals were blamed. Some men were gaoled for lighting fires on days of danger, others were fined for carelessness, but many indifferent and some vicious people escaped to burn again. Motorists with old cars, motorists with lighted cigarettes, farmers lighting fire-breaks at the wrong time, and some who deliberately started fires for the hell of it: these have still to be caught or educated.

Some of the causes were not immediate. There was some neglect of the lessons learned at fearful cost in other years. Inflammable material was left too close to homes, fire-break precautions were neglected or inadequate, fire equipment was old-fashioned or in too short supply, and there were organisational weaknesses.

When all is said and done, bush-fires remain one of the great recurring hazards of the Australian way of life. Whenever there is a good season, there will be heavy growth that can become a fire risk. The better the season, the greater the potential danger.

The time to do something constructive about fire dangers is not when the next one is threatening in 1966, but now. Organisational improvements are essential, and modern fire equipment should not only be available but readily carried to the danger spots. This will cost a lot of money, but not nearly so much as the fires have cost the country this year.

In the meantime, let us count our blessings, whatever they are, and show practical Christian concern for those whose loss has been so great.

OUR MAN AT PUERTO RICO

On page 4 of this issue there is the confident expectation that the 8th World Convention of Churches of Christ will be in Australia. If this is so, the probability is that Adelaide in 1970 will be host city to our world brotherhood.

This will not be solely the responsibility of Adelaide, or even all of the South Australian churches. It will be an Australian adventure with the honor and the work being shared by us all. Nevertheless, the South Australian brethren will be on the spot and will be required to handle the tremendous organisational problems associated with such a big Convention.

It is good, therefore, that Jack Chivell, the Secretary of the South Australian Conference, should be present at Puerto Rico to see the Convention as a going concern. We commend to the churches the appeal to send him to the 7th at Puerto Rico. This will be making a significant investment for the 8th in Adelaide.

Many overseas visitors declared that the Melbourne Convention in 1952 was the greatest convention of our people ever held to that time. The late Reg. Enniss, who was President, hoped that it would be "but a jumping-off place to bigger and better things. The Australian brotherhood has shown that it is capable of hard thinking, long-range planning, and the carrying out of great things for God, through the church."

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**"ANTI-BOREDOM
CLINICS"**

BY J. E. BROOKE

Some time ago a church leader proposed that the churches should organise "anti-boredom clinics" to counteract the craze for gambling, which, he thinks, is a direct result of boredom.

It seems quite a relevant suggestion. Boredom is a special problem in our day, requiring scientific study and special treatment. We have all the resources for a rich, full life, and yet there is deep dissatisfaction and frustration.

Yet, when one reflects on it, one realises that every church, if it is really doing its job, should be an anti-boredom clinic, anyway, ceaselessly exciting and enriching the life around it.

Boredom produces two opposite reactions. Actively, people try to overcome it by creating artificial excitement, the failure of which has been expressed in the sentence, "When you think you're all wound up, you're really all run down."

The passive reaction is seen in the fact that, when we are bored, we tend to go to sleep — that is, to blot out consciousness and become as nearly extinct as possible.

Christianity has a characteristic treatment for each of these conditions. To excitement-seeking it applies the Master's promise: "I am come that they might have life, and have it abundantly." The somnolent it prods, as in Paul's words: "It is full time now for you to wake from sleep."

Clarence Darrow, the American sceptic, made the sneer that people take to religion when they are bored with everything else. Like many of the historic sneers at Christianity, this one of Mr. Darrow's manages to point out one of the chief glories of the Christian faith.

It is a perhaps unconscious concession that everything else does become boring, and that the Christian faith does fill empty lives, does have lasting satisfactions when everything else has gone flat.

But, alas! we cannot honestly claim that this is always the case. There are times when religion itself becomes blighted by boredom.

Jesus himself warned against this. Calling his followers "the light of the world," and "the salt of the earth," he

J. E. Brooke is minister of Ringwood church, Victoria.

solemnly added, "If the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness," and "If the salt has lost its savour, it is good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men."

This is the reason why church members fall into irregularity and finally lapse into inactivity. Therefore, the church is urgently called to become an "anti-boredom clinic" for the treatment of its own life. What is there, then, that can restore Christians today to enthralling interest and eager engagement?

First, there is

**The Excitement of the
Christian Faith.**

As Dorothy Sayers put it: "The Christian faith is the most exciting drama that ever staggered the imagination of man . . . If we think it dull it is because we either have never read these amazing documents, or have recited them so often and so mechanically as to have lost all sense of their meaning . . . It is the tale of the time when God was the under-dog and got beaten, when he submitted to the conditions he had laid down and became a man like the men he had made, and the men he had made broke him and killed him. This is the dogma we find so dull — this terrifying drama of which God is the victim and hero. If this is dull, then what, in heaven's name, is worthy to be called exciting? . . . And the third day he rose again!" If he really was both God and man, then when the man Jesus died, God died too, and when the God Jesus rose from the dead, man rose too, because they were one and the same person . . . Now, we may call that doctrine revelation, or we may call it rubbish; but if we call it dull, then words have no meaning at all."

Boredom is banished, also, when we enter into

**The Excitement of the
Christian Experience.**

Jesus said, "He who believes in me, and the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" "This he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive."

The excitement of this experience of the Spirit was so evident at Pentecost

that observers at first thought that the disciples were intoxicated.

The authentic Christian is always marked by a spontaneous freshness and joy, and an irrepressible spring of the spirit. Their life is not drawn up by toilsome effort on their own part, but flows forth in freedom of its own accord, for it is not really their own life, but God's life in them.

An example is the outstanding chaplain of the First World War, G. A. Studdert Kennedy. He was a centre of life and hope and cheer. His colonel, who stammered slightly, was puzzled by it all, and said, "I can't make the young b-b-beggar out, and he does it all on g-g-ger beer!"

It was not on ginger beer either, that he did it. It was a spiritual exhilaration. His was the true excitement of the Christian experience.

Nor can boredom continue when we commit ourselves to

**The Excitement of the
Christian Mission.**

Like the thrilling gallop of the three horsemen in Browning's poem, bringing the good news "from Ghent to Aix," the Church is charged to travel all roads and penetrate all areas of life with the greatest of all good news, an adventure surpassing all others.

Are we alive to the motion of the Church's mission in the world today? In his book, "Christ's Work in Free Africa," Malwali missionary, Tom Calvin, declares his dynamic faith, "God is at work in Africa. God himself is the

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NEWS AND REPORTS

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"ANTI-BOREDOM CLINICS"

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chief revolutionary — the master-mind behind this massive transformation in Africa."

Are we excited by that sense of the presence and power of God in the world, and the realisation that we too may have a part in the same total mission?

Or are we like Rip Van Winkle? When he went up into the mountains for his long sleep the inn sign carried a picture of George III of England; when he came down a picture of George Washington.

He had slept through a revolution. While he snored the years away, there had been a great turn-over which completely changed the face of his world.

Are we sleeping through God's great revolution, or are we awake and active in the excitement of the Christian mission?

If, in face of all this, we are still bored, perhaps the first thing we should do is honestly to face our situation before God.

As that great guide of the spiritual life, Fenelon, put it: "Be honest. Say what rises in your heart. Tell God that you are empty and cold, that he wearies you, that his presence does not move you. . . . While you are telling him your troubles, you are praying him to cure them."

Ultimately what we need to defeat our boredom is a new and completer commitment. Like Mary Verghese, the remarkable Indian doctor, whose story Dorothy Clarke Wilson tells in her book, "Take My Hands."

Born into a Christian family, members of the ancient Syrian Christian Church in South India, she faced an entirely new challenge when she went to train at the Vellore Christian Medical College.

"Religion, as she knew it, had made few demands on her, certainly no unpleasant ones. It had provided comfort, a rich and satisfying culture, security." But now, "it fascinated Mary, whatever it was these people had, but it also frightened and repelled her. She wanted it, and she didn't want it. Always adventurous, she desired anything which would add excitement to living. But — suppose it made demands on her ambition, her career, above all, on her precious independence?"

"For days she wrestled with the problem. . . . Finally the end of the conflict came. She prayed, 'I am willing. From now on I will seek your guidance. Help me to do what you want me to do.'"

Such commitment to God and his will is the complete cure for spiritual boredom.

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WORLD CONVENTION

A message from Chairman of Australian World Convention Committee,
Sir Philip Messent, Vice-President of World Convention.



Sir Philip Messent.



I. J. Chivell.

Dear Brethren in Christ,

It is confidently anticipated that at the 7th World Convention at San Juan, Puerto Rico, in August, the invitation to hold the 8th World Convention in Australia in 1970 will be accepted. It would then be 18 years since a World Convention was previously held in this country — in Melbourne in 1952.

This further gesture would, we believe, be both an honour and an inspiration to our Australian churches. The South Australian Conference Executive has extended this invitation, and the Australian World Convention Committee stationed in Adelaide, has already investigated many aspects, and has been encouraged to make tentative bookings of the largest Auditorium available.

We recall with a good deal of pleasure the presence of about 200 of our overseas brethren at the Melbourne Convention. When in Australia recently, Dr. Lawrence Kirkpatrick (now acting Secretary of the World Convention since the passing of our late beloved Dr. Jesse Bader), stated that he considered it likely that possibly up to 2,000 may be expected to come to Adelaide in 1970 from overseas. In addition, a large interstate delegation would also be anticipated.

The Adelaide Committee is conscious of the tremendous responsibilities that would devolve upon it in planning the arrangements on behalf of the Australian brotherhood. Apart from the holding of the Convention itself, there is also the possibility of visits of groups of overseas brethren to other States either before or after the Convention.

An occasion like this calls for the best thinking and planning we can envisage, and accordingly the Committee believes it is essential that our Secretary, I. J. Chivell, should attend Puerto Rico to observe in detail the organisation being carried out for this Convention. A recommendation was made to Federal Conference Executive and State Conference Executive, and both have given their unqualified endorsement. Federal Executive has approved an appeal being made to the Australian brotherhood to contribute the fare for Mr. Chivell to attend. The tourist class plane fare is £650, and Federal Executive has pledged £100.

It is therefore my task, and I also believe it to be a privilege, to ask the 380 churches comprising our Australian brotherhood to co-operate to provide the means to enable our Secretary to attend. A letter will be sent to each Church Secretary in the very near future, and in addition any gifts from those who are interested and able to help would be very greatly appreciated. All contributions should be sent to World Convention Committee, Churches of Christ Centre, 189 Gawler Place, Adelaide, not later than April 30, if possible.

A final word — and most important of all — we are all called to remember in our prayers the preparations being made for the forthcoming Convention in Puerto Rico, when some 40 from Australia, and a similar number from New Zealand, will be attending. God can bless and use mightily the witness of his people, and we pray that in San Juan in 1965 — and in Adelaide in 1970 — the name of our Heavenly Father may be honoured and glorified, and the Church of Jesus Christ strengthened.

In the fellowship of Jesus Christ,

PHILIP S. MESSENT.

The Australian Christian.

March 20

WRIGHT THINKING

— BY C. H. J. WRIGHT

ABOUT ADVENTURE

Near to my home in boyhood days in a Sydney suburb was a Chinese market garden. The garden adjoined a park where we used to play cricket, or rugby, or hockey, or whatever was in fashion. It was reported among the boys that the Chinese who kept the garden always worked with a shotgun handy to shoot at anyone who tried to steal their produce. Nor was that all. The guns were said to be loaded with saltpetre, and this was particularly terrifying because, so it was said, should one receive a charge of saltpetre in the seat of the pants, it could only be removed with a red hot needle.

One day, one of the boys said to me, "You wouldn't be game to raid the garden. You're too scared!" It was a challenge. No one would say I was frightened of flying saltpetre. Two of my friends volunteered to go with me, so we set off. We crept in under some bushes near the gate, crawled about thirty yards on our stomachs and stealthily pulled a carrot each. On the return trip, one of my mates raised himself too high and we were spotted. There was a shout and we all bolted for the gate, expecting a broadside. But no shot was fired. We escaped without a scratch, and returned to brandish our trophies before our challengers.

Now I suppose you are thinking, what horrid little boys! Perhaps we were — but it wasn't that I was especially fond of raw carrots. My father was an excellent home gardener, he grew carrots and I could have taken them. The difference was this — my father didn't guard his carrots with a shotgun! All of which illustrates a very important truth — as David Francis expresses it, "no risk — no fun." And that goes, not only for naughty boys' escapades, but for the bigger things in life. In all

that matters most, there can be no final joy without risks being faced on the way. You can't really learn to swim by paddling in shallow water. You can't make discoveries in the laboratory or in the Antarctic without taking risks. You can't know the full thrill of true love without plunging into something that can be full of hazard — into marriage.

It is most true in what matters most of all: the supreme adventure of following Jesus Christ. Now I am sure that many people would never have thought that being a Christian could be exciting and adventurous, that it could have any risk about it. That is not surprising. Many churchgoers don't look very adventurous. Rather than taking a risk, they seem to be taking out an insurance policy. Dorothy L. Sayers, the English lay theologian, dramatist, and detective story writer, once set out the seven most conspicuous "virtues" of ordinary church members as respectability, childishness, mental timidity, dullness, sentimentality, censoriousness, and depression of spirits. But when you see the real thing, it is certainly very different from that. Being committed to Jesus Christ is no tame, humdrum monotony, but the most challenging and exciting adventure the human heart can know. I know that Christians aren't thrown to the lions these days or burnt at the stake. But 100% loyalty to Jesus Christ could mean losing your job, or losing your popularity, because the "done" thing isn't always the Christian thing. You might have to face ridicule. How many people are willing to live today by the risky principles set out in Christ's Sermon on the Mount? "I would jump from a ladder blindfold into eternity," said John Bunyan, "sink or swim, come heaven come hell; Lord Jesus, if you will catch me, do — if not, I'll venture for Thy

name." Being a Christian is not just a desperate endeavor to be good, but a daring willingness to be with Christ.

I remember, just before we made an interstate move, speaking with a removalist's representative about some of the risks involved to be insured against. "Suppose," I asked, "I should find a few books missing from my library?" He smiled. He was quite amused. Glancing at my rows of books, he said, "I can't imagine anyone wanting to take one of your books." Now why? Because they are dull and boring, unexciting? Does a minister of religion carry about musty colorless old books?

I thought of some of the great stories in my books. Of one about a young man, clear eyed, sun-tanned, with a contagious personality, who led off a group of young men in the most daring adventure in human history. He died at 33, but the influence of his life split history into two. I thought of two of his followers in later years in a Philippian dungeon with torn and bleeding backs, but even that grim shambles could not smother the joy that broke into songs at midnight.

And there was St. Francis. It is the gallant joyfulness in his story that grips you, the joy that sang its way in beggar's clothes around Italy, earning for him that blithesome title "God's Troubadour" — the joy that leapt like fire from his soul to a thousand others.

And David Livingstone, cutting paths of enlightenment in Africa — and John Williams, sailing through Napoleon's blockade to pioneer for Christ in the Indies. No, those books aren't so dull after all — and being a Christian isn't dull either. If it is excitement folk are wanting — real joy — then Christ will meet their need, and if they are ready to commit themselves to the Christian way, they will discover what G. K. Chesterton meant when he used to talk about "the fun of the faith", for the Christian life, rightly understood, boldly embraced, is the most joyous and thrilling adventure in the world.

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The Australian Christian.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Elections Make History

(Adelaide). The recent State elections may or may not have been a surprise. However, few will deny the worthwhile contribution of Sir Thomas Playford to the life of this State over a long period. People of all political interests have a soft spot for "Uncle Tom." And rightly so. The results of the elections have thrust to the fore a situation which interests our own churches. Three of the men now in top level positions are associated with the brotherhood. This, I think, is significant in our country.

The men concerned are the Speaker of the House, Mr. Lin. G. Riches, who has maintained an active association with the Churches of Christ, even though removed from one of our congregations. Mr. Riches was a product of the Bordertown church and, even though with another body for worship, retains his membership with our people. The Minister of Works and Deputy Premier, is Mr. Cyril D. Hutchens, who worships with the church at Flinders Park. He is almost a legend as the comper at our Men's

Camps. The third is Mr. Gabe A. Bywaters, who holds five portfolios in the new Cabinet. He is an elder of the Murray Bridge church, has served on the Home Mission Department and been President of Southern Conference.

These three brethren are held in the highest possible esteem by political opponents for their integrity and Christian influence. In the life of their churches they are men of real worth. Those who follow closely the affairs of State will feel confident in the presence of these men in high office.

All will realise that three or four men in a Cabinet cannot usher in a "reign of righteousness," but the presence of men of Christian conviction, who will speak fearlessly, is an encouragement.

Many in the S.A. churches accept the responsibility of keeping such men in their prayer concern, that they be ministers of the Christ where they are.

—E.P.C.H.

NEW MANSE TO BE BUILT

(Goolwa, S.A.). Plans for the new manse have been received and building will commence in a few weeks. During the holidays the church had largest number of visitors ever recorded. At one service five ministers were among visitors. Junior and Intermediate C.E., with leaders Will Bowey and John McKinlay, took part in graduation service led by R. W. Saunders, the minister. Thirty young people were present.

NEW ORGAN

(Williamstown, S.A.). A noted improvement to the church services has been indicated by all concerned since the installation of the new electronic organ. The dedication service was conducted by the church minister, C. Badcock. Donations from members have made this purchase possible.

YEAR OF CONCERN

(S.A.). Is your church participating? Has each family received a leaflet? N.S.W., Victoria and Tasmania, Queensland and S.A. are all participating and sending out leaflets to churches.

It depends on the church in each place how successful the emphasis will be. It was planned to help each church undertake social outreach in the local community, to find services it could undertake and needs it could meet. It was planned in an effort to help every member feel that if he is to be like his Saviour, he too must "go about doing good."

Archbishop Gough said recently, "The Church in the world must be a serving

Church. If it lives to itself it will die." We therefore must serve or die, and we do not serve by sitting in church on Sundays. We only serve as we are inspired on Sundays to go out on Mondays into a sinning, needy world to love men for Christ's sake, to heal their wounds and help them with their burdens and needs.

Each church should use the sound film-strip, "What Happened to Hannah?" It has a special message for this Year of Concern. It can be posted anywhere in Australia, and is obtainable from the Social Service Office, 189 Gawler-place, Adelaide.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

(Port Lincoln, S.A.). Bible School teachers took part in an education department seminar on religious instruction. The C.W.F. were hostesses to young people in camp at Red Cliffs and the church enjoyed fellowship with K. D. Horne, C. H. J. Wright, and our minister, A. J. Storay. Many of our women joined in the World Day of Prayer service.

ILLNESS OF PREACHER

(Ascot Park, S.A.). The minister, R. H. Sercombe, became suddenly ill and was rushed to hospital for an immediate appendectomy. He is making steady improvement. We are grateful to G. M. Mathieson, snr., for speaking at short notice at the morning Harvest Thanksgiving service, and to I. W. Nixon in the evening. Robin Frost was soloist. The excellent display of fruits and groceries was sent to the Christian Rest Home, St. George's.

OTHER S.A. CHURCH NEWS

STRATHALBYN. Church held anniversary Feb. 7, guest speaker for the day being W. Bartlett, Croydon. Recently an elderly lady made her decision and was baptized on March 7. The Bible School held its annual picnic at Port Elliott. The church has commenced a monthly series of cottage prayer meetings. A presentation was made to G. Adams, prior to his admission to the A.B.I.

S.A. WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

MARCH REPORT

At the Conference meeting on March 4, the attendance was 250, including 146 delegates and eight visitors from Strathalbyn. It was the annual Overseas Rally. Mrs. D. Lewis (leader, Overseas Missions Dept.) presided at the rally, and special guests, Miss E. Vawser (India) and Miss Rosalie Rofe (New Guinea), were welcomed by the President of Women's Conference (Mrs. Cunningham). Miss Rofe led in devotions and brought greetings from the church in New Guinea and also from her fellow missionaries.

Each one present was challenged to renew allegiance to Jesus Christ and to put all that we have and are at his disposal. Mesdames C. Butler and F. Parker sang a duet, "Jesus Saves." Miss Vawser addressed the meeting and testified to the greatness of God in her experience as a missionary. She related incidents from the lives of the people from the Baramati Criminal Tribes Settlement, and then answered questions concerning people, conditions, and different aspects of our Mission work in India.

Mrs. Cunningham expressed thanks to Miss Rofe for her challenge to greater service and deeper consecration, and to Miss Vawser for creating a greater awareness to the need of our Indian brothers and sisters. The offering was £39/10/1.

In the business session prior to the rally, Mrs. C. L. Fitzgerald was elected representative to the World Day of Prayer Committee.

President's thought for the month: "And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth" (Acts 1: 8).

M. Wright, Asst. Secretary.

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TENTH ANNIVERSARY

(Brighton Gardens, S.A.). The speaker at the 10th church anniversary was a former minister, Allan Cant, now of Mil-dura. There were 246 at morning service. A hundred were present at monthly youth "Coffee and Candles" . . . On Feb. 28, there was a record attendance of 350 at Sunday School. . . Fifty attended a family camp at Longwood from March 12-14. The study theme was "New Life in Christ" . . . The minister, C. H. J. Wright, was study leader for the West Coast youth camp. . . Ten ladies from the church are giving religious instruction in the local schools. . . Mrs. Matthews has replaced Mrs. Russell as Captain of the Girls' Brigade. She has two lieutenants and six helpers. . . Peter Wright has been appointed head prefect at Unley High School. . . The "A" grade cricket team is in first position in the United Churches' Association.

NOTE.

South Australian Diary items are now included in "National Diary" on page 10, together with news items relating to changes of ministry.

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1965

G.E. MISSIONARY ENCOUNTER

Camp Waterman, Monbulk — March 5-8.

Over fifty young Endeavourers set out over the long weekend for an encounter with some missionaries. From their comments and answers to a questionnaire, it was generally agreed that they had gained something worth-while out of the camp.

For the benefit of those who did not know, Monbulk was the place, C.E. Missionary Encounter Camp the occasion. M. Hodgekiss, F. Hunting, R. Hillier, R. Alabaster, and H. Hines assisted in leadership and Don Smith, Sister Jean Delaney, A. Fletcher, Cyril Smith and L. Park represented and spoke on various fields of mission.

The lectures and follow-up discussions were designed to improve the young people's acquaintance with the church's missionary task, its workers and some of the general related problems. Also to encourage each Endeavourer to see himself within the framework of the church and its mission.

On the whole this was accomplished. Forty-eight C.E.'ers rated the camp very good.

I was, as were all of the leaders, very impressed by the high standard of thought and discussion shown by the campers. Much credit was due really to the preparation, training and effort of the study group leaders.

To sum up, I quote from one questionnaire a statement indicating what was to many the real value of this camp: "The camp has challenged me to go out and do more right now for the Lord in my home, my church and with my fellow students."

—A. S. Fletcher.

GARDENVALE. The help of visiting speakers, Messrs. Milne and Knee, during A. G. Bennett's absence in Tasmania, is much appreciated. Ladies' C.W.F. has resumed after summer recess. Attendances slightly up.

TALENT TOKENS

(Parkdale, Vic.). A family church picnic was held on March 6 at the Silvan Dam Reserve. Devotions on the hill was a climax to a very happy day. A Talent effort was begun at the picnic and 10/-tokens distributed with which those participating are to work for the New Chapel Fund, for a period of three months. . . A number of Bible School teachers are receiving help in the Teacher Training Course being conducted at Frankston. . . A girl of the Teens class confessed Christ.

GARDINER MEN CHALLENGED

(Vic.). A time of real worth and blessing was experienced by two dozen men on March 6 and 8, when stimulating addresses, quiet times and "brass tacks" and creative sessions were all part of the memorable and challenging programme presented to them by Canberra's minister, G. R. Stirling. . . On March 8, Mr. Stirling spoke at both services. At the evening service a Bible School girl was baptized, and another Bible School girl confessed Christ.

Department of Social Service

(The Church in Action).

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World Responsibilities

BY DR. DESMOND CROWLEY

A remarkable revolution in British political history occurred last week. The British Labor Government issued a White Paper in which it announced a new emphasis in defence policy. Henceforth, Britain is to give less emphasis to her defences in Europe, and more to "meeting responsibilities and safeguarding law and order" in the area "east of Suez."

Keir Hardie surely turned in his grave! Here, apparently, was the Party that had always stood for morality and justice in foreign policy — to the point of being described as "starry-eyed" and "idealist" — and that had always pressed for the ending of colonialism, setting out, it seemed, on a course of new imperialism. Kipling in a cloth cap!

Should Christians plead that nations, like people, are responsible for each other? And that, when they are strong, they should take the lead in preserving peace and prosperity among their weaker, more backward fellows? And is this the kind of peace-keeping, the kind of responsibility, the Wilson Government means? The former "imperialists" used to use this language too; but Labor previously alleged that this only cloaked the maintenance of British interests. And "keeping the peace" often meant suppressing the "have nots" for the benefit of the "haves."

Such responsibilities are, of course, really the preserve of the United Nations. Not that the U.N., even without Communism, would always act in a Christian way; but at least there would be a chance of agreement on what was fair — which is the nearest we can get in the meantime. In the cold war, however, decisions are almost bound to be bedevilled by power politics.

At least British Labor seems to feel it is not defending merely Britain's national interests; for it has appealed to the rest of the Western world to assist. (In my opinion, though Australia is included in the summons, the plea is directed mainly at the United States.)

Let's call a spade a spade. What Wilson means is that Britain is giving greater emphasis to her role in safeguarding "east of Suez" from possible Communist aggression. In the present anarchy of world affairs, without an effective world government, it can fairly be claimed — though a Christian pacifist would argue that the wrong means are being used — that this amounts to preserving world peace and security, and that Britain is therefore bearing a world responsibility.

"THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN" 50 YEARS AGO 1915

Here and There. The first of A. E. Illingworth's contribution to "The Family Altar" was presented. Previously, "The Australian Christian" reprinted articles by M. M. Davis in "The Christian Standard." These were much appreciated, but there are brethren in Australia as

capable as others in this field . . . Church work began in city of Essendon. 29 children were present at the first session of the Bible School. 85 were at the morning service, where Thos. Hagger, State Organiser, was preacher. From the Field: Belmore, N.S.W. Frank Morton, late of the College, who has enlisted in the Expeditionary Forces, presided. The preacher, Mr. Forbes, urged him to live Christ in the camp. . . . Editorial. The referendum to be taken in South Australia on the hours of closing liquor bars is attracting no small attention in the central State. The advocates of 11 o'clock closing are working hard, and six o'clockers are not idle. Most Protestant bodies are working for six o'clock. The Anglican Church advocates "not later than 9 p.m.," and the reformers can expect no help from the Roman Catholic Church.

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WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT DEVONPORT, TAS.

Tasmanian President, Mrs. Shirley Cooke, presided over the Tasmanian Women's Conference held at Devonport. Approximately 60 sisters attended. A special welcome was extended to Mrs. Netta Newham, Vic.-Tas. Women's President, Sister Jean Delaney, Missionary from Pentecost, New Hebrides, and Mrs. H. Street, Ballarat, Victoria. Greetings were received from Women's Federal Council, Vic.-Tas. Women's Executive, Tasmanian State Executive, New Hebrides C.W.F., Ballarat C.W.F., and Tasmanian groups unable to attend.

Sister Delaney presented a Missionary Focus and told of the gradual change in the status of women in the Islands and how they are serving the church in a very real way. It was good to share with them in the message of song they had recorded on tape, "Only a little word, whispered in love."

Mrs. Cooke spoke on the year's activities giving thanks for the pleasing aspects of the work and urging more support for the next Women's Camp in September and the State Travelling Fund.

Vocal items were given by Mesdames D. Davis and G. Moore and the Scripture was expressively read by Mrs. E. Flapp, of Devonport. Tasmanian sisters are privileged to have the Vic.-Tas. President attend our Conferences, and this year Mrs. Newham's address "With Thanksgiving", challenged us to become so absorbed in the love of our Lord that each step we take up the ladder of Christian growth will bring us daily closer to him, so that in the end, his love is ours, his wishes are ours and we can say with Paul, "Not I but Christ liveth in me."

The secretary's report showed that all brotherhood causes had received the support of the women. Our women are represented in Women's World Day of Prayer, National Council of Women, British and Foreign Bible Society, City Mission, Y.M.C.A., Hospital Visitation, "Meals on Wheels" and Inter-Church fellowship.

Mrs. Morffew, Matron of the Bethany Children's Home, spoke of the witness of the Home and the generosity of the sisters in Victoria and Tasmania. Mrs. Newham advised that the Vic. E.W.C. Concert proceeds were to be donated to Bethany.

The treasurer's statement revealed that £1,094 had been raised. Conference carried the motion that "in the event of the Women's Inter-Church Council being formed in Tasmania, this Women's Conference of Churches of Christ in Tasmania seek representation on it." The incoming President, Mrs. Dorothy Davis, spoke of women's part in the "Year of Evangelism" and suggested that we "start where we are." Mrs. J. Cooper moved a comprehensive vote of thanks.

Incoming officers — President, Mrs. D. Davis; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. G. Moore, Mrs. J. Cooper; Corr. Sec., Mrs. J. Lillye; Rec. Sec., Mrs. D. Hartam; Treasurer, Mrs. J. Boxhall; Overseas Mission Supt., Mrs. L. Sulzberger; Bethany Rep., Mrs. N. Holland; Aborigines Mission Supt., Mrs. N. Bradshaw; Aborigines Mission Reps., Mrs. S. Cooke and Mrs. J. Moore.

—G. Moore, Acting Rec. Sec.

YOUTH AT MORWELL

(Vic.). Three car loads of young people attended the last "Impact" meeting in Melbourne. The C.E. conducted the evening service on Feb. 28. The church school year commenced with a church dedication service. A coffee bar is being conducted once a month on Sunday evenings, and a young adult fellowship for 17 years and over has been commenced. The minister, A. B. Dowsett, led a service for the senior High School at the Town Hall, when A. V. Maddick, Director for the Council for Christian Education in Schools, was the speaker. There were two decisions in February. Discipleship classes have been commenced . . . The President of Women's Conference visited the Feb. C.W.F. meeting.

BUSINESS ATTENDANCE

(Warrnambool, Vic.). The church had 66 present, the largest business meeting attendance in recent years, when W. W. Saunders was invited to chair the annual meeting. He was accompanied by D. H. Smith, H. M. Sec. Mr. and Mrs. Loader provided hospitality. Officers were elected

as follows: E. Porter, sec.; John Clark, treas.; W. Layther, G. Dalton, R. Brown, John Porter, D. Witham, J. Alberts, deacons; Mrs. R. Brown, J. M. Crocker, Mrs. F. W. Bradley, Mrs. Jim Bradley, Mrs. Groves, Mrs. Larcombe, Mrs. Zen-tai, deaconesses; F. W. Bradley, N. Crocker, E. Houston, elders.

ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY

(Portland, Vic.). The minister, A. C. Male, has been taking an active part in civic affairs. He was organising secretary of a Talent Drive, which was sponsored by the Portland Rotary Club in order to raise funds to reclaim and beautify acres of wasteland between the High School and its western boundary. Each student was handed 5/- to enlarge for this good cause . . . "Thinking Day," a traditional day on which the Brownies, Guides and Rangers of the Guide movement honour the birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, was observed in the Church of Christ at Portland, with Mr. Male giving the address . . . A teenager was baptized on Feb. 28 . . . A. V. Page, of Hamilton, was guest speaker at the church anniversary on Feb. 28.

QUESTING



WITH

A. E. WHITE

How can we decide between our duties in a privately owned business which includes helping people for no personal gain, and our attendance at regular church meetings other than on Sundays?

Apparently the questioner feels that he has to choose between attending week-night meetings at the church and going to his place of business — which is also a means of giving help to others.

Naturally, without knowing a great deal more, it is impossible to give any specific advice. Even if one knew all of the facts, it is still most unlikely that a direction could be given by another. To accept direction from some one else is to yield to another's choice. In most areas of life the choice is a personal responsibility. There are, however, some things that can be said which may be helpful.

Church meetings, whenever they are held, are never ends in themselves. The Christian life is the aim and object of all Christians, and church meetings are an expression of this and provide resources for it. Because of what we learn together in fellowship with Christ, we are better able to make the right choices in all of life.

We are expected to serve in the world as well as in the church, and if a man is able to give genuine help to people who are in physical, social, material or spiritual need, then this is a part of our Christian service. A man may sometimes ask himself if he can serve Christ better this night by going to a prayer meeting, or by visiting an alcoholic. Some men of my acquaintance, with very limited time resources, use their spare hours for community services — such as assisting with non-church boys' clubs, or marriage counselling, or helping a good cause by working for the spastic children. Who could say that it would be better for such a person to give up one of those things in order to attend a prayer meeting?

Having said that, it also needs to be said that prayer and fellowship are essential, and one would need to make sure that there had to be a choice between the two. By carefully looking at one's programme, it may be possible to do both. If a choice has to be made, then choose the one that appears to you to be more in keeping with your commitment to Christ and your service for him.

It is possible to try to work with out praying and without the encouragement and help which the church can give. This is just as bad as praying without working at all.

VIC.-TAS. CENTENARY CONFERENCE

APRIL 4 - 12, 1965

INSPIRATIONAL SESSIONS

1. DEVOTIONAL PRELUDE, Lygon Street, SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2.45 p.m. Presidential Address: Glen S. Brown. "The Church and the World." Items by Choral Society.

2. FAMILY and YOUTH NIGHT, Methodist Ladies' College, Fitzwilliam-st., Kew, SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 8 p.m. First appearance of our Our Own Youth Choir, "The Campbell Singers." "This Pilgrim People" — Historical Pageant especially written for Centenary occasion by R. V. Longthorp. Artists: Mrs. Jean Dow, Robert Gray, Ian Wolstencroft.

3. CENTENARY CONFERENCE SERMON, Melbourne, Town Hall, SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2.30 p.m. Organ Recital. Choral Society Items. Induction of New President. Preacher: Dr. K. R. Bowes. "Equipped for Work."

BUSINESS SESSIONS

Lygon Street. 1. MONDAY, APRIL 5, 7.15 p.m. Conference Executive Report. Recommendation re Unified Promotion. Motions re "Ministers' Salaries" and "Ministers' Allowances."

2. THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 7.15 p.m. Reports: C.W.F. and Overseas Mission. Focus: Aborigines and Social Service. C.M.S. Motion re "Name." Social Service Motion re "6 o'clock Closing of Hotel Bars."

3. FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 7.15 p.m. Reports: C.M.S., College and Christian Education. Focus: Literature. Social Service Motion re "War." 4. MONDAY, APRIL 12, 7.15 p.m. Reports: Advisory and Home Missions. Focus: Properties and Christian Union. Declaration of Poll. Unfinished Business.

SPECIAL CENTENARY SESSION

St. Kilda Town Hall, TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 6.15 p.m. DINNER and MUSICAL PROGRAMME. Artists: Audrey Davies, Jean Milne, Keith Neilson (Compere). Thanksgiving. History. Worship. Admission by Invitation Card only.

SECTIONAL SESSIONS

1. MONDAY, APRIL 5, 5.30 p.m. Lygon Street Hall. C.O.B. OLD BOYS' CLUB ANNUAL TEA. Fellowship Business. 2. TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 10 a.m., 2 p.m. Brotherhood Centre. MINISTERS' CONFERENCE. Business. Discussion on Topical Subjects. "Frontiers of Ministry" presentations.

3. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 10 a.m., 1.45 and 7.15 p.m., St. Kilda Town Hall. WOMEN'S 79th ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Devotions. Reports. Business. "Golden Bags" for Monbulk. Soloists: Mrs. Jean Dow, Mrs. Frances Denholme. Afternoon, Speaker: Dr. Eira Eden. Evening, Drama: "The Living Book."

4. MONDAY, APRIL 12, 5.45 p.m. Lygon Street Hall. MINISTERS' and SECRETARIES' TEA. Speaker: D. H. Smith, H.M. Sec. "Facing the Second Century."

The Australian Christian.

Stanton Wilson Calls on South Perth



(W.A.). A large assembly of South Perth members, together with Conference representatives and other friends joined in a basket tea occasion on the afternoon of March 6, to form a final Australian farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Stanton Wilson, on their way to take up the ministry at Evington Road church, Leicester, England. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson left South Perth almost eight years ago after a very successful ministry, and the warmth of this welcome was evidence of the high esteem they enjoy in South Perth and the State generally. From the time they were met off the "Canberra," they had a whirlwind tour of the metropolitan area, the glorious

beaches, and lastly the church with its new home and modern appointments. With George Wood as chairman, greetings and good wishes were voiced by the Conf. President, E. C. Smith, the chairman of the W.A. Ministers' Fraternal, C. G. Flood, and South Perth Board chairman, W. Samuel.

The last-named spoke in terms of warm appreciation of the excellent work of Mr. Wilson in the earlier years of South Perth also of Mrs. Wilson's share in the character of the ministry.

Responses were made by both guests, after which a large party journeyed to Fremantle Ocean Terminal to witness the departure of the "Canberra."

HERE AND THERE

NATIONAL MARRIAGE AND FAMILY WEEK

May 9-15 has been announced as National Marriage and Family Week for 1965. The theme for this year is "Family Focus on the Children."

Pamphlets giving information, and programme suggestions, are now available, and these will be distributed to all of our ministers through State Social Service Committees. This does not apply to South Australia, which will make its own arrangements for the observance of Family Week.

Ministers and churches are requested to use Marriage and Family Week for Christian emphasis upon the home and family.

HOLY LAND TOUR JULY - AUGUST, 1965

(coinciding with World Convention).

For particulars contact
Dr. A. C. Caldicott, Geelong, Vic.

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DEGREE FOR ATOMIC SUCCESS

Research which involved chipping neutrons off atomic nuclei, has won a Doctorate of Philosophy for a Melbourne University research worker.

He is M. N. Thompson, a former senior demonstrator in the University's physics department. ("Age," 5/3/65).

Note: Dr. Max Thompson (now at the University of Illinois, U.S.A.) was formerly in membership with the church at Ormond, Vic., where he was a deacon, organist, Bible School teacher, and Explorer leader.

VACANCIES FOR CHOIR BOYS

The Australian Boys' Choir, now in its 27th year of existence, announces that there are a few vacancies for boys aged 8 to 11 years for training for its third choir. Successful candidates are given a thorough preparation in voice production, reading music and appreciation in an ideal atmosphere; they may earn for themselves many opportunities to travel and sing with the choir on concert tours. An audition may be arranged by writing immediately to the Secretary, Miss Win. Everett, Box 2390V, G.P.O., Melbourne, C.I.

A. E. HURREN ILL

(The Patch, Vic.). All members are saddened at the illness of A. E. Hurren, who is in the Box Hill Hospital, and the prayers of the church are for him. . . . The church was packed for the morning service when Pastor Doug. Nicholls was the speaker. A representative from the Shire of Knox was among the visitors.

STUDENTS FAREWELLED

(E. Ipswich-Leichhardt, Qld.). Two young men from the church, Adrian Risson and Gordon Krenscke, have entered Kenmore Christian College, and each was presented with a cheque . . . 52 were present at the first combined prayer rally. Prayer meetings in the homes are to be continued . . . C.W.F. has started sewing days once a month for missions. . . . A young man made reconsecration of his life on March 7.

FAMILY CAMP

Forty Kedron members recently shared in a challenging and refreshing experience at Caloundra, when the Family Camp studies were designed to stimulate and shame the Christian into treating prayer more seriously. Many others who could not attend the full weekend visited Saturday afternoon and evening . . . Open house at the manse, following the evening service, is proving popular . . . A Girls' Brigade is being formed by Mrs. Chapman.

National Diary

MARCH

- 21 V. Annual Offering, Properties Department.
- 22 * Mrs. Edgar Lawton on Daily Devotional.
- 22 S.A. Beginners' Dept. Conference at Grote-st.
- 25 S.A. Annual meeting, Girls' Basketball Association, Grote-st.
- 26 S.A. Baptist-Church of Christ Administration Camp.
- 26-28 S.A. G.L.B. Pioneers and N.C.O.'s Camp at Mt. Barker.
- 26 S.A. C.F.A. Agents' Tea at Grote-st.
- 27 V. Good Companions' Junior Field Day.

APRIL

- 4-12 V. Centenary Conference.
- 8-16 W.A. General Conference.

* All States.

MOVEMENTS

N. HODGEKISS TO CONCLUDE MINISTRY

(Sunshine, Vic.). N. Hodgekiss intimated he will conclude his ministry in Jan., 1966. . . . The adult C.E. found the Ancient Times House visit very informative . . . At Women's World Day of Prayer evening service in chapel, speaker was Mrs. Amos . . . Miss Rofe, from New Guinea, gave illustrated talk to district women's missionary meeting on March 9. Ladies support boy at Chungribu . . . Max Carter (Footscray) addressed services, March 7, while Mr. Hodgekiss led and eight others attended C.E. missionary camp at Monbulk . . . Jeanette and Heather Connor departed for extended overseas Y.A.L. conducted tour.

FROM TAS. TO VIC.

E. K. Morrison, minister at Invermay, Tas., has accepted an invitation to the ministry at Robinvale, Vic., as from late August, 1965. This is by arrangement with the Dept. of Home Missions and Evangelism.

FEDERAL OVERSEAS NEWS

CARPENTER REQUIRED

There has been no response to the Board's request for a carpenter to serve in a voluntary capacity on Maewo this year. Mr. Combridge is overburdened with responsibilities and we are most anxious for a capable person to offer to assist in this work. A single man is required for the task, and if he is unable to go forward as a voluntary worker, i.e., meeting his own travel expenses, some other financial arrangement will be arranged by the Board. Any single man wishing to serve is urged to contact, urgently, R. S. A. McLean, Federal Overseas Mission Secretary, 53 Tarragon-st., Mile End, South Aust.

DELAYED RETURN

It was announced in "Missionary News" that Sister Pauline Jones was returning to Australia on March 25. Pauline will now remain in the New Hebrides until later in the year.

EXTENDED FURLOUGH

Sister Helen Maiden, due to return to the New Hebrides on March 18, from Sydney, on doctor's advice will remain in Australia for another six months. Helen has accepted work at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Perth.

FOUNDATION STONE LAID

(Chatswood, N.S.W.). Over one hundred members and friends shared, on Feb. 27, in a brief foundation stone ceremony on the site of the new building being erected at North Turramurra. In laying the stone, Principal A. W. Stephenson used the same mallet employed in a similar ceremony during the erection of the present Chatswood church building. The ladies served afternoon tea. . . . The minister, C. G. Taylor, has resumed as lecturer at Woolwich Bible College, and is leading a 9-day mission with the church at Lane Cove, March 13-21, during which the church's new student minister, Graham Warne, is preaching at Chatswood. . . . Men's Society had successful tea on Feb. 28, with Dr. D. Crowley as guest speaker. . . . Three teams of church ladies are co-operating with other Protestant church women in complete coverage of hospitals in the district.

VISITATION PREPARATION

(Canley Heights, N.S.W.). Over twenty members attended five training classes for door-to-door evangelism. An eight day "Crusade for Christ" is planned for the school holidays. The volunteer committee, with oversight of door-to-door evangelism comprises Dennis Fioletta, John James, Sam Kennedy, Russell Rogan and A. V. Stimson.

N.S.W. MINISTERS

The Ministers' Fraternal, of N.S.W., will meet on March 29 at 10 a.m., at the City Temple. The speaker will be Dr. Ernie Watson, Director of Baptist Evangelism, recently returned from eighteen months' mission evangelism in South Africa.

1965

ANOTHER "FAIRHAVEN"

(Maryborough - Baddow - Hervey Bay, Qld.). The largest gathering on record attended the annual meeting and elected a committee to administer the Aged Christians' Home shortly to be built at Baddow. The name chosen for the Home is "Fairhaven" . . . Elected were: elders, F. Ferguson, C. Haman, H. Oakley, A. Popp; deacons, O. Bell, D. Brooks, S. Clow, J. Deutschmann, R. Heitman, S. Mitchell, J. McLeish; deaconesses, M. Oakley, I. Jones, O. Nebe, N. Spare, B. Wallace . . . The church has been one year in its new hall and chapel. On March 7, at combined worship service, those elected to office paraded and a prayer of committal was offered. In the evening the film, "Shadow of the Boomerang," was screened. Two hundred were present and several responded to the invitation.

NEW HALL FUNCTIONS

(Chinchilla, Qld.). The church has purchased 16 stackable seats for the new hall. The first knife and fork tea in the hall was provided by Barry Clark's parents, who gave him a 21st birthday party. Fifty young people afterwards joined in a social evening and it was good to see that the hall was adequate for this type of function. . . . The Ladies' Fellowship supplied Feltex to cover the platform in the church. . . . The combined creek picnic, organised by Mr. Reid, was a success. . . . Chinchilla joined with Wambo to farewell Edwin Holt, who is entering Woolwich Bible College. . . . The youth programme Operation New Look is active. A monthly youth paper, "Glad Rag", has been started.

LEADER IN ACCIDENT

(Hornsby, N.S.W.). Miss J. Glazier, the B.S. secretary and G.L.B. leader, met with a car accident which necessitated a few days stay in hospital. She is now home convalescing with bruises and a bad gash in her right leg. . . . The Bible School held its annual picnic at Fullers Bridge. . . . Under the leadership of I. Bentley and M. Bartholomew Life Boys Club was commenced for boys between the ages of 8-11. . . . R. Hilford's ministry with the church will conclude on Sunday, May 2.

INVERELL DECISION

(N.S.W.). At Family Night service on Feb. 28, a young man made his decision. . . . Mr. Ling, from the Father and Son Welfare Movement, conducted the broadcast service from the chapel on Mar. 7. At night a combined churches' service was held in the Town Hall, when K. Togaski, from Japan, Vice-President of Rotary International, brought an interesting address based on Luke's record of the Good Samaritan. This was followed at 8.30 p.m. by a talk on "Sex Education or Sex Delinquency?" by Mr. Ling. . . . C.W.F. participated in the Women's World Day of Prayer in the Methodist Church. . . . Monday evening broadcasts — "Light from God's Word" — continue to be well received by members and others throughout the district. . . . Maxwell Hall is the minister.

The Australian Christian.

C.E. LEAD SERVICE

(Ulverstone, Tas.). Members of the Intermediate C.E. conducted the monthly Youth Service on March 7, when an illustrated talk was given by the minister, K. A. Mason. Members of the prayer and Bible Study group are presenting a paper each week on the Beatitudes. The minister outlined Year of Evangelism programme to the C.W.F. The church appreciated messages given by visiting speakers during weekend of Tasmanian District Conference.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

(Rockdale, N.S.W.). A prayer breakfast was held last Saturday for all young people to pray for the special mission to "Teens" . . . The St. George District C.E. held its annual rally in our chapel. . . . A series of meetings called "Viewpoint," in which representative people answer questions, is creating interest. . . . At the annual meeting the minister, C. J. Mackenzie, accepted the invitation to continue serving for a further three-year period. . . . Elected were: elders, Messrs. Creek and Maxwell; deacons, M. Allen, D. Anderson, L. Brown, G. S. Creek, H. Colbourne, D. Giles, W. Hocking, G. Maxwell, K. Sawdy; deaconesses, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Shuttle; B.S. supt., G. Creek.

PLANS FOR ANN-ST.

(Brisbane, Qld.). Architects' plans for proposed additions to the church building to provide much needed accommodation for Sunday School and Kindergarten, were displayed and explained. The extension to the rear of the chapel was approved in principle and is to be implemented by the Board as soon as practicable. . . . The annual meeting recorded an advance in active membership from 239 to 255, with 161 communicants. Contributions to the Brotherhood Centre were £764, and to the brotherhood committees, £1,211. The Budget allocation to brotherhood causes was increased by 5 per cent, the increase to be divided equally between Home Missions and Kenmore Christian College. Elders elected were: R. W. Pitman, N. Watson and W. S. Hoens; deacons, J. Auld, J. Flood, R. Proud, R. Culbert.

Circulation Corner

ANOTHER PAPER BOY

(Hampstead Gardens, S.A.). Enclosed please find cheque for £9/10/- for five subscriptions to "The Australian Christian." We plan to sell these five copies each week to our members by appointing one of the church boys as our "paper boy."

20 A WEEK

The agent at Ormond, Vic., has ordered three more copies of "The Australian Christian." This church now receives twenty copies a week.

HINDMARSH HELPS

This South Australian church has donated £5 for the ministry of "The Australian Christian."

Bible Correspondence Students' Rally

By Miss H. SKUCE



I have felt for a long time that we should have more personal contact with the students who are doing the Bible Correspondence Course wherever it is possible. With this idea in mind we arranged a Rally for the English speaking students in Poona.

Thinking that the Methodist Church was a good landmark, we arranged the Rally there, but it wasn't as central as we thought. Some didn't know what the Methodist Church was, or what it even looked like, and a group of 25 students lost their way when coming from one of the High Schools only a mile and a half away.

Although we didn't have as large a crowd as expected, we were all pleased with the results. We were able to have a personal word with most of those present, and above all it showed us what an excellent group of young people we were working with.

The only method that we use in enrolling students is for each one to tell another, and so it snowballs. It seems that our first few students were outstanding young people and those that have continued to enrol are of the same type. As they gathered into the Methodist Church, one could imagine them as a group of Christian young people at home gathering for an evening fellowship meeting.

At the opening of the Rally, John Main gave a commentary of the Moody

film, "Hidden Treasures", and then it was shown. This film appealed to the young men very much. Miss Edith Eastling and Miss Nancy Kaul, of the Child Evangelism, then gave a puppet show, "Paul Before Agrippa." This was something completely new to the young people. Roger Ryall then gave a short message based on John 9. It was hard to get the students to participate in the meeting, as they had never been to a meeting like this before, and no one knew a chorus or a Christian song. The only Christian teaching that they had ever received was what they were having through the Bible Correspondence Course. At our next Rally we are going to try to get the students taking a more active part. We were just feeling our way with this one. We are also hoping to have Rallies in other centres later on during the year.

As we continue to work amongst these young people, and older folk also, we covet your prayers that in the days to come we may see many of these young people coming out for Christ. One of the tracts that we enclose in the lessons is F.A.C.T.S., and at the end of the tract there is a place to acknowledge a personal decision. We have received a number of these forms returned to us, signed. I feel that we are working with some of the cream of the Indian youth, so let us claim them for Christ. Will you join with us today in prayer for these young people?

SCATTERED SEED

While studying the Bible recently with a group of interested students at the Kanazawa (Japan) Fine Arts University, I came across the following passage in Mark: "The Kingdom of God is like a man scattering seed on the ground, and then going to bed each night and getting up every morning, while the seed sprouts and grows, he knows not how."

It seemed to me that this was a rather good description of the work of a missionary. It seemed to help relieve the frustration of not being able to see any immediate, visible results. I am sure that for a missionary in Japan there are times when one is not even sure whether the seeds come up or not. The harvest must many times be left to those who come many years later. But I am convinced that some of the seeds are falling on fertile ground and that our efforts toward this end will not have been in vain.

—Richard Dickinson, Disciples of Christ missionary in Japan, in "World Call."

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Word Studies In The New Testament

No. 15 — FELLOWSHIP :: BY RANDALL T. PITTMAN

"Fellowship" is defined as "sharing, participation, community of interest, communion." From Old English *felaga* (fee lag), one who lays down money in partnership.

In the Authorised Version "fellowship" is a translation of (1) *koinonia* in Acts 2: 42; 1 Cor. 1: 9; 2 Cor. 8: 4; Gal. 2: 9; Eph. 3: 9 (but Revised Texts give *oikonomia*, dispensation); Phil. 1: 5; 2: 1; 3: 10; 1 John 1: 3, 6, 7. It is translated as a verb "to communicate" in Heb. 13: 16, and by nouns: "communication" (Philemon 6); "communion" (1 Cor. 10: 16; 2 Cor. 6: 14; 13: 14); "contribution" (Rom. 15: 26); "distribution" (2 Cor. 9: 13).

Lexicons give shades of meaning:

(1) association, communion, fellowship, marriage relationship. The last is not a New Testament usage, but there is a reference in 3 Macc. 4: 6. (3 Macc. is not included in the Vulgate, but is found in some Greek Texts, and in the Syriac.) The sense of marriage partnership is also found in non-Biblical Greek.

(2) generosity (2 Cor. 9: 13; Heb. 13: 16).

(3) abstract for concrete sign of fellowship, contribution (Rom. 15: 26).

(4) sharing with somebody in something (Phil. 3: 10). In 2 Cor. 13: 14, where the literal translation is "fellowship of the Holy Spirit," the meaning may be "fellowship with the Holy Spirit" or "fellowship brought about by the Holy Spirit." Some modern translations indicate this difference. While the Revised Standard Version retains "fellowship of the Holy Spirit," the New English Bible gives "fellowship in the Holy Spirit," and Knox renders, "the imparting of the Holy Spirit." It is possible that Paul had both meanings in mind.

In Acts 2: 42, Knox, following the Vulgate, translates "their fellowship in the breaking of bread." The Greek suggests that the primary meaning of "fellowship" in this pas-

sage is to the sharing of goods, but that it also has a wider application — an inward fellowship with outward manifestation.

The phrase in Gal. 2: 9 is of particular interest. In the Authorised Version the rendering is, "They gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship." This concerns the sending out of Paul and Barnabas to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. The phrase is unique in the New Testament, but interesting parallels can be found in the Anabasis of Xenophon (1: 6: 6; 2: 5: 3; 1 Macc. 6: 58; 2 Macc. 14: 19; Jos. Ant. 18: 9: 3). A footnote to the passage cited from Josephus states: "The joining of right hands was esteemed among the Persians [and Parthians] in particular, a most inviolable obligation to fidelity." In the Greek idiom of Gal. 2: 9 and many other passages the noun "hand" is not expressed, but the adjective *dexios*, right, is in the feminine, implying a feminine noun such as *kheir*, hand. Sometimes the adjective is in the singular, as in Rev. 1: 17, sometimes plural as in Gal. 2: 9. In some instances the word "hand" is expressed (see Acts 3: 7; Rev. 1: 16).

(2) *koinonos* in 1 Cor. 10: 20. This word is a masculine noun, akin to *koinonia*, and means one who is a partner. The New English Bible translates: "I will not have you become partners with demons." Elsewhere the Authorised Version renders "companion" (Heb. 10: 33); "partaker" (Matt. 23: 30; 1 Cor. 10: 18; 2 Cor. 1: 7; 1 Pet. 5: 1; 2 Pet. 1: 4); "partner" (Luke 5: 10; 2 Cor. 8: 23; Philemon 17).

(3) *metokhe* in 2 Cor. 6: 14. Used only here in the New Testament. It is found in the Septuagint in Psalm 121: 3, and in non-Biblical Greek. In modern Greek the word means "participation," "share." The word is derived from *metekho*, from *meta*, with; *ekho*, I have. In 2 Cor. 6: 14 the two words *metokhe* and *koinonia* are used. The verb *metekho* is used in 1 Cor. 9: 10, 12; 10: 17, 21, 30; Heb. 2: 14; 5: 13; 7: 13. The noun *metokhos* is found in Luke 5: 7; Heb. 1: 9; 3: 1, 14; 6: 4; 12: 8.

OBITUARY

Isaac John Taylor.

The church at Lane Cove, N.S.W., felt keenly the sudden death of Isaac John Taylor on March 2. Mr. Taylor migrated from Wales to Australia forty years ago. Shortly after his arrival in Australia he met and married his wife, Violet, who survives him. Their son, Rupert, has been very active in the life of the church in the local sphere and at the brotherhood level.

The Taylor family became members of this church twenty-four years ago during the ministry of Lloyd Read. Of recent times the burden of old age took toll of Mr. Taylor limiting his life almost exclusively to the home. Although

restricted in his own Christian service he always encouraged his wife and son to be active in the life of the church and constantly expressed his interest in the ministry of the church.

At the service, conducted in the Lane Cove chapel, tribute was paid to his kindly spirit, generous nature and Christian standards. To his wife Violet, son Rupert, and daughter-in-law Judith, we extend our Christian love and fellowship.

—R. B. Elbourne.

Roy Whitfield Trembath.

On Feb. 4, the church at Red Cliffs, Vic., became the poorer because of the sudden death of Roy Trembath, at the age of 61 years, after a very severe illness. Thirty-eight years ago he joined the church at Moreland, and remained

steadfast to the end. His work on the staff of the State Savings Bank took him to many places, which meant, over the years he was in membership with the churches at Stawell, Bamba Road, Ormond, East Malvern, Ivanhoe, and the last ten months at Red Cliffs in retirement. Quiet and unassuming, Roy proved faithful in his Christian witness. At Ivanhoe he served most acceptably as a deacon and chairman of the Board for some years. His chief characteristic was a simple faith and trust in the Saviour, which made him a grand man of God. The writer was assisted in the chapel by the local Methodist minister, Colin Knox, with whom Roy had worked and worshipped at Cohuna whilst there. Christian sympathy is extended to the bereaved wife, three daughters and son.

—R. Will Marshall.

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PERSONAL

DISCIPLESHIP

Mr. and Mrs. J. Poile, Mrs. E. Gordon, Lynette Westbury, Shirley Renison, Bronwyn Willis, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.

Angharad Williams, Burwood, Vic. Gary Edge, Paul Abbott, Brighton Gardens, S.A.

Mrs. Fish, Geoffrey Mitchell, Linda Mitchell, Pam Murray, Nola Brown, Annette McDonnell, A. Maltman, South Perth, W.A.

B. White and Donald Walker, Swanston-st., Melb.

Bradley Hodge, Neil Godsil, Maxwell Davidson, Warragul, Vic.

Jeanne Greig, Gardiner, Vic.

J. Cox, P. Carlin, C. Rose, Hamilton, N.S.W.

Marianne Hutchinson, Margaret Conning, North Essendon, Vic.

Miss A. Blackeby, Kevin Guscott, Neil Lawson, Northcote, Vic.

Robyn Schilling, Brian King, Morwell, Vic.

Misses Wendy Brooks, Nancy Notman, Jenny Stevens, Geoff. Weir, Kedron, Qld.

Mrs. Phillips, Ascot Park, S.A.

DEATHS

Noel Mowday, South Perth, W.A.

Mrs. Alex Fraser, Hamilton, N.S.W.

L. Long, Northcote, Vic.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

E. Porter (sec., Warrnambool Church of Christ), 13 Ward-st., Warrnambool, Vic.

APPROACHING MARRIAGE

ROBOTTOM - BIRT. — The marriage of Karen Joy, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Robottom, 112a Roberts-st., Essendon, Vic., to John Milton, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Birt, Ballarat, Vic., will be solemnised at North Essendon Church of Christ on March 27, at 4.30 p.m.

GOLDEN WEDDING

ROWAN - HUNT. — Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Rowan, 7 Chaucer-st., Clearview, S.A., have much pleasure in announcing their 50th wedding anniversary solemnised at Church of Christ, Adelaide, on March 15, 1915, by the late J. E. Thomas.

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Mr. and Mrs. Foster, Maryborough; Mr. and Mrs. Todd, Wellington, N.Z.; N. Ware, Coburg; Miss Salmon; all to Swanston-st., Melb.

Miss Margaret Muller, Toowoomba, to Kedron, Qld.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Williams, Camp Hill, Qld.; Mr. and Mrs. D. Hill, Maidstone; Mr. and Mrs. A. Crisp, Wattle Park; Mr. and Mrs. M. Sheehan, Springvale; Mr. and Mrs. K. Sturgess, Balwyn; to Burwood, Vic.

Mrs. Steer, Croydon, to Brighton Gardens, S.A.

Misses Annette and Janette Faulkner, Albion, to Ann-st., Brisbane, Qld.

Miss N. Dallinger, Gilgandra, to Hornsby, N.S.W.

MARRIAGES

Janet Crump to George Pledger, Gardiner, Vic.

Marjorie Bridges to Barry Horton, North Essendon, Vic.

Maureen Rogers to Garry Lane, South Perth, W.A.

Meryl Manning to Trevor Kowald, Williamstown, S.A.

Pam Turner to Don Gehrke, E. Ipswich - Leichhardt, Qld.

Olive Owers to Ross Hercott, Swan Hill, Vic.

ENGAGEMENTS

SMITH - BRADSHAW. — Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Smith, 12 Fowler-st., Gladstone, Qld., have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their youngest daughter, Glenda Alice, to Allen, youngest son of Mr. P. C. Bradshaw, Boles-st., Gladstone, and the late Mrs. Bradshaw.

LACY - STEELE. — It is with much pleasure the engagement is announced of Pamela Iris, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Lacy, 9 Tomlins-st., Bendigo, Vic., to Eric Harold, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. R. Steele, 82 Surrey-rd., Blackburn, Vic.

PRIOR - BAILEY. — Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Prior, 99 Kellert-st., Northcote, Vic., announce with pleasure the engagement of their only daughter, Judith, to John, only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bailey, Clara-st., Preston.

TRICKEY - CRAWFORD. — Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Trickey, 13 Morris-st., North Balwyn, Vic., have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their only daughter, Lois Dorothy, to David Rolston, only son of Mr. H. C. and Mrs. M. Crawford, Balwyn.

SLEE - WHITMORE. — Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Slee, Findon, S.A., have pleasure in announcing the engagement of their daughter, Beverley, to Lawrence, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Whitmore, Flinders Park, S.A.

DEATH

FRASER. — On Feb. 28, passed peacefully away at her residence, 463 Glebe-rd., Adamstown, N.S.W., Janet Hamilton, beloved wife of Alex., loved mother of Alex., Agnes and Jean; loving mother-in-law of Mavis, Keith and Ken; grandmother of John. Matt. 11: 28. 71 years.

IN MEMORIAM

BROWN, Alice. — Claimed by immortal love — light evermore — everlasting life — immortality by our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, March 13, 1963. "Is he yours?"

—Inserted by her loving husband, F. O. N. Brown.

MITCHELL. — Cherished memories of Reg., called Home May 28, 1963, and Bell, March 21, 1964; loved brother and sister of Maysie Kilgour, uncle and aunt of Lily and Ron Wadsley, Lorna and Jim Kilgour and families. "Severed only till he come."

HOLIDAY HOUSE

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ORGANIST REQUIRED

Cheltenham Church, Vic., require the services of an Organist, to play at the evening service and assist the choir at practice one night during the week. For further information please contact Mr. Roy Barnett, 95-1675 (Melb.).

PRAHRAN CHURCH, Vic.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21.

112th HOMECOMING

All friends cordially invited to come and join with us in this day of celebration.

11 a.m.—Fellowship and Communion.
President: T. EDE.

Guest Speaker: A. CALDICOTT.

1 p.m.—Lunch.

3 p.m.—Afternoon Service.

Guest Speaker: J. SUTTON.

5 p.m.—Tea. 6.45 p.m.—Prayer.

7 p.m.—Gospel Service.

Speaker: T. EDE.

ORMOND CHURCH, Vic.

40th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

SUNDAY, JUNE 27.

Guest Speaker: A. R. JONES, S.A.

Dawn Kimber, Elocutionist.

Neil Barry, Soloist.

Former members contact A. J. Knee, 25 Wallen-rd., S.E.9 (58-2810) with address and for hospitality.

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SPECIAL SERVICES

SUNDAY, MARCH 21,
11 a.m. and 7 p.m.,

R. N. GILMORE, B.A., B.D.

Mr. Gilmore commences his ministry that day.

WEDNESDAY, 24th, 8 p.m.,

WELCOME SOCIAL and Fellowship Evening for Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore and family.

Visitors Welcome.

North Fitzroy (Vic.)

92nd CHURCH ANNIVERSARY, MARCH 28.

11 a.m.—DR. G. WHITTING.

3 p.m.—DAVID SCOTT (Brotherhood of St. Laurence).

Ambassadors Quartette.

5 p.m.—REUNION TEA.

7 p.m.—P. FOSTER.

Soloists: Mrs. J. Turner.

Duettists: Mrs. Carpenter and Mrs. Larkins.

— EASTER —

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WOORINEN CHURCH, Vic.

50th ANNIVERSARY

JUNE 12 and 13, 1965

(Queen's Birthday Weekend).

All past members who desire to share in these celebrations please forward your present address to the secretary, E. G. Mott, Woorinen, Vic.

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1965



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PRESIDENT'S SERMON

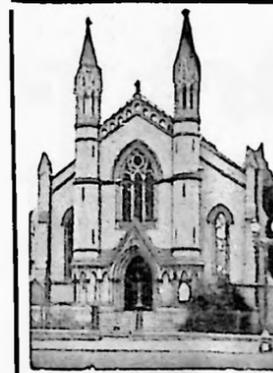
(Vic.). Glen S. Brown, Vic.-Tas. Conference President, after a year of moving amongst and getting to know the brotherhood churches from first-hand contact, will have a direct and personal message for them. His Presidential address will be given at the Devotional Prelude to Conference, to be held in Lygon St. chapel, at 2.45 p.m. on Sunday, April 4. It is hoped that, in addition to suburbanites, many country members who have met the President during the Conference year will make every effort to be present to hear his address. An added attraction at the Prelude will be the choral numbers to be rendered by the Churches of Christ Choral Society, under the baton of Conductor Valentine Woff. Meetings of Conference will continue from Sunday, April 4 to Monday, April 12.

FIFTH GENERATION MEMBER

When Donald Walker was received into the fellowship of the Swanston Street church on March 7, it marked the fifth generation to serve this church. He is the great-great-grandson of Henry and Eleanor Lyall, who were foundation members, and a great-great-grand nephew of Orlando Walker who was associated with the beginnings of Swanson Street. Dr. Lloyd Jones has completed his first year of ministry. Buoyant attendances continue. Three visitors from Narrabri, N.S.W., Mrs. Boutcher, and Misses Janice and Ann Boutcher, confessed Christ and were baptized before returning to their home. On March 7, B. White and Donald Walker were baptized. Dr. Jones is conducting a mission at Norlane from March 21 to April 4.

CHURCHMAN WINS AWARD

(Nth. Essendon, Vic.). R. H. Conning, C.Y.F. counsellor and church treasurer at Nth. Essendon and East Kellor, is a company secretary and accountant. In recent A.C.I.S. examinations, Mr. Conning gained first place in Victoria and won the "G. L. Murray Award." The late Mr. Murray was a member at the Surrey Hills church and a former Victorian



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Minister: Dr. LLOYD JONES, B.A., M.TH., PH.D.

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7 p.m.—WORSHIP - EVANGELISM.

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NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Miss S. Woonton, a member of the Onehunga Church, recently visited Hobart as a member of the N.Z. swimming team which competed in the Australian championships.

Forty-one members of the New Zealand churches will be leaving Auckland on July 17 for the U.S., where they will be travelling together as a party prior to and after World Convention. The World Convention has arranged a trans-America tour by Greyhound Bus. They will be back in Auckland on September 25.

Miss P. Russ was inducted as full-time Deaconess with the Mairangi Bay Church, Auckland, on February 14.

R. A. Blampied and I. W. Ogier began new ministries in the Christchurch district early in February.

The League of the Helping Hand, which receives £1 per year from its members for new causes and extension work, gave £694 from 1964 income towards the new manse at Linwood Avenue, Christchurch. Since its inception nearly £4,000 has been handled and passed on as outright gifts. 1965 income will go to Takaro in the Manawatu Circuit.

Ron Laing, of Wanganui, has returned to the New Hebrides mission field of

the Australian churches after having been home due to his father being taken ill. Ron is giving a period of voluntary service to help erect hospital and other buildings under construction.

The 100th Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. M. Ramsey, arrived in this country for a brief visit to lecture at universities, speak to Anglican clergy and meet with church representatives.

Other notable visitors to this land have been Dr. Carrington, of Melbourne, and Dr. H. H. Farmer, of the U.K.

Men's Retreats are being planned for three centres later in the year. They will be under the auspices of the Home Mission Committee.

At a two-day session in late March the General Executive will use one day to consider "Re-structure" matters which could result in radical changes in the structure of our brotherhood set-up. Representatives of all the constituent committees are entitled to share in the discussion.

Dr. and Mrs. J. Siregar, of Indonesia, paid a brief visit to N.Z. They are in charge of a 500 bed hospital, and Dr. Siregar is prominent as a National Council of Churches member.

OBITUARY

Ethel May Horsell.

At the age of 85 years, Mrs. Ethel May Horsell died on Feb. 14, 1965. For some years Mrs. Horsell has been in poor health and spent the last few months in hospitals. While at home she was lovingly cared for by her daughter and sister. With the passing of Mrs. Horsell another link with the early history of the church at Beverley (previously York) has been broken. She attended the Sunday School in its early days and at the age of 16 years was baptized by M. Wood Green, one of the early evangelists in the church. In 1902 she was married to H. J. Horsell and was his companion and partner in his ministries at Beverley, Strathalbyn and Croydon and then as he served the S.A. brotherhood as Conference Secretary and Organizer. Mr. Horsell predeceased his wife in 1948. In her younger days, Mrs. Horsell was actively engaged in the kindergarten department and was a member and worker in the Ladies' Guild. With a quiet disposition she gave a constant and faithful witness for her Lord and died in faith and in glorious hope in Christ. Following a service the funeral took place in the Cheltenham Cemetery. To Horace, her son, Verna, her daughter, and Miss Ford, her sister, we extend our loving sympathy.

—M. T. Lawrie.

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CARTOON COMMENT

The Christian on the mission field is subjected to stresses and strains of a kind completely outside the experience of those in the homeland. He confronts difficulties, and even at times serious danger, due to the unfamiliar climate, his inexperience in the ways of another country, sometimes a dangerous terrain, or the hostility of the people, and so on. He needs courage, resourcefulness and dedicated enthusiasm — and it is our privilege to be able to support him through our interest and our regular prayers for his safety and well-being, and the effectiveness of his ministry.

Know when to speak for many times it brings
Danger, to give the best advice to kings.

—Robert Herrick.

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BEST SELLER IN CANADA

(Toronto.). Sales of the new United Church of Canada Sunday School curriculum have more than doubled early expectations, according to church officials.

Widespread controversy over the material, called "The Word and the Way," was cited as a contributing factor in the sale of some 740,000 units since last June. It had been expected that by February orders would total only 300,000 units.

The curriculum has been under fire particularly by conservative and fundamentalist churchmen and groups. Much of the criticism has centred around the use of the word "myth" which, according to those who prepared the curriculum, means "profound spiritual truth conveyed in picturesque form." The curriculum classified the first 11 chapters of the Bible as "myth."—E.P.S.

POLISH PROTESTANTS

Out of a total population of some thirty-one million inhabitants, the Polish People's Republic has about one hundred and forty thousand Protestants, according to recent estimates. Most of these are members of Baptist, Lutheran, or Reformed churches. The large majority of these Polish Protestants live in Upper Silesia and in the Province of Allenstein. It is reported that in Lower Silesia only two confirmations took place during 1964.—E.P.S.

VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE URGED

(Portland, Ore.). — National Council of Churches leaders here called upon President Johnson to "engage in persistent efforts to negotiate a cease-fire" in Vietnam.

A statement adopted by the policy-

making General Board, while recognising "that there are many difficulties and dilemmas facing our country in negotiations for political settlement," also called attention to "the seriousness of prolonged military conflict, the danger of escalation of hostilities, and the possibility of a third world war."

It urged the U.S. government "to utilise United Nations' assistance in achieving a solution and in seeking to reduce the area of conflict by effective border control and internal policing."—E.P.S.

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SIR WINSTON.

To the Editor,

In referring to T. Lane's letter in "A.C." 6/3/1965, Sir Winston Churchill was no epitome of Christian virtue. Nevertheless this all too obvious fact should not be the criterion for our agreeing or refusing to treat his life in an editorial.

After all, Jesus was not beyond illustrating his message with reference to certain "children of the world" who "in their generation are wiser than the children of light."

Men are not all bad. Jesus always looked for that which he could commend in others. He was never wholesale condemnation, save where certain individuals imagined that they were "epitomes of virtue," and I am certain that Sir Winston never regarded himself as such. That he was outstanding is undeniable, and that Jesus would have made passing reference to strong and commendable qualities he possessed, is not beyond our imagining.

The danger inherent in any biographical panegyric or "editorial eulogy" is that vices will be copied, rather than virtues emulated. This danger in this case, I consider, would be slight if not negligible, for which of his vices would be so unobtrusive as to disguise itself suf-

ficiently to allow the force of his character to hypnotise us into copying it. Surely by virtue of their enormity, his "vices" are copyright. Who of our Christian fraternity would copy such personal habits as lying in bed all morning, or cigar smoking, or seek to develop as pronounced an egoism and personal assertion as he undoubtedly and unashamedly possessed.

However, there are aspects of his life and personality that we must commend: his immense personal affection, his wholehearted enthusiasm. If only every member of our brotherhood would be as wholehearted in his support of the cause of Christ, as Churchill was of the cause of Britain and of Churchill, if whatever we found needed our attention we tackled "with all our might," what a transformation God could effect!

Churchill inspired courage into Britain; can't we inspire courage into the Church of God, and into our nation, for surely when men are saying, "better red than dead," we need the spirit of a Christian Churchill.

Though it would seem to some almost blasphemous to envisage Churchill and Jesus standing together, a skimpy comparison is interesting. To his countrymen Churchill promised, "I have nothing to give you but blood, sweat, toil and tears." Jesus said, "If any man would come after me let him deny himself and take up his cross and come and follow me." Churchill announced, "We will never surrender." Jesus said of the Church, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against her."

The man has left us. Let us learn from his mistakes and allow that which we cannot but commend to challenge us.

—Graeme Chapman (Qld.).

ROBES.

To the Editor,

In your issue of 20/2/65 there was a lament published by Glen Brown, who felt out of place by not being able to wear the traditional dress of denominational clergy.

This clerical dress was introduced by the R.C. church, and as denominations grew out of her so the dress was adhered to as a sign of priestly calling.

No, Mr. Brown, we don't approve your suggestion.

—C. K. Milne, Hawthorn, Vic.

THINGS TO CHANGE.

To the Editor,

I devoutly hope and pray that G. S. Brown, or anyone else, will never change present customs of Churches of Christ representatives when attending public functions, great or small.

Quality of mind and soul is more important than dress. If one (and G. S. Brown need not worry on that score) has these he need not feel out of place.

Truly great men do not judge others by robes worn. The trend in world customs is way from robes.

Chas, Young, Vic., Hospital Chaplain.

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• DAILY DEVOTIONAL CORNER

JOURNEY THROUGH LUKE

Monday, March 22. Luke 15: 11-32. And while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him (v. 20).

We call it the Parable of the Prodigal Son, but Jesus told it about a man who had two sons. When the younger son went away, the father watched and waited for his return. He gave and gave and forgave when the son returned. The older son was jealous, but it was not that the father denied him his love. It was rather that the younger son needed more love. The tragedy of this story is that the son who stayed home, and never lacked anything, was indescribably poor. The younger son, who had thrown away all that he had, found in his poverty a wealth of love and forgiveness. This is still the story of all the sons of God. Those who seek him find him waiting. Those who look only for his gifts, lose even the Father's waiting love.

Father, we have also failed you in a country far from you. We rejoice that you receive us as your children still. Amen.

Tuesday, March 23. Luke 16: 1-13. So I say to you, use your worldly wealth to win friends for yourselves (v. 9, N.E.B.).

The story of this clever rogue is puzzling as we hear it from the lips of Jesus. Faced with the loss of his job, the scoundrel reduced the amounts owing by his master's debtors and thus placed them in his debt. His master, who probably knew quite a few tricks himself, applauded. Jesus is not praising the man's dishonesty. He is showing that the unjust steward was using his opportunities in his situation to achieve the ends he wanted most. If Christians were as alert and enthusiastic to use their opportunities for Christ's purposes, the kingdom would be much stronger than it is.

O God, may we be as keen to enrich you as others are to enrich themselves. Amen.

Wednesday, March 24. Luke 16: 14-18. The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they scoffed at him (v. 14).

What the Pharisees heard Jesus say was that you cannot serve God and money. Jesus is not saying that money

is evil and that it is wrong to have money. The Bible does not say that money is the root of all evil, as some misquote it. The Bible says that the love of money is a root of many kinds of evil. And these Pharisees loved money. That was their treasure and that was where their hearts were. God was taking a second place, and this usually means no place at all. No wonder the Pharisees sneered. They could not understand a man who gave money a lower place than God.

Heavenly Father, it is often easy to give first place to things. Help us to put you first today. Amen.

Thursday, March 25. Luke 16: 19-31. Son, remember that you in your lifetime received good things (v. 25).

Still a part of the teaching of Jesus about money and its place in life, Jesus reminds the Pharisees that God's book-keeping does not relate only to this life. He told the story of the rich man and the beggar. We have the contrast between great wealth and great poverty. Because the Pharisees loved money, they would have approved the rich man and scorned the beggar. As Jesus told the story, it was the poor man who received God's favour in the realm beyond. It was the earth's rich man who was so destitute there. The New Testament is concerned with the whole of life, and life has a second volume. Retribution is built into the whole story of man.

Eternal Father, not for fear, but for love, help us to know what true riches are and to use them well for you. Amen.

Friday, March 26. Luke 17: 1-10. Even if he wrongs you seven times in a day and comes back to you seven times saying "I am sorry," you are to forgive him (v. 4, N.E.B.).

Almost every day somebody wrongs us. It may be in little things. The newspaper is late, an impatient car driver cuts in on a long queue, we have to wait two hours in a doctor's surgery, or a neighbour lights a smoking fire just after we have hung out the washing! These are little things, but they can start off pretty big resentments. It is quite in order to rebuke one who has

really wronged us, and then, if he repents, to forgive him — even seven times in a day. No wonder the disciples said, "Increase our faith."

Dear God, increase our faith, too, and also our patience and love, so that we can forgive even the unrepentant. Amen.

Saturday, March 27. Luke 17: 11-19. Were not all ten cleansed? The other nine, where are they? (v. 17).

How terrible a sickness was leprosy? There were other diseases as painful, but they could be endured in the care of loved ones. But leprosy had to be endured alone or in the company of similar outcasts. To be healed of leprosy meant not only the lifting of a sickness, it meant release from a prison worse than death. This is a subject for gratitude, and none who had this kind of healing would fail to give thanks — surely! Only one out of ten came back in gratitude.

Dear Lord, this story shows that you value gratitude. Receive our grateful thanks for healing and help. Amen.

Sunday, March 28. Luke 17: 20-37. The Kingdom of God does not come by observation (v. 20).

This does not mean that the Kingdom of God cannot be seen. When the king comes into a man, he is a part of the kingdom for all the world to see. Christ intended that his kingdom should be seen. Campbell Morgan pointed out that whenever this word for "observation" is used in the Bible it has a sinister sense. The Pharisees were always observing him, always watching him, but always with hostility. This was not the way to see the kingdom.

Dear Lord, we know that to see the kingdom we must love the king. As we have received you into our lives we pray that the kingdom may be seen in us. Amen.

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Don't talk too much.
Every "Baa" loses a bite.

—Sussex saying of sheep.

☆

How like a man to blame on his boots the faults of his feet.

From Waiting for Godot."

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