

MAY 8, 1965

Christian Books



C. H. DOW

S. K. BANNON

CONFERENCE REPORTS

THE AUSTRALIAN

CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL WEEKLY OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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THE CHURCH SPEAKS

Wouldn't it be lovely if we could ignore the world around us and concentrate on church worship and Sunday School teaching? We can't do this, and if we did there would be plenty to accuse us of being other-worldly, irrelevant, and remote.

When an attempt is made to express the Christian viewpoint on social and national affairs, there is usually an outcry of a different kind. If the church speaks on a social issue like liquor reform, it is accused of being a group of non-drinkers, arrogantly telling the drinkers when and what to drink. If it speaks on a national question, such as Vietnam, the church is told by many to look to its own field. Back to the cathedral and the chapel!

What is the church's field? Since it is concerned with the whole of mankind, there is no end to its area of concern. It is the church's business to consider what is going on in Vietnam. When the Anglican Bishops and, later, the Australian Council of Churches, spoke their piece about the explosive situation in South-East Asia, they were acting in accordance with their great responsibilities.

Maybe the Bishops and the Council were wrong in their suggested course of action. Even Prime Ministers and military leaders can sometimes be wrong in their judgments. If the Bishops and the Council are in error, they err in the good company of U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Lester Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada. These both made submissions similar to the Bishop's proposals which were so severely handled by Sir Robert Menzies.

The press has been severe also. "The Bulletin," in a cartoon and editorial, took a strong line. The cartoon shows an oversized bully jumping on his small, pathetic victim. Two bishops are looking on and one says to the victim, "... and what steps are you taking for a positive solution of this dispute?" The bishops are presented in appearance and posture as ridiculously uninvolved and unrealistic. The imputation of fatuousness is unfair. The journal's editorial said, "... it is expected that when such an illustrious body as the Anglican church engages in criticism of the democratic cause, its criticism should be informed and balanced. It is to be regretted, therefore, that the implied criticism of the American purpose in Vietnam did not have the quality of realism."

Does this suggest that U Thant and Lester Pearson also lack the quality of realism and that their criticism is not informed and balanced? How do we know that a democratic cause is at stake? There is no doubt that the Americans have democratic objectives for the people of Vietnam, and they would like nothing better than to leave the place self-controlled, and free from a Communist threat from the north. But we do not know how the South Vietnamese feel about the conflict. It would be difficult to find this out. The bewildering succession of governments has been due to the operation of various pressure groups rather than the will of the people.

There are also other issues that complicate the affair. In the U.S.A. itself there is much opposition to the American policy in South-East Asia. One of the reasons Goldwater was defeated so decisively was the fear that he would do exactly what is now being done in Vietnam. In South-East Asia itself there have been demonstrations against the U.S. action—in Laos, Cambodia and Japan. In Indonesia, also, which may have been expected. It was not expected that Cambodia would break off diplomatic relations with the U.S.A.

On one thing all sides to the dispute would agree: Australia is a part of South-East Asia. We cannot escape involvement in one way or another. We all had hoped that it would be in a way other than war. Now that our soldiers are going to fight, we should not ignore other possibilities of a solution. So far, the Viet Cong and their backers have rejected a call for negotiation, but we should keep trying to persuade them as well as the nations to find a peaceful solution.

The church has a responsibility to be informed and balanced in its statements. It will not be enough to say that the present course is wrong; we must continue to seek and work for a positive solution. No matter how difficult and frustrating it may be, the prize of peace will be worth it.

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WHAT BOOKS HAVE YOU READ LATELY?

BY CHARLES DOW

Upon the admission form for an American university I was asked, with all intending students, this title question. I was feeling somewhat facetious, so wrote down the Bible and several other books, which included some provocative novels. At first the question seemed a little immature for a University, because one could easily fake an impressive list which could give you a literary image. But if we take the question seriously it can reveal the coverage or lack of it in our reading.

Christians, if they are to be involved at a level which is meaningful, need not only to read "Good Christian Books" (I'm not altogether sure what this means) but also the significant ones that are capturing the minds of people, for it is in this context of interests and environment that we are called to minister.

Have you read lately anything about the Negro in United States, and how he feels? Do you ever wonder what some of them think about white men?

I would suggest you read, "The Fire Next Time," by James Baldwin, which is a Penguin Book for 4/6. For three years I lived among Negroes and enjoyed the experience very much, but there is still this great gulf in how I think they think and how they do in reality. We are in Mr. Baldwin's debt for his devastating honesty in the baring of his mind and soul.

It is of little avail for the Church, and that means you and me, to think we know the answers when sometimes we don't really know the questions. "Why the Negro Can't Wait," by Martin Luther King, and "Let My People Go," by Albert Luthuli, are important books that need to be read by committed Christians. It is only an informed mind that can adequately understand.

Have you read lately anything about the Church's mission to the World? I am confident that those who attended the Victorian Conference were constantly aware of the needs of our world. The Evanston Report says to us, "The people of God are in this world as the Church, and they are never alone with their Lord in isolation from the world. It is the world he came to save. Without the gospel the world is without sense,

Charles H. Dow, M.A., is now ministering with the Coburg Church, Vic., after completing studies in the U.S.A.

1965

but without the world the gospel is without reality."

If you believe this then the important task of the Church is to come to grips with the unique mission that is hers. Peter L. Berger's book, "The Noise of Solemn Assemblies," shakes our very foundations and helps us to see certain irrelevancies, and ought to act as a spur for us to be what God intended his body to be. D. T. Niles once more places us in his debt with his book, "Upon the Earth."

Colin Williams, with his books, "What In the World" and "Where In the World," ought to be read. This Victorian is not always popular because he calls for major surgery in order that the body of Christ might live. But we need to remember Jesus never won any popularity contest among the established religious clientele of his day.

These writers are unsettling, and if you don't want to be disturbed and frustrated I would suggest that the Beverly Hillbillies be your diet. The Call of Christ is a serious matter and those who have discovered Christ in a very real way will want to share their faith in an intelligible manner with your workmates and those delightfully refreshing pagans we all know and love.

Have you read any novels or plays lately? I know many are written merely to arouse one's sensual feelings. Yet some of the most telling theological writing is being done, not by the theologian, not by the Christian layman, but by the honest agnostic.

"Mother Courage," written by Bertolt Brecht, is the story of the 30 year's war during the 17th century. Europe was ravaged and the dilemma of this woman personifies the great paradoxes that face ordinary people. The same problems Mother Courage faced, we face, the same contradictions, are ours. We are all faced with the same dilemma of sorting out priorities and not just a question of right and wrong.

James Joyce's book, "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man," is a very important book if we are to understand the prodigal mind of youth which confronts us each day in the streets of our city, town, or Christian Youth Fellowship.

For those who are admirers of science-fiction, C. S. Lewis' "Out of the Silent Planet," has something very real to say to us in a form which is very readable. Oyarsa says to Ransom, the man from

earth, who went to this strange planet, "You began to be afraid of me before you set foot in my world. And you have spent all your time in flying from me. My servant saw your fear when you were in your ship in heaven . . . But you hid among the hrossa and though they told you to come to me of your own will you would not." Oyarsa is the great mind behind life on this strange planet. As you wander around the planet you see yourself in a completely different light, yet in truth just as we are in reality. I think it is quite an important book because it reminds us that no matter what age we live in the same basic issues have to be resolved.

Jean Paul Sartre's "Condemned of Altona," and Aldous Huxley's "After Man A Summer Dies The Swan," are well worth your time and money. These writers, though they make no Christian profession, portray the situation in which God has called us to be living witnesses to the truth about Christ and about man.

Reading can easily become a lost art with all the pressures that bear in upon us. Right throughout the literate history of man, God, by his Spirit, has challenged the truly sensitive spirit in order that we might "dream dreams and see visions."

Literature Week is a special focus within our brotherhood life to help us be more adequate to share our faith. Our forefathers were great readers. They possessed no lopsided library, but rather read more widely, and out of this background we see a high degree of evangelical endeavour. I'm sure that if our heritage is valid God can stir us through the minds of the great churchmen, the social reformers, the novelists and the playwright.

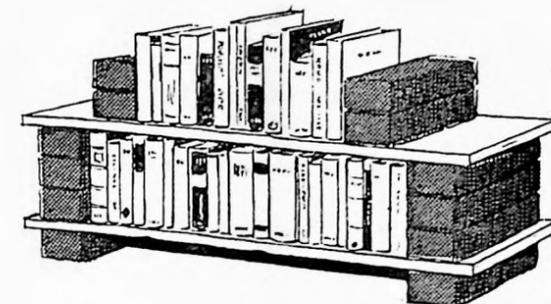
I hope that if ever you have to fill in a form dealing with your reading you will be able to answer in the affirmative, "I've read lately . . .!"

NEWS AND REPORTS

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The Australian Christian.





A Donald Duck Fan?

BY S. K. BANNON

A minister was recently visiting the home of a Senior English Master from a State secondary school. He found him engaged in his favourite pastime: reading Donald Duck comics.

Modern literature is vastly different from that of our fathers. They used weighty volumes of wisdom with small type, writers who were over-fond of many words, covers that were dull and unattractive. Today, books of this type lie on our shelves to be removed annually for spring cleaning.

Modern literature is prepared to catch the public eye; a bright picture on the cover, a writing style that is easy to follow, illustrations to lighten the logic. Yet Donald Duck and the T.V. seem more popular than a good book.

Perhaps we are not all to blame. The pressures of modern civilisation force us to seek relaxation. It remains true, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." The English master loved good literature, but needed time to relax.

I am concerned that in the midst of our relaxing we forget the stimulating of our minds, for congregational government demands an informed membership.

We lay great stress on the priesthood of all believers. With this privilege comes responsibility. Authoritarian forms of church government are far more successful than we are amongst people who are not prepared to think and study for themselves. These people are ready to accept the leadership of those who know. We feel this form of government is wrong, yet is it any worse than congregational government by a people who are not informed as to the facts of the faith, who are not informed when they are ready to vote on issues vital to the ongoing work of the Church?

Certainly we need relaxation in our reading. Certainly T.V. is relaxing, but let us not forget our responsibility to read books that contain information vital to our knowledge of the ongoing work of the Church. Be sure, our Lord will not hold us guiltless if we dare to come to any congregational meeting uninformed about the issues on which we are expected to vote, and direct the work of Christ's Church.

Certainly it was this lack of concern to be informed that led to the bottlenecking of Unified Promotion. I am sure that many of those whose indifference led to the breaking down of immediate plans, did not even bother to read what it was all about.

I am concerned that this same lack of discipline in our reading will lead us to lose the vision that made us a people.

The lofty ideal that inspired Thomas and Alexander Campbell to form our movement was that of a Christian Church united upon the basis of Scriptural truth.

Today in Australia, the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches are studying a Proposed basis of Union. Last year Federal Conference voted that we study this challenging statement, and next year vote as to whether we are prepared to attempt to enter into conversations with these churches.

It is stated clearly in the introduction to this Proposed Basis of Union that these churches are seeking to find a unity under God's guidance which is true to the teaching of Scripture. Surely they are stating, in similar words, the vision that inspired Thomas Campbell to begin the "Restoration Movement."

I am concerned lest our indifference to reading this statement will lead us to lose the Spirit of God upon our Movement.

This year, in State Conference, we could not proceed with Unified Promotion, largely through indifference. What answer will we give to Jesus Christ, our Lord, if through this same indifference to being informed, we are not ready to vote regarding our relationship to the Uniting Church of Australia.

Those who have prepared this Basis of Union do not ask that we agree with all they say. They do pray that we will read it and prayerfully compare its faithfulness to the Word of God. It builds up our ego to read literature

supporting our existing views, but it stimulates Christian growth to read literature that may even be opposed to our views. What a shock it is, when we find that the opposing view is more true to Scripture than our own. I must confess the shocks I have often received in this way.

The Proposed Basis of Union contains statements that will startle you. Remember, as you read, that Jesus Christ startled the traditional thinking of his day, when he walked this earth, and it is his Spirit at work in this move for Christian Unity.

I am concerned that amidst the vast amount of literature available we may forget our Christian stewardship in literature.

We talk about stewardship in relation to our money, our time, our talents. Christ demands stewardship of our reading also. As there is a limit in our busy lives to the total amount of reading we can do, we must be selective.

Provocative Pamphlets are a tremendous help in keeping us abreast with the latest thinking on a variety of Christian matters of concern. As you begin with a new zeal for Christian literature, ask your minister to recommend at least one stimulating book for your reading at this time.

Remember: Your right as a member of Christ's Church to have a say in its government demands that you be an informed Christian.

"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

THE CHRISTIAN LITERATURE WEEK BOOK LIST, 1965

1. CHURCHES OF CHRIST — Caring for Converts —	
CONTINUING WITH CHRIST — Frank Hunting	1/6
WHAT WE BELIEVE — E. James M. Flanagan	12/-
A FAITH TO LIVE BY — Osborn	11/-
2. DEVOTIONAL AND STUDY AIDS —	
THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT — William Barclay	3/6
IN THE ARENA — Isobel Kuhn	11/-
PRAYERS FOR THE HOME — Brenda Holloway	6/9
GOD AND HIS PEOPLE — Leonard Griffiths	4/6
3. MISSIONARY — Shared Experiences —	
JUNGLE PILOT — Russell T. Hill	7/6
DR. IDA — Dorothy Clarke Wilson	11/3
THE NIGHT THEY BURNED THE MOUNTAIN — Dooley	8/9
4. A GUIDE TO RETIREMENT —	
THE COMING YEARS — W. R. Hibbert	2/9
5. NEW LOOK BOOKS FOR THE CHRISTIAN —	
GOD'S FROZEN PEOPLE — Gibbs & Merton	5/6
WE, THE CRUCIFIERS — G. W. Targot	7/6
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE CHRISTIAN — C. A. Coulson	3/6

Prices are only approximate as they are subject to change.

The Australian Christian.

May 8



"THE PROMISE OF HIS SPIRIT"

By William Barclay.

Barclay's interpretation is both comforting and solemn in its warning. Delving into the riches of the fourth Gospel one finds that "the beginning, the middle and the end of the soul's surrender to Christ are the work of the "Spirit" (p. 45). Our guide takes us on through the Biblical panorama to examine the Holy Spirit in the expanding Church, in Paul's letters, and in the Church today. Here is a wealth of material indeed, on both the personal and the corporate operation and experience of the Spirit.

Constructively the writer draws us from a crude literalism regarding Pentecost, reminding us vividly that it was no "flash in the pan" event. Be it in the immediate post-Pentecost days, or today, the Spirit is necessary to the Church, its message, growth, fellowship, doctrine of conversion, indeed to the unification of the whole of the Church's life.

Here then is a "meaty" book that in itself will stimulate the reader's spirit. —David J. Andrews.

(This is the third in a series of book reviews supplied by the Federal Literature Committee in anticipation of Christian Literature Week, May 23 to 30.)

See also, "GOD AND HIS PEOPLE," by A. Leonard Griffith, in "A.C." 24/4/65, "GOD'S FROZEN PEOPLE," in "A.C." 1/5/65.

OBITUARY

L. G. Bangsund.

Leif G. Bangsund, of Northcote, Vic., died suddenly on April 16. He was a member of Churches of Christ for 35 years, at South Melbourne, Essendon and Northcote. Throughout the years he maintained an interest in South Melbourne, and returned there again and again to assist with services. He had an interest also in the Norwegian Church, being of Norwegian descent.

At Northcote, Mr. Bangsund served for a time as Bible School superintendent. He was a deacon for many years. For several years he was a delegate to Conference, including this year. He was

keenly appreciative of his children, and a kindly man both within and outside his home. He was a knowledgeable man, and particularly in some things able to advise. At all times it gave him pleasure to convey people to appointments at the Centre, or with the churches. Thus he served the brotherhood.

He stood in high esteem with men where he was employed, earning an enviable reputation as a Christian man. We regret our loss, but share his wife's and children's (John, Mrs. Warren, of New Zealand, and Ruth) affectionate memory and their faith and hope.

At the service in Northcote, W. T. Atkin, former minister at Northcote, and R. Hillbrich, appreciatively participated. —A. B. Withers.



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Bond-Bowden Tent Mission ... Clovelly Park, S.A.

The singing of "To God Be the Glory" was a fitting climax to what the Lord had done during four weeks of mission.

Permission to use a strategic site was withheld until the last minute. But members prayed in faith and thanked God when Amoco allowed us the full use of a site situated almost on the junction of two main roads. The willingness of another petrol company to transport, freely, the tent from W.A., and then later to return it, was another evidence of the provision of God.

The earnest, Bible-based messages of the missionary, Jack Bond, challenged the church members, as he spared none in his plea for all to be in right relationship with the Lord, and then with one another. This resulted in 43 rededications among those to whom the Lord had spoken.

The evidence of great interest in the tent mission was shown in the sustained nightly average attendance over one month of 230. Church delegations came, and returned. There were large numbers attending from the local district and surroundings, and great interest was shown by numerous people. Although there were also 43 first decisions, few were from outside the church, and this has given church members an urge to continue fervent and diligent in prayer. The preaching of Mr. Bond also gave all an added awareness of the lost state of those outside of Christ.

The prayer fellowship was a heart-warming time, as both Mr. Bond and Mr. Bowden, the song-leader, encouraged us to a 48-hour prayer vigil at the weekends, in which members pledged to spend at least half an hour watch in

meditation over the Word and in prayer. Not only members shared this time, but also those from other churches and church fellowships.

On the Lord's Days, too, many members bypassed their evening meal to spend the time in prayer at the tent. This has brought a deeper fellowship than ever before, as did the women's prayer meetings and men's early-morning prayer times.

Mr. Bond's ministry was supplemented by the gracious ministry of song-leader, Bill Bowden. His warmth of spirit and love for men and women paved the way for the preaching of the Word by God's servant. He was assisted at the piano by Mrs. Cunningham.

Many said, "We will never be the same again." "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature," and this was the testimony of many. "I have been a respectable church member for 20 years," said one, "but now Jesus Christ has truly come in and my whole life is changed." "I thank God for teaching me how to pray," testified another, whilst one man said, "Before I liked everyone — now I love you."

We saw God at work, and a testimony time held after the mission witnessed numbers rising to their feet to praise God. There were also several who dedicated their lives to full-time service for the Lord. The final thankoffering amounted to £950.

Those blessed during this wonderful time of mission are determined that the blessing will not be lost, nor the challenge. Prayer-times will continue, Bible teaching will be sustained, and converts nurtured in love and fellowship.

AEROSPHERE CRUSADE AT KYOGLE

D. G. Willis, with the help of several others, erected the big Aerosphere in the town of Kyogle, N.S.W., just 40 miles inland of Lismore, for a two-week crusade. The possibility was discussed with the elders of the Lismore church, and the final decision and plans were carried out by Mr. Willis himself.

Kyogle is a small town, with a population of those settled in their ideas, and who are strangers to the message of the New Testament.

Mr. Willis planned the crusade, with no support from a local church. On the contrary, the local churches instructed their people to have nothing to do with the crusade. Needless to say, this helped the crusade along, as the people came to see that which they had been told to stay away from. There was no permanent song leader, soloist or musician. These positions were filled by folk attending from the church at Lismore.

The site for the Aerosphere was the best there could have been, right next to the town baths and the Post Office.

Prior to the meetings, and also as they progressed, the evangelist was involved in a visitation programme to the shops, private town homes and several country places. No matter how it was looked at, the prospects for such a mission did not look bright. Just one or two families promised to be interested at all in what was going to happen.

From a beginning that could have been disappointing, with very small numbers attending, interest grew. Through the first week, after-school "Happy Hours" were held for the children, when an average of 60 per afternoon attended.

On the final Sunday night there were 30 local people in attendance. This was good, very good, as one considers that in the average tent mission, if there were 30 unsaved folk in attendance we would be doing very well. This was the crowning meeting of the crusade in all ways. Up until this point there had been no visible responses to the gospel invitation, but on this night there were nine who openly responded to the invitation.

—H. Kevin Christensen.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

300 AT GROTE STREET

(S.A.). Delegates to the Y.M.C.A. Easter Tournament were visitors to the evening service on April 18, when about 300 attended the service. N. Sewell was guest speaker. W. Watson conducted an after-church fellowship, with B. Ezzard as soloist. . . . Young people camped at Balaklava, with the minister, R. Greenhalgh as leader. . . . Mrs. Mabel Smith attended recent morning service, after an absence of two years of prolonged illness.

DRAMA PRESENTED

(Brighton Gardens, S.A.). At the C.W.F. 10th anniversary the women presented a drama, "There Is a Way," to 150 guests and members. Drama was repeated on Palm Sunday, with 200 present. . . . The church was packed for G.L.B. and Life Boys' parade on April 25, and three young people made decisions. . . . C.H.J. Wright, the minister, gave the address at the Anzac service in the City Hall, Brighton. The choir led the singing. . . . 71 girls are playing basketball this season; 8 teams entered in Churches of Christ competition. Men fielding 3 basketball teams. "A" grade tennis won premiership; cricket, runners-up. . . . The S.S. picnic was held at National Park on April 10.

COMMUNICATION

The S.A. Department of Christian Education's 1965 YOUTH WORKERS' CONFERENCE was held at Murray Bridge on April 26. The all-day Conference had the support of 85 registered delegates, and the theme was "Communication." The S.A. Director, K. D. Horne, was the chairman, and the two sessions, "What Is Communication?" (E.C.L. Ots) and "The Communicator and His Tools" (R. Clymer) were full of interest and information. The closing session, "Your Problem, Please," was a lively question session, with K. Parry as compere. The closing devotions were taken by K. Pitt. The ladies of the Murray Bridge church catered for the visitors with all the excellence for which they are famed.

• MUSIC

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"SOUTHSIDE SWINGALONG" AT ROCKDALE

Late last year the minister at Rockdale, N.S.W., C. J. Mackenzie, approached the young people of the church about co-operating with Sydney Youth for Christ in a series of teenage programmes. The purpose of these would be to reach the unchurched teens in the area.

The young people received the idea with enthusiasm. The Y.F.C. team, led by Barry Frew, lost no time in arranging preliminary programmes to show us what "Swingalong" would be like. Beginning in February, and continuing until "Swingalong" started in March, Friday nights were devoted to training sessions in which the Y.F.C. team passed on to us their knowledge of contacting and counselling teams.

During these weeks leading up to "Swingalong," 6,000 leaflets, as well as posters and folders, were distributed in the district, especially at the local High Schools. These carried interesting slogans ("Park your hoss and step inside for a night in the wild west") and designs, which were produced by Bill Black, of Y.F.C.

These certainly attracted some attention, reaching areas on the north side of the harbour, and as far as ten miles south of Rockdale. Statistics showed that about 40 per cent of the audience each night were non-churchgoers, and many of these came back night after night. About 1,200 were reached.

We feel that the main reason for this was the professional quality of the programmes, highlights of which were "Folk Night," "Rhythm Round-up" and a "Hawaiian and Calypso Night." Another reason for the large attendances was the obvious sincerity and devotion of the team, both musicians who told about what Christ meant to

them as teens, and those who gave the nightly "Sharp Talk to Teens."

After the programmes, coffee and soft drinks were available in "Teen Tavern," members of the Y.F.C. team remarked that this idea was new to them, and it proved a worthwhile innovation, for it gave our young people an opportunity to discuss the programme and counsel the visitors.

The six "Southside Swingalong" programmes were a great spiritual enrichment to the Rockdale church, especially to the young people, and resulted in a number of non-church teenagers committing their lives to Christ. Contact with young people in the district will be maintained by means of our weekly "Southside Teen Club."

—Joy Stephenson.

MONBULK CHAPEL AIDED

(Cheltenham, Vic.). The Good Companions raised £10 from a sale for the Monbulk Chapel Appeal. . . . Officers' dedication service was held at morning service of April 4. Alan Jenkins spoke at a men's tea on "Work Among the Aborigines." A youth tea was also held at which Rev. Dickson, of the British and Foreign Bible Society spoke. . . . Both cricket teams and two tennis teams won premierships. Two members of C.Y.F. made good confession on Sunday, May 2.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This year's Conference was indeed an inspiration, and in all respects one of the best for years. It was marked by particularly large attendances, magnificent singing by both choir and congregations, and an exceptionally fine programme throughout.

Business sessions, at times well debated, were conducted in a good spirit. Reports showed growth in almost every sphere, and indicated a bright future. Addresses were of a very high order, an outstanding contribution in this regard being the messages from Stanley M. Sewell, M.A., B.D., recently from Thailand, and en route to become Principal of Overdale College in England. He and his wife and four children arrived at Fremantle on April 10, and thoroughly enjoyed their stay in Perth before leaving by the "Westland" for Adelaide on April 15.

THE PROGRAMME.

Conference commenced with a review of the year by the President, E. C. Smith, the remainder of the evening being a Social Service Rally. A very fine audio-visual — "Investment in Serenity" — showed the development of Homes for our Aged Folk. An illuminating address was given by Major Hunter, of the Salvation Army. He is the Superintendent of the Seaforth Home for Alcoholics, and made some telling points in regard to alcoholism in the community. There are about 10,000 alcoholics in Perth.

Business Sessions were conducted on April 9 and 10. Saturday evening was devoted to a Missionary Rally, the addresses being shared by Sonny Graham, of Norseman, and S. M. Sewell made his first appearance. Sonny did particularly well, and Mr. Sewell gave an excellent missionary message, with illustrations of his experiences in Thailand. Prior to the meeting he showed some movie films of the people of that country.

On Sunday afternoon, one of the largest audiences for several years heard our guest speaker preach what many regarded as the best Conference Sermon for some time. It was well prepared, very ably delivered, and certainly gave food for thought as we were reminded of the problems that face the church and Christians in these very critical modern days.

If this report appears to be filled with superlatives, it is unavoidable. The Youth Night programme was an outstanding effort. A focus on Girls' Brigade was followed by the introduction of three young men who had, two days before, been presented by the Governor with the Boys' Brigade Queens Badge. Then we saw "Let Us Arise and Work," an excellently produced play, rounded off by a message from G. Carslake, of Kalgoorlie.

The final evening meeting, on Thursday, was well attended. The result of

68th CONFERENCE

APRIL 8 to 16.

"PREACH - TEACH - REACH"

the ballot was declared and, by a happy arrangement, the incoming President, George Smith, was unexpectedly present. He had returned from England as a migrant ship chaplain, and spent a few hours in port on the night before Conference commenced, but most of the migrants disembarked at Adelaide, and on arrival at Melbourne, the Immigration Department had arranged for Mr. Smith to be taken direct to the airport. Besides his introduction and response, the programme also included recognition of the outgoing Presidents of both the General and Women's Conferences, an address by K. Turner (Inglewood) and pictures of and commentary on, Home Mission work by K. J. Patterson (Home Missions secretary).

An inspiring Easter devotion held on Good Friday morning brought the Conference programme to a close. About 900 attended, and the address was given by F. Rees (Fremantle).

Some highlights of interest are:—

- Active membership increased from 3,273 to 3,333.
- Aggregate membership increased from 5,352 to 5,456.
- Bible School scholars exceed 4,000 for the first time — total 4,064.
- Offerings for all purposes exceeded

£100,000 for first time — total £103,468.

Formation of native church at Norseman Christian Centre.

Bethesda Hospital extensions at cost of over £100,000.

Flats and Homes now accommodate 60 aged folk.

Mutual Fund deposits total over £15,000.

Outreach and Development contributions exceeded £7,000 for all purposes.

Offering of £101/18/4 for Preachers' Provident Fund at Conference Sermon session, exceeded £100 for first time.

Conference Executive increased by one — a Home Missionary Committee representative.

Executive representation on Home Missionary Committee reduced by four, and elected members increased by same number. Committee to appoint its own chairman, who previously was the Conference President by virtue of the Constitution.

Aborigines Committee asked to submit to 1966 Conference a report on discrimination.

—A. D. Pyne.

"THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN" 50 YEARS AGO 1915

Billy Sundayisms. "We've got to be aggressive. Christianity is a battle, not a dream. There's only one easy peace, and that's in a coffin, and I don't expect any rest until I get there. If many armies were officered like some of our churches, they would be defeated

at the first pop of a gun. Some church officials rattle around like dried peas in a boot, making some old clinkety-clack prayer. It's hard to get them to go out for sinners as it is to drag a cat by the tail over a piece of carpet." Six O'Clock Victory. In some of our S.A. churches last Lord's Day, the Doxology was sung in thankfulness for the 6 p.m. victory at the polling booths... W.A. Conference. Church membership shown at 1,603, a net increase of 108, 15 Bible Schools, 1,525 scholars, 222 teachers. Reg. Enniss. The Presidential address by Reg. Enniss at the Victorian Conference was titled "Longer Pastorates and Concerted Benevolent Work." The new President was H. E. Knott, the Secretary was Thos. Hagger. The churches at Ararat, Essendon, Galah, Gardiner, Jumbuk, Kaneira and Lake Boga were received into the Conference.



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Further information from the Secretary, Elm-rd., Glen Iris, Vic.

• WOMEN'S CONFERENCES . . .

New South Wales

Mrs. Bloore, the President, was in the chair and welcomed over 400 ladies to the 71st Annual Conference.

The devotions were led by Mrs. J. Henderson, the incoming President, who centred our thoughts around Psalm 116: 12 and 17. Mrs. Leach, from Burwood, rendered the solo, "Strengthen My Heart for the Journey."

Mrs. Bloore especially welcomed the country delegates and visitors, and Miss R. Rofe, Miss R. Mudford, from New Guinea, and Miss Thornton, from the Mission at Norseman. Mrs. Main, from Warrawang, responded for the country sisters, and each of the missionaries brought a greeting. Miss H. Russell, from the Sudan United Mission, was also present and brought a greeting.

Mrs. Bloore welcomed the new ministers' wives: Mrs. Ewers, from Burwood; Mrs. Stow, from Tamworth; Mrs. Wheat, Padstow, and Mrs. Hawkins, Carramar.

There was a deal of discussion concerning hospital visiting, and various suggestions made for alternate places for visiting now that Newington has closed down. After discussion it was decided that Mrs. Reed, the Superintendent, meet with the Executive and then arrange visiting.

Miss Rofe, the Treasurer, presented the Financial Statement, and brought the recommendation from the Finance Committee for the distribution of Budget monies.

The Secretary brought the notice of motion concerning the £300 held by the ladies for years for the Youth Dept. There were various comments and discussion on the motion, and then an amendment was made that the money be paid to the committee to be used for the furnishing and lining of a Prayer Room at Lake Illawarra. This was carried unanimously.

There were about 27 senior sisters present over 75 years of age, and each received a small gift.

Mrs. Anderson brought the Call to Worship for the afternoon session. Mr. Hart, Conference President, brought a greeting. The ladies of Epping C.W.F. sang two numbers during the day, "O, to Be Like Thee" and "So Send I You."

Mr. Hart was special speaker for the afternoon, and he brought a challenging and inspiring message on the Conference theme, "So Send I You."

The incoming President, Mrs. J. Henderson, was introduced, and then the Superintendent and Mrs. J. Dickson led in a prayer of dedication. Mrs. Henderson thanked Mrs. Bloore for her year of service and presented her with a copy of the Bible.

Mrs. Fishburn moved a vote of thanks to all who had helped in any way toward the success of the day, making special mention of the flowers and catering.

—J. Torode, Asst. Sec.

Victoria - Tasmania

The President, Mrs. Newham, presided over the 79th Annual Conference. During her Presidential year many groups of women have been led to think more deeply upon the love of God through devotional talks prepared and given by Mrs. Newham, and so it was proper that she should be invited to conduct the morning devotions based on the theme, "The Church in a Needy World."

Who Was There? This seemed to be very much a "Country Women's" Conference! Never have we seen so many of our country members of C.W.F. in attendance at State Conference. Many, having been present at Centennial Dinner, were able to remain for C.W.F. Conference. During the day representatives from every State in Australia, from Inter-Church groups, from women's organisations were welcomed. The President of General Conference, G. S. Brown, and Federal Pres. of C.W.F., Mrs. J. Strack, were also welcomed.

Reports. The secretary, Mrs. Rankine, drew attention to the fact that during the past year repairs and replacements had been necessary to Ludbrook House. A washing machine and a refrigerator were two major replacements. Attention must be given to the repainting of interior and exterior of this property, and every member of every group was

urged to continue to contribute 2/- per annum towards the maintenance of this missionary home. Because of the increase in missionary personnel this Home is really fulfilling its purpose.

The committees featured this year brought focus upon their work by means of slides and tape recorded commentary. Points of interest were:— Catering Committee has provided more meals for brotherhood committees than at any other period.

Camps continue to provide opportunities for spiritual stimulus for 400 ladies who attend the three camps held each year, and Bethany Children's Home was assisted by a special effort by Evening Fellowship Committee, when £87 was raised.

Centennial Dinner. Words of thanks to all who had worked and contributed to the success of the dinner were expressed by the President, Mrs. Newham, and by G. S. Brown, who spoke on behalf of General Conference.

Address. During afternoon session, Dr. Eira Eden, Principal of Ladies' College, "Janet Clarke Hall," spoke upon the purpose and place of a Principal among University girls in College.

Golden Bags. Again this year the special Project was received, and £1,139

(which included £101 from Choral Concert, £177 from sale of the record of Miss Jean Milne's songs) was given toward the erection of Waterman Memorial Chapel at Monbulk Camp.

Business. Attention was drawn to the fact that since last Conference we had become affiliated through Inter-Church Council with the newly formed Australian Church Women Council. Mrs. J. Strack, as Churches of Christ Federal representative, attended the inaugural session of A.C.W., and spoke of this occasion and invited all to become participants with women throughout the world in the "Fellowship of the Least Coin."

Federal Handbooks. Mrs. Heard, Publicity Officer, spoke of the new Federal Handbook, which would come off the press at end of 1965, and suggested that all groups should place orders with State secretary, so that in 1966 all could share together with C.W.F. members through whole of Australia by using the one book of studies.

As a means of co-ordinating and unifying the whole of C.W.F., an Amendment to Constitution was passed, which will allow one other to be added to the Executive, this person to be a sitting member of Evening Fellowship Committee.

Temperance. A letter of commendation from this C.W.F. Conference to the Country Party of Victoria will be forwarded, congratulating them on their decision not to favour alteration to hotel hours without a referendum of the people.

World Christian Women's Fellowship. Concerning Haiti Project: the first book, "Hygiene and Family Care," is now published and is being distributed to people of Haiti. A book depicting the work of C.W.F. in Australia during past five years is almost ready, and will be taken by Mrs. Wylie, Australian C.W.F. representative, to the World Convention. President expressed good wishes and prayed that God's blessing would be with Mrs. Wylie as she travels overseas.

Treasurer's Report. After drawing attention to the report in the Conference Handbook, Mrs. Gillespie stated that total cash giving for past year was as follows: Overseas Missions, £1,600; Home Missions, £887; College of the Bible, £187; Aborigines, £362, and that £1,139 (including proceeds from Choral Concert, £101, and profit from sale of Miss J. Milne's record, £177) would be given through Golden Bags to Waterman Memorial Chapel Building Fund at Monbulk. Over £1,900 was also given to Social Service from Annual Women's Appeal. Attention was drawn to the fact that Affiliation Fees are based on total membership of church and not on C.W.F. membership. Words of praise were given to Tasmanian C.W.F. for splendid contributions.

Incoming Officers: President, Mrs. H. Dickson; Pres.-Elect, Mrs. E. Heard, Pres.-Elect, Mrs. D. Ferguson; Secretary, Mrs. R. Rankine; Asst.-Sec., Miss P. Ludbrook; Treas., Mrs. I. Gillespie; Past Pres., Mrs. W. Newham.

A splendid pageant entitled "The Living Book," written by Mrs. K. Clencie, produced by Mrs. G. Conning and presented by over 40 members of Evening Fellowship.

—Dorothy Sterling.

Easter Camp Report, 1965

Port Sorell, on the North-west coast of Tasmania, was the site for the annual Easter Y.P. Camp. 51 campers and 8 leaders attended. High winds and heavy rain made outdoor activities very unpleasant, the only successful outing being a barbecue.

Each morning we had our own personal quiet time, followed by breakfast and camp chores, and then one of the highlights of the camp, the Fellowship Hour. This was a time of singing, sharing of thoughts from the quiet time, and personal testimonies of the power of Jesus Christ in their lives. The hour concluded with the introduction to the study by "Uncle" Bill (E. W. Taylor, Devonport).

The studies were a very personal challenge to each one of us as we studied "The Book of Sacrifice," by Howard Guinness, under the general theme of "Facing the Cross," and sub-readings of:

1. Facing the Poverty of the Cross.
2. Facing the Love of the Cross.
3. Facing the Discipline of the Cross.
4. Facing the Experience of the Cross.

On the Sunday morning we held an early morning communion service, and looked briefly at the Purpose of the Cross. At the gospel service the address given by "Uncle" Ed. (E. K. Morrison, Invermay) was the Meaning of the Cross, to God, to Christ, to Man. There was also a sad note to this service, as it is probably the last time that many of us would see and hear "Uncle" Ed., as he leaves shortly to take up a new ministry in Victoria. His thoughts, experience and fellowship will be missed by the many young people throughout Tasmania. The campers and leaders are sincerely grateful to him and pray that God will bless him in his future work. —Christ. Peart.

QUEEN'S BADGE AWARD

(Bassendean, W.A.). Ken Bruce was awarded the Queen's Badge in the Boys' Brigade. It was presented to him by the Governor of W.A., Sir Douglas Kendrew, at Government House, along with two boys from the Bunbury church. The church farewelled Laurie Errington on removal to Wagin in the South-West, for business reasons, and Sis. Corrie Romeyn, who has enlisted in the Army and moved to Sydney. The C.W.F. continue to visit Penrose Home regularly for fellowship with the elderly people and have planned a social evening to raise funds to equip the mission launch, "The Grace". Mrs. E. W. Sewell, Federal Pioneer Officer, arrived home from the East after attending a Girls' Brigade Conference. The new manse is near completion. E. J. Sewell is minister.

RENOVATIONS

(Maryborough - Baddow - Hervey Bay, Qld.). A working bee has commenced to cement around edge of outside walls of chapel and hall at Maryborough to add to appearance and bolster foundations. After leading at large C.E. Convention at Chinchilla at Easter, preceded by mission at Telopea, N.S.W., the minister, D. G. Nelson, has returned. Bible School scholars, parents and friends enjoyed the annual school picnic held at Sports Reserve, Pialba-Hervey Bay on April 10.

DR. JONES AT ST. PAUL'S

(Swanston-st., Melbourne). Dr. Lloyd Jones was the preacher at the annual divine service held by the Insurance Institute of Victoria for insurance officers and their families, held on April 28 at St. Paul's Cathedral. There was a large attendance. Services at Swanston-st. are well attended, including large groups of Asian students. Midday pre-Easter services successful. Stanley M. Sewell preacher on May 2. A young man made his confession of faith on April 25.

GIRLS' CHOIR

(Hurstville, N.S.W.). A girls' choir has been formed by Mrs. T. Gayford and R. Hutchens. The girls, led by Mrs. Gayford, sang a couple of weeks ago at our evening service. Their singing was very much appreciated. Mr. and Mrs. C. Cordy, and one of their sons, Stewart, are returning to Melbourne this month, for business reasons. Since March, 1963, £125 has been given by the Sunday School children for the care of a little Indian girl, Chandralekla.

AEROSPHERE CRUSADE

(Carramar, N.S.W.). The Aerosphere Crusade for Christ is in its second week. The local paper gave us a front page article, and the week of Children's Adventure Hour made the Crusade a byword. Numbers of people from the district have attended and other churches have been faithful in support. The A.N.C.M. from Fairfield are constant in attendance, and a nurse from there has already accepted Christ. On Sat., May 1, Nationality Night was held, with G. Wladysluk and the Slavic church taking part. Numerous people from Europe are in attendance. Attendances and interest has been high and 14 young people have already made decisions for Christ. Max Harrison (Belmore) and Don Baxter (Padstow) led in song and praise sessions.

TASMANIAN BOYS

(Devonport). 22 boys and leaders from L.B.B. attended a camp at Turner's Beach. Boys enjoyed flying kites which they had made. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor (Devonport) and Mr. Morrison (Invermay) were leaders at a Y.P. camp at Port Sorell during Easter period. 60 were in camp. At gospel service on April 4, a married lady decided for Christ. On April 8, C.W.F. ladies journeyed to Caveside for a combined meeting with Caveside ladies. At week-night meeting, L. Thompson, O.M.S., gave interesting illustrated talk on Japan. K. Thomas gave an illustrated talk on missionary work in India.

"EVERYMAN" PRESENTED

(Canberra, A.C.T.). The Inter-Church Committee and the University Players presented the play, "Everyman," at Easter time as a united Christian Witness. The Young People's Dinner Club had a forum and discussion on the "Meaning of the Cross". Teenagers hiked from Scrivener Dam over Black Mountain on the Anzac holiday. A men's retreat was held from April 30 to May 2 at Sturt Island Camp, when 18 men from the church spent the weekend with the primary purpose of listening for the voice of God through the Bible to each man in the living situation. The youth auxiliaries paraded at the evening service on May 2 to mark Youth Sunday. Bob Dean was the preacher.

MOVEMENTS

CHANGE FOR STRATHMORE

(Vic.). The minister, A. J. Lloyd, has indicated that he will conclude his ministry at the end of the year. The goods from the successful Harvest Festival were donated to the College of the Bible. A Planned Giving campaign is being planned; it will be followed by an evangelistic effort. The purchase of a manse for a prospective new minister is almost completed. "A" and "B" tennis teams won their respective grand final matches. The Penny Building Fund organised by the Sunday School has reached £100. The C.W.F. is conducting street stalls to augment its building fund. The C.M.F. is engaged in working bees around the church, including painting.

MINISTER CALLED

(Ascot Park, S.A.). The church is very pleased to intimate that Colin Dredge, exit student from the College of the Bible, has accepted the invitation to minister with the church, commencing in 1966. He will succeed R. H. Sercombe. The Easter meetings were good. On Good Friday morning a combined meeting was held with the Parkholme Baptist church in their chapel.

National Diary

MAY

- 8-9 V. C.E. Missionary Demonstration and Rally.
- 11 V. C.Y.F. Impact.
- 12 V. Department of Home Missions & Evangelism Quarterly Prayer Rallies.
- 12 S.A. "Seminar on Evangelism."
- 17-21 S.A. Junior High School Camp at Longwood.
- 17, 19, 21 V. Explorer Junior Leaders' Course.
- 17-20 V. Good Companions' Camp (11-year-olds), Monbulk.
- 21 S.A. Kinder and Primary Teachers' Conference with Miss Marge Deane — Grote-st.
- 23-30 V. Christian Literature Week — Literature Department.
- 26 V. Leader Training Course Begins — 10 weeks — D.C.E.
- 27-June 6 V. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity — Union Department.
- 28 S.A. Baptist Church of Christ Men's Rally in Meade Hall.
- 28-31 S.A. Superintendent's Camp at Camp Bala-klava.
- 29 S.A. Laying of Foundation Stone at Whyalla by R. W. Tippett.
- 30 Q. Mission at Boonah, Qld., with E. P. C. Holland.

MANSE PROPERTY PURCHASED

(Springvale, Vic.). The church recently purchased the property adjoining the church, comprising land and small dwelling place. Extensive alterations were made and the house was completely remodelled to a very high standard of comfort and convenience. Much of the work was done by voluntary labor, and many of the modern fittings were donated by church members and friends. The Armstrongs moved from the old manse to the new one early in the month. Members are busy working for a Time and Talent effort at present. Ten shilling notes were handed out to the congregation and everybody is very busy watching the money grow. Ingenuity of the people in applying their talents never ceases to amaze. The last Sunday in June has been set aside for the return of "talents." Present indications are that we shall be amply provided with money to repaint the interior of the church buildings. It is anticipated that the repainting of the exterior of the chapel will be commenced by contractors next week.

MANY ADDITIONS

(Fremantle, W.A.). 40 additions during first six months of the ministry of F. Rees, and 15 more confessions in recent weeks. B.S. reached 232, an increase of over 100 in six months. Y.P. organised a film night in the local hall, with "Oil Town U.S.A." Over 170 attended, and 16 responded to the invitation. Church is planning building extensions to cope with increasing numbers.

OUR SLAVIC CHURCH

(N.S.W.). A time of rich blessing was enjoyed by the Slavic church over the Easter period. Commencing on Good Friday, and going through to Easter Monday, daily meetings were held at City Temple, with the following topics, "Why Did Christ Die?", "When Will the Dead Be Resurrected?", "Who Will Not Be in Paradise?", and "Why People Die Twice." A rich time of Christian fellowship was enjoyed at the love feast on Saturday, at Paddington Hall, with an impromptu programme from the members and visitors. The church rejoiced when Neshka Kiner obeyed her Lord through baptism, following which, for the first time, she was able to remember her Master in observance of his Supper. On the whole, the church was able to contact, in those four days, 18 unbelievers for the first time, during which the services and the items were in Russian, Yugoslav and Polish languages.

A MUSICAL AFTERNOON

with
CHURCHES OF CHRIST CHORAL SOCIETY
 Conductor: Valentine Woff.
SUNDAY, MAY 16, at 3 p.m.
COLLINGWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST (Vic.)
 (Stanton-st.)

Offering to be received for Chapel Debt Appeal. ALL WELCOME.

ages. Pray for further blessing amongst the Slavic people. . . . G. Wladysluk is minister.

DEGREE GAINED

(Red Cliffs, Vic.). Denis West earned the congratulations of the church in gaining the Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree. The monthly "Golden Bells" services continue to create interest. A number of members attended State Conf. Mrs. P. Reading and Miss C. Dedman are now leaders of girls' club. The C.W.E.F. held an "evening" in the manse and brought utensils for Youth Camp kitchen. Mrs. R. Wescombe showed slides and spoke of her recent visit to the Indian mission fields. C.W.A.F. recommenced on April 8. C.Y.F. was well represented at Sunraysia Easter Youth Camp. All campers came to Red Cliffs church on Easter Sunday night. 136 were present. A time of song and a cup of tea followed.

ANZAC COMMUNION

(Balwyn, Vic.). An impressive Anzac communion service was led by ex-Serviceman, Tom Gaisford. Evening service helped by Good Companions taking part. Recent after-church fellowship held, when presentation was made to two S.S. teachers prior to marriage. Y.A.F. arranged recent "Door Knock" appeal to aid Elderly Citizens' Club. Endeavourers active and increasing in numbers.

CANTATA PRESENTED

(Hornsby, N.S.W.). A special feature on Sunday, April 25 was the presentation of the cantata, "Hallelujah! What a Saviour," by a visiting choir. Mr. Hilford conducted the early part of the service and H. Bishop was the narrator. Good weather aided an enjoyable church picnic to Bungool on April 26. The church extends sympathy to Mrs. Hilford in the passing of her mother, Mrs. Newell, of Perth, and to A. L. Morton, in the passing of his brother, Alf, of Heathcote, N.S.W.

D. R. STIRLING DIES

(Melb.). One of Australia's best known preachers, D. R. Stirling, the father of G. R. Stirling, minister at Canberra, A.C.T., died suddenly on April 29. There was a private cremation service on April 30. An obituary notice will be published at an early date.

MRS. A. N. HINRICHSEN FATALLY BURNED

(Ohio, U.S.A.). Mrs. A. N. Hinrichsen was fatally burned in a house fire on April 21. Mrs. Hinrichsen will be remembered as the former Rene Kelly, of East Kew, Vic. She was a convert of E. C. Hinrichsen, at East Kew, 1923. The Hinrichsens together had ministries at Maryborough, Qld., Invermay, Tas., Kalgoorlie, W.A. and Bendigo, Vic.

The Hinrichsens came to serve the Hudson church six months ago in a first full-time ministry. A parsonage has been purchased. There have been over 20 additions to the church. Mr. Hinrichsen's plans are not known at this time, but this address will reach him: c/o Mrs. Wm. Gardiner, 9570 Riverview-rd., Brecksville 41, Ohio, U.S.A., 44141. Mrs. Gardiner is his youngest daughter, Barbara, who left Australia at the age of two, in 1938. They have two other married daughters, Norma and Leona. Mrs. Hinrichsen was 61 years of age.

ADVANCE TO CAMPING PROGRAMME

(Sydney). The N.S.W. Department of Christian Education is to make two important steps forward in camping for 1965. The camping programme to have an added three Bible study camps, God willing. These will be spaced throughout the year at regular intervals. They are to be short weekends (Friday evening - Sunday afternoon) but given over to a solid schedule of Bible study along a chosen theme.

A second permanent camp site has been officially set aside for Christian camping. The new site is 40 acres of woodland and mountain, set on the shores of Lake Macquarie, at South Swansea (near Newcastle). The Conference President, E. T. Hart, brought the address to the assembled group on the day. A great thankoffering was taken. Provisions have been made for picnic lunching and barbeuing on the site also. —Bruce Armstrong, Director.

WITH METHODISTS

(Preston, Vic.). Inspiring combined communion service, with South Preston Methodists, held in our chapel, Good Friday morning, Mr. Hunkin (Methodist) being speaker. The film, "The Power of the Resurrection," was screened on April 11.

Victorian "YOUTH UNITED"

June 19, July 10, August 14

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NEW SOUTH
WALES

80th CONFERENCE

When the first Conference was held in N.S.W., in 1885, it is on record that the President, Dr. Kingsbury, was so stirred by the message delivered that, at the final session he was unable to express, verbally, his thanks and feelings. Now, exactly 80 years later, our experience from this Conference was almost the same. The President certainly was not lost for words, but we were all aroused by the challenging messages of Dr. James Jauncey.

As an innovation, one speaker was engaged for the Friday and Saturday rallies and the Service of Witness. The theme which permeated the messages was a challenge to what the power of God can do. Dr. Jauncey told us of his humble beginnings, the problems he faced, and the hopelessness he once felt. These had not only been overcome but gloriously replaced by abundant life in Christ. The challenge came to each of us that Christ can do the same for us and make us abundantly useful. Undoubtedly the final rally — or Service of Witness — was by far the best for many years.

Such a challenge was but a fitting conclusion to the other meetings of Conference. Frank Hunting had, from his personal observation challenged us to our missionary responsibility. The devotional messages of E. T. Hart, F. Ewers, A. Rae and F. Stow also made a pronounced contribution to the spirit which pervaded our gatherings.

Mr. Hart had led us in an Onward and Upward campaign throughout the year. The result was that we came to gatherings in a spirit of expectancy, thinking in a positive way of what God would have us do. The business sessions were better attended than for a number of years. Much progress was reported to the delegates.

One of the most pleasing steps taken was the approval of the Social Service Committee's recommendations concerning a 40-bed hospital for aged and chronic cases. This is a most ambitious scheme; however, the Social Service Department had investigated the matter thoroughly and thus were instructed to proceed with

the project. Another field of activity for this committee was the emphasis on industrial chaplaincy. We learned of the need in industry for this avenue of gospel witness and of our participation in it. These two major items are set against a greatly increased Homes programme. The past year saw the opening at the Home at Croydon and the preliminary steps to the establishing of a Rest Home at Thirroul.

We were thrilled to learn of the advances in the Home Mission field. Four new churches — Engadine, North Turramurra, Dapto and Blaxland — are being organised at the present time and should all become operative in the near future. One of these has already been received



Colin E. Bowser,
New President.

into Conference along with two other churches which the H.M. Committee helped sponsor recently.

The heartening feature is that these new churches have been made possible by the assistance given from well established churches. This is an example of real evangelistic zeal on the part of the churches in this State. There are other centres also marked out for development in the near future. It is worthy of note that 15 churches received help from Home Missions in the past year.

Most committees were able to report a similar advance. The Department of Christian Education now have their new Director in full-time service. During the year they also achieved a long-standing ambition when a new camp site was opened on the shores of Lake Macquarie.

In addition, the Bookroom has been completely reorganised, and should now serve a more active purpose than it has been doing.

The College Board indicated that their course had undergone a reorganisation, resulting in the work covered serving as a preparation for the B.D. degree of London University. This will enable those who desire further study to be well prepared for it. A part-time training course has been conducted this year to help those people in the brotherhood who feel the need to be better equipped for their particular avenue of service.

Conference has been examining ways of financing the expanding work of this State for some time. As a result a recommendation was brought to establish a Brotherhood Deposits Fund. This will operate along somewhat similar lines to those already existing in some other States.

At the closing session a tribute was paid to the leadership of Mr. Hart, as President, and Mr. Crawford, as Secretary. Both were given a presentation as they relinquished these offices. E. T. Hart now becomes Conference Secretary, and Colin E. Bowser is the new President. Conference also appointed C. Cole to the position of President-Elect and P. Morton to the position of Vice-President.

THEY SANG THEIR EASTER

I found something different when I joined the Victorian Baptist Youth Choir Easter Houseparty. Dominating the camp programme was preparation for the performance of the cantata, "Golgotha."

The choir flew Dr. R. W. Beal from Adelaide to direct the daily "workshops." Under his energetic direction, thirty choristers learnt the whole cantata in three days, as well as twenty hymns from the new Baptist hymn book. "For God is the King of the earth: sing ye praises with understanding" (Psalm 47:7) was a favorite verse of Dr. Beal.

"Golgotha" is a modern expression of the Easter story, in narrative and song, written by Americans, Robert and Jeana Graham. The climax of the camp was the performance of the whole cantata, in the hills of Healesville, on Easter Sunday night.

A full programme was enjoyed by a group whose welcoming fellowship was appreciated by a stranger who belongs to the Campbell Singers, our own recently-formed youth choir. — John Oldfield.

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THE COMMUNITY OF PEACE

BY J. E. BROOKE

On the fiftieth anniversary of Anzac Day, in the midst of the memories of war, the desire of everyone for peace becomes the more poignant and passionate. There is a special aptness, then, in the Easter narrative in the latter part of the twentieth chapter of John.

It tells how, after the triumph of his resurrection, our Lord Jesus returned to constitute and commission that group of his followers which was to be the nucleus of his church. The disciples were huddled together behind barred doors in fear for themselves from the authorities who had slain their Lord. Yet, in spite of the barriers, the risen Lord appeared in their midst. He came with the blessing of peace. Twice within a few verses we read that he said to them, "Peace be unto you."

It was more than a mere conventional greeting. It was a real conveyance of the gift of his peace. So the church at its very commencement became a community of peace. And this was to be a very important part of its purpose and programme.

The hearts of men everywhere long for peace, and it is the mission of the church, in its Lord's name, to seek to meet that yearning and that need. At a time when people are heavy with the memory and anxious with the dread of war, we might well go back to that Easter rendezvous, to receive afresh the benediction of Christ's peace, and learn how to minister it for him to the needy world about us.

1. A Proven Peace

Note, first, that the peace Christ gives to his church is a proven peace. "He stood in their midst and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side." That is to say, his wounds were to be the warrant for his words.

All too often, our thought of peace is unrealistic, because we tend to conceive it in escapist terms as a sheltered thing. We seek it in easy circumstances by self-absorption, avoidance of adventure, shirking of responsibility, and forgetfulness of others.

Such peace, however, is too precarious. It cannot be maintained. Sooner or later harsh happenings crash through the protective screen with which we have surrounded ourselves, and with the sinews of our souls slackened and enfeebled by ease, we find it doubly hard to face such adversity.

We need, then, a peace that is real and strong. This is the peace which Christ gives to his own — a peace that is independent of circumstances, and is prepared for any trial or demand.

"A peace there is, in sacrifice secluded,
A life subdued, from will and passion free;

'Tis not the peace that over Eden brooded,
But that which triumphed in Gethsemane."

2. A Propelling Peace

Secondly, the peace Christ gives is a propelling peace. "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you. As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." It is a peace, not so much for enjoyment, as for service.

The great thing in our Lord's eyes is not only to have peace, but to give and to make it. Some are always needing to have a message of personal peace preached to them. But true Christians have such strong and secure peace that they are able to forget themselves in care for others. True peace is not possessive and protective. It is not hedged around with negations and safeguards. It is positive and out-going. John Ruskin celebrated, "not the calm, but the givers of calm." Our Lord blessed, not the peaceful, but the "peacemakers."

"As my Father hath sent me." He left that "Fair country where sweet peace sits crowned with smiles, and did in pure love descend to die here for our sake." "Even so send I you." We are to go forth from his presence which is heaven itself, into a world which is nearer to being hell. We are sent forth, as he was, to give and to make heaven's peace.

It is our task to beseech men, and to aid them, to be reconciled to God. As Christians we are to live in a world at enmity with God, for the purpose of leading men to be at peace with him, and with one another in him. Of course, we can bring to men this peace, not by any skill of diplomacy or charm of manner of our own, but only by being channels of God's own love and grace.

At a great student conference in America, at one session a Japanese student showed a film of Hiroshima just after the atomic bombing. When they split up into discussion groups, there was one group consisting largely of Asiatic students. As they assembled, the air was full of tension. Immediately, a Moslem student from Afghanistan addressed the American leader, "Well, what have you Americans to say for yourselves now?" For more than half an hour the American struggled to justify his nation, but no one felt that he had succeeded. The tension was heavier than ever.

Then a little Japanese girl rose, and in faltering voice began to speak. Pointing to a little Chinese companion, she told how, when she first came to that College she had felt embarrassed by contact with one with whose nation hers had been so long at war. But the spirit of Christian love which the Chinese girl had shown towards her had won her

to be a Christian, too. As she sat down in trembling nervousness and tears, her Chinese friend threw her arms around her and drew her to her. The tension was broken. Christian love had shown the way to peace. It is ours constantly to foster the spirit that will make such triumphs of reconciliation possible.

"The Son of God goes forth for peace,
That men like brothers live,
And all desire the others' good,
And others' sin forgive.
He turns our spears to pruning hooks,
Our swords to ploughshares warm
And war no more its death-blast brings,
Nor men their brothers harm."

Martin Luther, though worn out and ill, insisted on going to Eisleben, to effect, if he could, a reconciliation between two brothers, the Counts of Mansfeld, who had quarrelled. He knew well the risk he ran at this time of the year; but "when Christ wished to reconcile men," he said, "he undertook to die for them. God grant it may be so with me." And so it turned out. He succeeded in his mission, but the exertion proved too much for him, and a few days later he died.

3. A Powerful Peace

Thirdly, Christ gives a powerful peace. "He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit."

We go forth to this task of peace giving and peace making, not in the strength of our own human idealism, but in the power of divine inspiration. If we were dependent only on our own ideals, we would soon be reduced to disillusionment or despair. But, inspired by the Spirit of God, whose fruit is peace, we shall be pressed on to ever more passionate purpose.

There is no balm on earth:
Nothing but strife and din,
Relieve us of our dearth,
Spirit of peace within.

Across the sky there dart,
Monsters of strident wing;
But still within the heart
The quiet birds may sing.

The flames of chaos roll,
Mocking our dazed replies;
But still within the soul,
May healing waters rise.

All outward spells are vain,
The victory to win,
Stir, quicken us again,
Spirit of life within!

One of the first great objectives of the Australian soldiers at the Battle of El Alemain was to take a hill called "Tel el Elsa," "the Hill of Jesus." It was a grim and terrible task, but once accomplished, the way was open to a decisive victory.

That struggle may be taken as a parable of the fight for peace. If mankind is to win the peace for which it so greatly longs, it must first take "the Hill of Jesus," the hill on which stands a Cross, and that Cross is only conquered by capitulation, surrender, to the love of God revealed in Jesus.

Let the church lead the way up the Hill of Jesus, showing the world a proven peace in the sight of his wounds, a propelling peace in the urgency of its mission, and a powerful peace in the possession of His Spirit.

PERSONAL

DISCIPLESHIP

Cheryl Wiseman, Cheryl Gowan, Ronald White, Ashley Timms, Port Pirie, S.A.

Mrs. Kernahan, Fremantle, W.A.

Lorraine Cantley, Gail Sharpley, Hornsby, N.S.W.

Trevor Ringwaldt, Helen Clark, Catherine McCormack, Grote-st., S.A.

Wayne and Gary Edge, Felicity and Fiona Eagles, Marilyn and Robyn Megson, Brighton Gardens, S.A.

Rhonda Sisson, Gai Ridley, Canberra, A.C.T.

Miss M. Baker, Echuca, Vic.

Mrs. G. Holioke, Mrs. E. Davies, York-st., Ballarat, Vic.

Lynn Hoysted, Margaret Tilley, Cheltenham, Vic.

Della Fraser, Sunshine, Vic.

DEATHS

Mrs. French, Brunswick, Vic.

William R. Steedman, Hamilton, Vic.

Mrs. Newell, Perth, W.A.

Alf. Morton, Heathcote, N.S.W.

Lief G. Bangsund, Northcote, Vic.

MEMBERSHIP

Miss S. Peck, Red Hill to Ormond, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. Des. Feary, Whyalla to Hamilton, Vic.

David Button, Wagga to Hurstville, N.S.W.

Mrs. Carey, Glenelg to Grote-st., S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Bullock, Launceston, Tas., to Croydon, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. V. Oliver, Naracoorte; Mr. and Mrs. K. Curtis, Windsor Gardens, to Brighton Gardens, S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Denis Swanborough and family, Gympie to Maryborough - Baddow - Hervey Bay, Qld.

Mrs. A. Moyle, Footscray to Sunshine, Vic.

MARRIAGES

Barbara Daff to Allan Condron, Springvale, Vic.

Heather McLean to John Gardam; Shirley Woodhall to Brian Dennis, Devonport, Tas.

Margaret McFarlane to Robert Edwards, Canberra, A.C.T.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM (VIC.-TAS.)

DISTRICT PRAYER RALLIES

MAY 12—

GARDENVALE.

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NOBLE PARK.

MILLEARA.

IVANHOE.

SCORESBY ROAD.

PRAHRAN.

BALLARAT (Brougham-st.).

RED CLIFFS.

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TRARALGON.

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HOBART.

MAY 13 — SUNSHINE.

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at the

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MAY 16-31, 1965.

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Col. Smith,

Alan Fletcher (Song Leader),

— All from the College of the Bible.

PRAY — PLAN — PREPARE ATTEND.

Ormond Church (Vic.)

40th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES,

SUNDAY, JUNE 27.

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Elocutionist: Dawn Kimber.

Soloist: Neil Barry.

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IN MEMORIAM

RAYNER. — In sincere and loving memory of Mena, our beloved sister, died May 10, 1963. "Always a beautiful memory."

—Inserted by sister Lill, George and family.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Management Committee of New Church being formed at Nth. Turrumurra, N.S.W., would be pleased to receive the names of people living in the Sydney North Shore area who might appreciate receiving an invitation to attend services at the new church. In particular, the Committee desires to contact members of our churches who have moved, or who are contemplating moving, to this area of Sydney, where our brotherhood is not strongly represented. Please communicate with H. E. Hayward, 54 Warragal-rd., Turrumurra, N.S.W.

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I.V.F. GRADUATES' FELLOWSHIP (Vic.)

EXPOSITORY PREACHING, 1965

16—Dr. J. F. Ward.

30—Dr. L. L. Morris.

JUNE 13—Dr. L. L. Morris.

27—Rev. Dr. J. R. Renshaw.

JULY 11—Prof. K. Runia.

25—Prof. K. Runia.

MEMORIAL HALL, 431 St. Kilda-rd.

Time: 8.30 p.m.

HOSTS TO CONFERENCE

(York-st., Ballarat, Vic.). The church was host to the Sth. Western Dist. Conf. on March 13. Representatives attended from Ballarat, Colac and Geelong churches. Guest speaker was K. J. Clinton. Mrs. H. Street spoke at Women's session . . . Harvest Festival goods were sent to Alexandria Babies' Home, Ballarat . . . Two ladies have joined the church . . . Mr. and Mrs. F. Sherriff have celebrated their golden wedding. . . . Men of the church attended two working bees at Hall's Gap in preparation for the Easter camp, which 13 of our young people attended . . . A special service was held on Good Friday, with the minister, H. Street, preaching . . . The church is supporting the Ballarat Youth Crusade . . . Nth. Balwyn ladies conducted the Evening Fellowship meeting on March 23.

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MINISTER RECOVERED

(Brunswick, Vic.). After several weeks' of absence through illness, the minister, R. E. Burns, resumed duties. The church is grateful for those who filled the pulpit during this time . . . The church suffered a loss through the death of our aged sister, Mrs. French . . . Teenage club has been commenced under the leadership of Graham Marsh. During his first year at the College of the Bible he will assist the church in various ways.

"THE FIRST STEP"

(Hartwell, Vic.). The film, "The First Step," was shown, after which a fellowship hour was spent in the hall and slides were shown by Dick Layton, of his trip through Scandinavia . . . The morning service on April 25 was addressed by student minister, C. Miller . . . On April 27, the C.W.A.F. visited Oakleigh Guest Home; a good programme was presented after a devotional period conducted by Mrs. Whiting . . . The tennis club won the first match of the season.

DAWN SERVICE

(Croydon, Vic.). The C.M.S. held a dawn service at Mt. Lofty on Easter Sunday; breakfast was later held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bullen . . . Explorers' boys' club are conducting a money raising effort for a new hut at Londua, New Hebrides. Bible School concert was held on April 24; a full programme was presented . . . Speakers on April 11 were John Lowrey and Ted Keating, of the College of the Bible. . . . A united service was held at the Presbyterian church on Good Friday . . . Sympathy is expressed to R. Sali, on the death of his brother.

OTHER VIC. CHURCH NEWS

NORTHCOTE. The church has been saddened by the sudden passing of L. Bangsund, church deacon, and members sympathise with Mrs. Bangsund and family . . . The church was well represented at the combined Good Friday service at the Presbyterian Church and also at a naturalisation ceremony in the Town Hall. BAYSWATER. Mrs. Fletcher, from Ludbrook House, on furlough from New Guinea, was guest speaker at C.W.F. evening meeting. Slides were shown of the work on the field.



Swanston Street Church
(Right in heart of Melbourne; opp. Public Library)

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

11 a.m.—WORSHIP - COMMUNION - BIBLE EXPOSITION.

7 p.m.—WORSHIP - EVANGELISM.

The Australian Christian.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Principal E. L. Williams and Mrs. E. L. Williams (secretary, Overseas Missions Dept.), priv. address: Hallam-rd., Narre Warren North; priv. tel. no., Narre Warren North 293. Office address for E. L. Williams, 7 Elm-rd., Glen Iris. Tel., 25-6541.

L. G. Armstrong (minister, Springvale church), 8 Windsor-ave., Springvale, Vic. Phone 546-9457.

BIRTH

YOUENS (Waters). — Janine and David are happy to announce the arrival of their first baby, a son — Mark Andrew, on April 17, at Margaret Coles' House, Vic.

ENGAGEMENTS

BULLEN - ADDICOTT. — Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Bullen, Brushy Park-rd., North Croydon, Vic., have pleasure in announcing the engagement of their only daughter, Rhonda Helen, to Graeme Robert, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Addicott, Allendale-rd., Croydon, Vic.

GOLDSWORTHY - MADDERN. — Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Goldsworthy, 24 Ivanhoe-st., Glen Waverley, Vic., have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their elder daughter, Susan, to Kenneth Russell, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Maddern, Haynes-st., Bordertown, South Aust.

CORDY - HADDON. — On April 10, Mr. and Mrs. R. Cordy, Sunshine, Vic., announced the engagement of their daughter, Virginia Rae, to Robert Cort, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Haddon, Longford, Tas.

DEATHS

BANGSUND. — On April 16 (suddenly), Lief Gordon, 19 Gladstone-ave., Northcote, Vic., beloved husband of Ivy and devoted father of John, Joy (Mrs. Warren, New Zealand), and Ruth; fond father-in-law of Vern and loved grandfather of Kelsey Joy. Aged 56 years.

STIRLING, Daniel Robert. — On April 29, at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, beloved husband of Alice, loving father of Gordon, Roma (Mrs. R. Tanner, Wollongong), and Campbell; father-in-law of Lesley (Mrs. G. R. Stirling, Canberra), and Ross Tanner; grandfather of Jeanette, Beth and Heather; great-grandfather of Mark and Mandy.

APPRECIATION

NIGHTINGALE — Thank you all for loving sympathy, sacred memories, and noble tributes in words, letters and cards for my devoted wife, Dorothy, called Home, April 2, 1965. —Will H. Nightingale.

APPROACHING MARRIAGE

TUCKER - NANKIVELL. — The marriage of Elizabeth May, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. C. (Curt) Tucker, 4 Torrens St., Victor Harbour (formerly of Box 93, Balaklava, South Aust.), to Gordon Leyland, younger son of Mrs. A. S. Nankivell, and the late E. L. Nankivell, Box 33, Stansbury, Sth. Aus., will be solemnised at Grote-st. Church of Christ, Adelaide, on Saturday, May 15, at 3 p.m., Pastors K. J. Edwards and R. Greenhalgh officiating.

The Australian Christian.

May 8

1965

15

Hotel Hours . . .

To the Editor,

May an "innocent abroad" reply to the informed sagacity of M. E. Elliott ("A.C." 17/4/65)?

1. I am amazed at the mental gymnastics which allow critics to observe social changes in one State, and without reference to other States, select one factor (i.e., 10 p.m. closing) from all operative factors as the prime cause of change. Consider the change in social patterns of living in N.S.W. brought about by the increase in Clubs from 389 in 1952 to 1,226 in 1962, and by the gambling machine, with expenditure of £M.200 a year. These factors do not operate in other States and have no relationship to hotel closing hours.

2. Obviously M. E. Elliott knows nothing of the changing pattern of social behaviour during the last 10 years in Vic. The enclosed tables will help to show something of this.

3. What an amazing feat of athleticism in logic for M. E. Elliott, in one sentence, to criticise us for walking "right into the Phillips' trap by relying on statistics which prove . . . nothing conclusive," and then in the very next sentence to state, "Statistics prepared by K. Richardson . . . proved the opposite."

Again, M. E. Elliott innocently selects one factor in ignorance of the vast amount of study, research and information considered by us. We talked to

dozens of Church and Social Workers in all States. We sought evidence from Church and Temperance organisations without success, so went after it ourselves. Ultimately we listened to some 9,000 typed foolscap pages of evidence and had the benefit of some 160 printed foolscap pages of study material, now published as an appendix to the report of the Commission.

We were originally wrong in only one point, in that we had said increased hours means increased consumption. It doesn't; other factors operate in this field, particularly economic ones.

4. K. V. Richardson submitted six pages of statistical interpretation which he confesses were hurriedly prepared, based on the same material used by us and prepared by the Research Director of the Commission, from the Commonwealth Year Book. One of his conclusions was "one home in every 4 or 5 (in N.S.W.) has a person in it who has been the object of Police action for drunkenness."

Perhaps M. E. Elliott would check this out.

5. Finally, a comment on the extract from the Report of the Licensing Bench. There have been no recent convictions of Licensees in Vic. for supply of liquor to persons under 18. A clause in the Act allows a very convenient escape from this penalty. There is no provision for penalty for failure to remove.

However, some interesting comparisons can be drawn from convictions for "sly

grogging." In Vic., many of these convictions are obtained against cafes and espresso bars for supplying liquor to young people.

—E. S. Sanders.

Convictions for Drunkenness—

	1953	1960
Vic. (under 20)	349	586
	1956/7	1963/4
Qld. (under 21)	516	1187

(There has been no change in hotel hours in either State.)

Sly Grogging —

	1956	1962
N.S.W.	160	181
Vic.	144	502

Convictions for Drunkenness, per 10,000 pop.—

	1953	1962
N.S.W.	214.5	172.2
Vic.	80.3	95.4

Driving Under the Influence (Prosecutions per 10,000 Licences)—

	1954	1962
N.S.W.	44.3	35.5
Vic.	10.8	12.7

Road Accidents involving Casualties—

	Due to Intoxication:		As a percentage of all accidents:	
	1952	1962	1952	1962
N.S.W.	793	695	9.5	5.8
Vic.	119	315	1.2	3.0

Persons Killed:

	1952	1962
N.S.W.	86	52
Vic.	8	55

Persons Injured:

	1952	1962
N.S.W.	929	875
Vic.	152	422

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



"Sure my conscience hurts — all over my stomach."

CARTOON COMMENT

Conscience is a God-given spiritual attribute possessed only by man among all the creatures of the world. Just as our physical endowments are perfected through diet and exercise, our mental capabilities refined and expanded through study and concentration, so must that which we call Conscience be "nourished" the same as we nourish our bodies and minds. To be unhealthy is burdensome; to be illiterate is unfortunate; but to be lacking in moral sensitivity is the worst tragedy of all!

of the gospel were baptized forthwith (Acts 2: 41; 8: 12; 8: 38; 9: 18; 16: 15; 16: 33; 18: 8). Some who already had had evidence of God's acceptance through the bestowal of the baptism of the Holy Spirit were required to be immersed in water also (Acts 10: 47, 48).

It is noteworthy here that God's action in bestowing the spiritual baptism did not abrogate the Divine requirement for a personal decision and obedience in water baptism. Some who were already recognised as disciples, and were witnessing to their faith, were led to baptism to complete "more perfectly" their obedience and experiences of Christ (Acts 18: 24-19: 5).

While all this is not to say that God is not able, nor willing, in his loving wisdom to save some without baptism, it nevertheless surely leaves us assured of two things:—

In his own plan God has ordained that baptism should, along with other things such as faith and repentance, "also save us" (1 Pet. 3: 21). It also makes it clear that baptism is necessary to round out and perfect our full experience of the grace of God. Something is bestowed in baptism which is not promised in any other way.

Accepting the Scriptures at their face value, it appears evident that teachers or preachers who minimise the importance of baptism in, or omit it from, the Divine plan of salvation, are to that extent disloyal to the Lord, and bring the authority of Scripture under a measure of doubt. It would be well for all of us, at all times, to prayerfully ponder 1 Tim. 4: 16 — "take heed to thyself, and unto the doctrine," lest we should be found to be "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15: 9).

—Albert J. Ingham, S.A.

TRENDS.

To the Editor,

I support A. Caldicott in "A.C." 27/3/65. It is good to see that we have one of our ministers at least, who has the courage to speak out against the tendency to depart from what, I at least, have regarded as an integral part of the Plea of our Pioneers. It would be difficult to imagine men such as T. Hagger, H. J. Banks, D. A. Ewers seeking clerical titles, the elimination of baptism from the plan of salvation, liturgy, etc. These things were anathema to them. Let us proclaim our plea and keep to the old paths and we will succeed as they did, on Bible lines.

—S. G. Taylor, W.A.

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OPEN FORUM

RESTORATION MOVEMENT.

To the Editor,

Dr. A. C. Caldicott ("A.C." 27/3/65) is to be commended for his plea for loyalty to the teaching of the Restoration Movement, and also for a more vocal protest by those who are opposed to the modernistic trend in our midst, advocating the adoption of practices foreign to the clear teaching of Scripture.

A logical, and certainly more honest, course for those who are not loyal to the principles on which we stand, would be for them to transfer their membership to the sources of their aspirations and not stay half-heartedly with those who maintain that the Scriptures are our sole authority for our doctrine and practice.

Manifestly, the Restoration Movement is either scripturally true and sound or

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it is not. If it is not, then we stand indicted for multiplying division and as a movement should "go into liquidation."

Of recent years much confusion has crept into our churches. Will no one proclaim, "Thus saith the Lord" on these controversial issues?

—F. M. Mortyn, Vic.

BAPTISM.

To the Editor,

With regard to recent correspondence on baptism, we may more wisely turn to the Bible to see what it says.

In the Book of Acts, baptism is reported in the conversions throughout, from the first commandment in chap. 2: 38-41 to the baptism of twelve disciples at Ephesus, who knew only the baptism of John, 19: 1-5.

A careful reading of these baptisms reveals the following: Those who were converted by an immediate preaching

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BAPTISM.

To the Editor,

I have been amazed at the opinions of some of our church folk suggesting that baptism is not essential for salvation. It seems to me they are trying an easy way to unite with other churches. In their anxiety to do this one important fact is overlooked. Christ set us the example. He walked forty miles to be baptized. When John remonstrated with him, Jesus replied, "Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness."

—E. Wills, S.A.

ROBES : BAPTISM.

To the Editor,

I wore a robe in St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, on the occasion of the special commemorative service for those who lost their lives in the tragic sinking of H.M.A.S. "Voyager." Heads of churches were invited to participate in the service and processional, and I accepted as the then President of our Vic.-Tas. State Conference.

Being escorted to the Archbishop's suite on arrival at the Cathedral, I was disturbed to see that I was the only person in twenty in civilian suit, the others being attired in clerical, academic or other robes of office. I hurriedly borrowed a cassock from the choir room, and in the wearing of it felt, and was one with my brethren in Christ — there was no distinction as there would have been had I participated in ordinary dress. I am confident my action will not debar me wearing a robe of

righteousness, for "God does not alter the robe to fit the man, he alters the man."

Instruction prior to baptism. I made my confession of faith at the age of ten and have always been thankful for classes which the late Lionel Johnston conducted for myself and others before our baptism into Christ. I have, in the succeeding forty-two years, participated and assisted in many missions and special campaigns, and am convinced that instruction should be given prior to baptism in many instances.

—A. R. Haskell, Vic.

TELEVISION AND MAVIS

To the Editor,

A furore surrounds the "Mavis Bramston Show." The show's treatment of sex is said to be having a morally injurious effect on its viewers. Its effects are negligible compared with what television as a whole is doing. Television programmes and advertising are on a sub-conscious level laying down implicit values and attitudes which should be condemned.

One has only to look at the smooth, soft sell, complacent, self-assured sophisticate who is held up as the "ideal." Status seeking and pride of possession are encouraged as legitimate goals, worthy of human endeavour. Man becomes important only in as much as he is a "consumer." Programmes portray phoney, sentimental representations of life. The whole outlook engendered is superficial and unrealistic. It avoids questions concerning man, his condition, predica-

ment, meaning and destiny. As such this whole view of man is decidedly un-Christian.

But what of the Mavis Bramston show itself? I don't think one should condemn it purely because it makes jokes about sex. There is no human activity so sacred that it should be spared the penetrating insight of humour and satire. Rather, the Mavis Bramston show should be taken to task for using sex (and poorly at that) as a prop for an increasing impoverishment of ideas.

To hold its audiences the Mavis Bramston show has resorted to remorseless "shock" tactics. It has increased the use of ribaldry and ambiguity with regard to sex. This is not humour nor is it really necessary.

—F. H. Richards, A.C.T.

MAVIS BRAMSTON SHOW.

To the Editor,

I refer to two letters in "A.C." for 6/3/65. E. P. C. Hollard made a strong protest about the Mavis Bramston Show. Personally I have found this show very amusing and thought-provoking and certainly does not justify the severe action urged by Mr. Hollard. Several segments of the show have been serious attempts to alert people to the tragedy of war and the problems of human relations. May I suggest that these segments are far more effective than most of our preaching. The occasional off-beat humour is usually clever and with satirical material surely this is the standard by which the show must be judged. There's little enough in television at the moment to make us think, and I am waiting with interest for the inevitable segment on the church. When this comes I hope it is hard-hitting and stirs us out of our complacency.

Like all of us, your correspondent on Winston Churchill is entitled to his opinion of this man who, for better or worse, dominated a large part of the 20th Century. What does cause me concern is the reasoning expressed in the letter. To say that Churchill will best be remembered for bombing German cities and resorting to the utmost violence appears to be an unfair judgment of the man. Several other quotes are also lifted out of their context. Perhaps we shall try and evaluate the good that Churchill did as well as his human failings.

—S. W. McCredden, Vic.

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DAILY DEVOTIONAL CORNER

THERE IS ONE LORD

DAY BY DAY THROUGH EPHESIANS

Thursday, May 13. Ephesians 3:11-13. I ask you not to lose heart (v. 13).

Paul's captivity was long and irksome. His friends were anxious for him and deeply concerned because of his continuing suffering. In addition to the anxiety for Paul's person, the church missed the inspiration of his leadership. Paul knew something of the church's longing for him. So he asked them not to lose heart over his suffering. His suffering was for their glory and they should lift up their hearts. If they loved him they should rather boast about his suffering on behalf of Christ.

Dear God, although we grieve over the troubles that come to others, help us to rejoice in their witness. Amen.

Friday, May 14. Ephesians 3:14-16. The Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name (v. 15, N.E.B.).

In the ancient world, a tribe or family took its name from a distinguished father. In the Old Testament, we have "the children of Israel," "the sons of Aaron," "the house of David," etc. Every family in heaven or on earth takes its name from the Father. We are all sons of God. So often people are over-proud of their family names. We can be justly proud of ours.

"Our Father," we say these words so often. May we emphasise both words and remember that as we are all your children, we are all brothers and sisters. Amen.

Saturday, May 15. Ephesians 3:17-19. To know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge (v. 19).

How can one possibly know something that is beyond knowledge? It sounds like a contradiction, but it isn't. The word in the original really means "getting to know." If I study music, I can know something about it, but the field of music is too vast for me to be familiar with it all. What we know about the love of Christ is wonderful, but we know only a part of it. As Paul said in

another place, "Now I know in part, then I shall understand fully."

O Christ, what we know seems so much, but we realise that we are just getting to know you. Amen.

Sunday, May 16. Ephesians 3:20-21. To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus (v. 21).

The letter to the Ephesians is in two parts. This passage concludes the first. Paul has been focusing our attention on the great doctrines of the church and he ends with an appropriate song of praise. All of the praise is to God who is able to do more for us than we can think of in our highest prayers. The church and the Lord are joined together in these verses. All that we are is because of our union with him.

Dear God, we thank you for the insight of Paul that teaches us so much of you. Amen.

Monday, May 17. Ephesians 4:1-3. I, therefore, a prisoner of the Lord, beg you (v. 1).

After the profound teaching concerning God and the church, Paul now turns from doctrine to the practical life of the Christian. Many of the early leaders of the church knew about prisons from the inside, but Paul was easily the best known prisoner. All of the churches knew of his bonds. But he never thought of himself as a prisoner of the Romans, or a prisoner because of the intrigues of the Jews who hated him. He was a prisoner of the Lord, and it was out of this relationship that he pleaded with church members to live lives that were worthy.

Dear God, we know our responsibility, help us to fulfil it. Amen.

Tuesday, May 18. Ephesians 4:4-6. There is one Lord (v. 5).

Paul lists seven unities. One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father. These are bases on which the

unity of the church rests. The body is the church. The Spirit is the life-breath of that body. The church looks to its hope, its goal. The one Lord is its head, and faith is an active trust in him. Baptism is the witness to our identity with Christ. Then there is God the Father — he is above all, and through all, and in all.

O God, help us to take these unities and make them ours. Not taking some, and excluding others, but knowing that all are essential. Amen.

Wednesday, May 19. Ephesians 4:7-10.

To each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift (v. 7).

Yesterday, we saw the seven unities that bind us together. Now we are to learn that there is variety within the church. We have all been given the one grace, but we shall have separate gifts to express that grace. But like the grace itself, each gift comes from Christ.

Dear Lord, help us to be ready to find our task and its resources in Christ. Amen.

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THE LAST WORD ..

Capacities.

Now there are varieties of gifts.

—1 Cor. 12: 4.

Fable.

The mountain and the squirrel

Had a quarrel;

And the former called the latter "Little
Prig."

Bun replied,

"You are doubtless very big;

But all sorts of things and weather

Must be taken in together

To make up a year

And a sphere.

And I think it's no disgrace

To occupy my place.

If I'm not so large as you

You are not so small as I

And not half so spry.

I'll not deny you make

A very pretty squirrel track;

Talents differ: all is well and wisely

put;

If I cannot carry forests on my back,

Neither can you crack a nut."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

☆

Definition.

Diplomacy: lying in state.

☆

One of the greatest labour-saving
devices of today is tomorrow.

—Vincent T. Foss.

☆

You can't win. Last week I got into
the office a half-hour early every morn-
ing. Friday, the boss comes over and
asks me if I'm having trouble at home.

—B.D.

☆

Why be disagreeable when, with a
little effort, you can become impossible?

—Douglas Woodruff.

☆

Stingy.

Two mosquitoes were watching blood
donors enter the mobile van. Said one
to the other: "Just look at that. They'll
go in there and lie down placidly while
someone takes a pint of their blood, but
they'll yell like murder if we just take
a couple of nips."