

May 22, 1965

Call to Family Worship



DR. K. A. BOWES
DR. D. W. CROWLEY
DR. J. H. JAUNCEY

THE AUSTRALIAN
CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL WEEKLY OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST
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AID TO POLITICIANS AND SCHOOLS

The N.S.W. State elections ended with a narrow but effective win for the combined Liberal and Country Parties. Many observers are convinced that it was the promise of State Aid for independent schools which influenced the new Government's victory after 24 years of Labor rule.

State Aid has been a sensitive spot for political parties for many years and was generally regarded as a suicide platform for any party that adopted it. The Democratic Labor Party, of course, advocated it, but the D.L.P. is generally accepted as an unofficial Roman Catholic pressure group. Although the D.L.P. has been the most outspoken, it has by no means been the only area of pressure. For years there has been a constant stream of letters to many editors keeping the matter before the public. At almost every church or school opened by the Roman Catholics the main spokesman would point to the "injustice" of the present system. Then, too, there were occasional dramatic incidents like the temporary closure of the R.C. schools in the Goulburn diocese.

The opponents of State Aid were probably more numerous than its supporters, but they lacked both the organisation and the personal incentive of those who were paying taxes for State schools in addition to fees for private schools. When the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, a few years ago gave assistance to R.C. schools for science buildings, the way was opened for some political leader to find the right time and place to join self-interest with the ballot-box. Mr. Askin was the astute leader who did just that.

The trend has probably developed too much to be reversed. It is quite likely that parties in other States, including Labor, will follow the lead of N.S.W. If both parties offer the same bribe, neither gains an advantage or suffers a disadvantage. It is a sad prospect. This judgment is not due to Protestant bigotry. Independent schools may be defended as a democratic alternative for those who can and wish to pay for their supposed advantages. But Governmental support for separate schools systems opens the way to the fragmentation of education that could well prove disastrous for our future.

The democratic privilege of choosing a child's school, with Government support, must be extended to Protestant churches of many kinds, and to Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists, Communists and Agnostics. These would each have the same right to educate their own, and the divisions encouraged at school levels will be continued in a divided society. We are going to pay a high price for political opportunism.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEATH

A recent survey in a children's hospital revealed that it is better to be honest with patients who have incurable diseases than to act out a pretence that they will recover. Most of the children who were told the truth accepted it, and endured it calmly until the end came weeks, months or years later.

Sometimes doctors believe that a child, or an adult for that matter, will fight more for life if hope of victory is held out. Some honestly believe that what the patients don't know won't worry them. It is likely that the pros and cons of the argument will be debated as long as death threatens the human race. Where doctors counsel silence it is almost certainly better to co-operate with them in the interests of the patient.

It is interesting to note, however, that a report in the American Medical Journal recommends that the truth be told about fatal illness. It declares that the children are very sensitive to their environment and almost invariably know when something is being kept from them. They may not know what it is, but inwardly they feel abandoned. At the very time they need all available strength to meet the future, they feel alone with their fears and anxieties.

The children who were informed of the worst reacted with very little anxiety, and often heard the truth with relief.

All of this agrees with the idea that God made us so that, whatever our situation, we would be helped rather than hindered by truth. There can be no limits to the promise: "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

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Equipped For Work

By DR. K. R. BOWES.

(Extract from the Conference Sermon).

The church is equipped for the work to which God calls it only when it is involved fully in the life of man. There was never any suggestion from Jesus that his Father's world was a bad thing to be avoided at all costs. There was never any hint from him that any man was beyond the limits of his love.

Christians are called to be God's people in God's world, having an openness to all people, really sharing in their lives, bearing their burdens and being interested in them for their own sakes. Unfortunately it is often the case that practically all the activities of the church take place among those who are already members.

Too often the specialised organisations revolve around the buildings of the church and too rarely are they related to the life of the community. By contrast, the New Testament church saw itself as a pilgrim people, continually moving out beyond the safe confines of a select group of religious people to live right in the midst of God's world.

The church is also called to be the servant people of God. Jesus in proclaiming the programme of the Kingdom of God, spoke in terms of ministering to the poor, of bringing release to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind and liberty to the oppressed. Are there not the poor, the blind, the oppressed still among us? We need to ask ourselves: Are we a church merely living in a needy world or a church serving that needy world? Bible reading, prayer and loving each other are all important aspects of the church's life, but they all must be seen as means for equipping the membership to serve the world.

The church is required also to be the obedient people of God. Our Lord lived in the midst of human life, but he did not allow its sinful aspects to determine the set of his life. Time and again he decided: "It is not what I want but what God directs which determines my choice." That is a true picture of holiness.

To be a Christian is to be involved in a life of radical obedience to God, to live in the power of God that life which has the very quality of divinity in it. It is in this sense that Christians are called to be separate — to respond un-

conditionally to the demands of God. In the present God is calling us to see holiness not in terms of a series of prohibitions, but of being completely responsive to God in the midst of life.

The church is equipped when it exhibits in its own life the reality of reconciliation. So often in our failure to respond to God, Christians are agents not of reconciliation, but of division. Within the life of the church itself we have denied the fact that in Christ we are united with all our brethren. Not only does the need of the world demand our unity, but equally the teaching of the New Testament itself indicates that when we do nothing about disunity we are in danger of rejecting ourselves from the church of God. To put off a decision about unity is to deny that unity is the will of God. The question today can no longer be, "Should Christians unite?" but, "Why do we not unite?"

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In the last few months Christian unity movements in Australia have developed to a point of climax, almost to a point of no return. Responsible leaders of churches have appealed for all churches, within five years, to covenant together to unite into one church within a further short period.

There can be no doubt that God calls this Conference not merely to be partners in this act of covenanting and unity, but also to offer strong leadership within this movement. To do otherwise would be to betray our pioneers who pleaded so

strongly for Christian unity, and to ignore the urgent voice of God today.

The church must always be prepared to take a course which may lead to hardship. There is always risk involved in making contact with people, in offering oneself to serve them and in living a godly life. In fact, to be the point of intersection between God and the world is to live where there is a cross.

An Indian Christian has stated that to share in Christian service is to get one's hands dirty. It means to become increasingly aware of the deep tragedies in the world, the great injustices and the tremendous burdens, and to accept a large share of the responsibility to support those who are so weighed down by these things and at the same time to fight to remove them.

The Christian life is a life of hope and victory, but we must never forget that before the Resurrection there had to be a cross, the agony of obedience, the self-giving in service and the complete sharing of human life. The way of the great pioneer of the faith is the way which all his followers must tread if they are to be true to him. Today we praise God that our forefathers in the faith in so many ways dared to follow their Master, but at the same time we recognise that the heritage of the past has not completely equipped us for the work of the present.

We, who have too often abused the love given us and who have been caught in the act of disobedience, hear with thanksgiving the merciful voice of the Master saying: "I don't condemn you." But we hear as well the insistent command: "Now go, and sin no more."

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"THE GOOD NEWS"

BY DR. J. H. JAUNCEY.

From an address delivered at the City Hall, Brisbane, May 2, 1965.

This Conference should not close without facing its responsibility to the fact that this country is now at war with the Communist forces in Vietnam. The bloodshed there is one of many terrible examples of the obtrusiveness of evil in our time. We need to proclaim the Bible message that all this represents an eruption of the underlying spiritual evil with which God is in deadly conflict. This can only be destroyed by the spiritual forces of God. It is our task to proclaim the good news that God can do exactly that.

It is good news that God can solve family miseries, one of the most pernicious evils of our time. I knew of a brilliant lawyer who made his home a hell on earth. He drank to excess, abused his wife and tyrannized his family. When the whole thing blew up in his face, in desperation he turned to God. There was good news for him. He got right with God and himself and

then with his family. Now it is a little piece of heaven. We need to proclaim that God can do things like that. This is really hitting the Enemy.

The managing director of a construction firm was an arrogant, selfish man so full of personal ambition that he had no regard for the feelings of his employees. The result was a miserable personnel situation and a serious drop in efficiency. The firm made a mistake in a tender that cost it \$100,000. This manager fired the estimates officer only to find that he himself had made the error. His pride was humbled and he turned to Christ. Now he openly confessed his mistake, rehired the man and told the employees that things were going to be different. Now it is a pleasure to work there. This is good news for troubles like Mt. Isa that can cripple a nation.

When God saved the marriage of a young couple in California, they felt that

good news like this had to be spread. They belonged to a dying church but which was needed for this task. They personally canvassed young couples and persuaded them to join a Sunday School class to study the Book of Acts. They began to tithe and inspired others to do the same. This enabled them to call a minister. That little church was so excited by the good news they had to offer that their spirit spread like a forest fire. Now they have a fine new building and several hundred members.

We need this kind of excitement in Queensland. It could transform our moribund work into a forest fire for God. When our young people see that the spreading of this good news is all important to us they will catch the flame and volunteer for leadership training, for it is thrilling to be in the front line for God.

Let's spread the good news. Christ died to make it available.

QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE

Queensland's 82nd annual Conference, which concluded on May 3, took advantage of a long weekend with business sessions being conducted for the whole of the Saturday and Monday. Committee reports generally showed evidence of a year of progress.

● Active membership showed an increase of 154 in 1964.

● Conference authorised the construction of an Aged People's Home at Maryborough. The project is to be undertaken in three stages, at an estimated cost of £90,000.

● Appreciation was expressed to V. G. Boettcher, who retired after having been organiser of the League of 500 for 25 years.

● Conference was informed that the cost to date for the Kenmore Christian College was over £32,000.

● The Government was commended on the introduction of a programme of alcohol education in secondary schools, but was urged to refrain from extending off-course betting without local option poll.

● A. McK. Surtees, Home Mission Director, was elected Conference President for the ensuing twelve months, K. Burkhead, Senior Vice-President, and L. G. Read, as Vice-President.

● The united service in the City Hall this year took the form of an evangelistic rally, with an attendance of over 900. Dr. J. Jauncey challenged the congregation in its commitment to Christ.

on petrol syphoned from a tank on its roof direct to the engine by a boy riding the fender. Cooking cans and brass tube soon yielded to Nate a second emergency fuel plane system that rivalled the dual ignition. It is now a standard fitting on all M.A.F. planes.

Later he invented the bucket-drop telephone by which 1,500 feet of line aided a person standing on the ground to talk to a plane circling him at 1,000 feet. This was soon used to referee in a jungle war.

Nate's plane and bucket-drop both became vital means to make contact with the feared Aucas. These elusive jungle people lived beyond and resisted all friendly contacts. They were known as naked killers, but Nate and his fellow missionaries were impelled that they be known as God's children also.

After friendly gift exchanges by air, he flew four friends to a river beach and made personal contacts. His story ends abruptly, as he and they were spared to become the mid-century Ecuadian martyrs for Christ.

A lot of stimulating reading for 7/6. —Edward Heard.

Also received for Christian Literature Week — see also "GOD AND HIS PEOPLE," by A. Leonard Griffith, in "A.C." 24/4/65; "GOD'S FOZEN PEOPLE," in "A.C." 1/5/65; "THE PROMISE OF HIS SPIRIT" by William Barclay, in "A.C." 8/5/65; "WE, THE CRUCIFIERS," by G. W. Target, in "A.C." 15/5/65.

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May 22

WRIGHT THINKING

— BY C. H. J. WRIGHT

HORIZONS

Every man has his horizon. But it is a poor thing if the world is the limit of his horizon. In common usage the term "horizon" means the apparent junction of the earth and sky. No matter where one stands he sees the line by which the earth and sky apparently meet. If he is in a valley, the horizon is no further than the next hilltop. If he is on the plains, it may be thirty miles away. If he stands on a mountain top it may be one hundred miles to the line where the earth and sky appear to join.

In every instance the horizon line is only apparent. It represents simply the boundaries of our vision, the limit of our sight. And so we use the word "horizon" in a figurative sense, too. A man's horizon is the range of his perception or experience.

But things happen to our horizons. The line still looks as though it were there, but it is not so confining any more. It may still be the limit of our sight, but it is no longer the boundary of our perception, nor the range of our experience. Imagine a boy living on the edge of a town, nestling in a basin among the hills. From the window of his home he looks across a pasture and up a hill to where the earth and sky come together. Beyond that horizon lies the unknown, which is a frightening thing to him, the interminable woods in which children get lost. But one day he makes friends with a boy who lives on the other side of the hill. He goes to visit him over that horizon, and finds the other side much like the friendly world he knows, with green meadows and gum trees with inviting branches. Returning home, he can still see the horizon when he looks from his window, but it isn't fearsome or confining any more. He has a friend who lives beyond it.

A few hundred years ago sailors would mutiny when their captain sailed too far toward the sunset. They thought they would sail to the edge of the world and drop off. Then Magellan and his crew sailed clean round the world. The flat world with sharp edges was gone forever. Magellan did something forever to the geographical perception and experience of men. He did it not by a persuasive argument, but by an unanswerable deed.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has done something to our horizons — especially to the horizon called death — not by argument, but by an unanswerable deed, by rising from the dead. The

horizon is still there, but it is not fearsome any more. Jesus has taken the terror out of it, the tragedy and sting out of it. He has robbed it of its finality. Christ has circumnavigated life.

Or think of it this way. We are all children looking from the windows of our earthly home. We cannot see very far — across a nearby pasture, up a hill, and there is the horizon, death. It is the unknown, the interminable woods in which all children are eventually lost. But now is Christ risen from the dead. And although the horizon line is still there, it does not frighten us any more. We have a friend who lives beyond it. This world is not the limit of our horizon.

Because death comes often at the end of pain, or as the seeming close to the wastage of disease, its meaning is clouded for our minds. We know how great can be the tragedy of suffering and sickness and thus death, the apparent end of the process appears to be the climax to disaster. But what if it is no such thing? What if it is not the end of a process we have, with sad hearts, observed, but the beginning of a glorious day whose brightness we have not been permitted to see? Then the foreboding we have for the fate of those who have slipped from our care vanishes. Furthermore, the sorrow, the loneliness, the parting are not the lost chapters in the story for us. "Yet a little while," said Jesus, "and I shall come to you." After the parting is to be reunion — not "goodbye", but "adieu" — to God — I'll see you in the morning.

An army officer was killed in action. In his pocket was found a slip of paper entitled "The Ship." I will read it to you.

"I am standing upon the sea-shore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch her until at length she is only a ribbon of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says, 'There! She's gone!'"

"Gone where? Gone from my sight — that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her, and just at the moment when someone at my side says, 'There! She's gone!' there are other voices ready to take up the glad shout, 'There! She comes!' And that is dying!"

Death is only a horizon, and a horizon is but the limit of our sight. The best of life is further on, hidden from our eyes beyond the hills of time. For as Paul says, "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither has it entered the hearts of men, the things God has prepared for those who love him."

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SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9.30 a.m.

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OPENING OF KENMORE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE AND PRINCIPAL'S RESIDENCE

Tremendous interest and support on the part of the Queensland brotherhood was evidenced in no uncertain fashion at the official opening of Kenmore Christian College and the Principal's residence on Sunday, May 2, at 2.30 p.m.

A. McK. Surtees, newly elected State Conference President, led the ceremony, which was attended by representatives from many Queensland churches. The attendance was conservatively estimated at between 700 and 800. Local government, civic and church leaders were among those present. Mr. W. D. Lickiss, M.L.A., representing the State Government, spoke on behalf of the invited guests and brought good wishes for future success.

Lars Larsen, the oldest Queensland minister in our brotherhood, declared the College open. Mrs. C. R. Burdeu, wife of the Chairman of the College Board, then declared the residence open. Another pioneer preacher, W. H. Nightingale, unveiled a memorial plaque on a stone cairn commemorating pioneer missionaries, some American Colleges where our early ministers trained, and past Principals of Glen Iris and Woolwich, in whose honor trees were planted at the Foundation ceremony during Federal Conference.

The thanksgiving offering, which was taken during the ceremony, amounted to £830. Guest soloists for the occasion were Mrs. L. J. Metcalf, of Gatton, who sang "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings," and B. M. Nowitzke, minister of the Roma church, who presented the dedicatory solo, "Bless This House." C. R. Burdeu, Chairman of the College Board, led in the prayer of dedication.

During the afternoon tribute was paid to the work of D. Cranston, as architect. Those inspecting the buildings were impressed with the design and structure. The College, with 17 students enrolled, is filled to capacity, with the prospect of at least another 15 students next year thought is already being given to further extensions.—M. H. A. Pieper, Secretary.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

COURSE FOR ENGAGED COUPLES

(Adelaide). The next course is being planned for June, and young people contemplating marriage should contact the Social Service Dept. for application forms. Lectures will be given by a housewife, doctor, minister, psychologist and business man, and will cover various aspects of married life. Young people should attend as many lectures as possible as they prepare themselves for marriage.

Ministers are requested to forward names of couples planning to marry so that forms may be sent. Will local church papers please copy?

YOUTH LEAD SERVICE

(Brooklyn Park, S.A.). The Bible School, the girls' and boys' basketball clubs, tennis club, girls' Life Brigade, junior girls' club and boys' Life Brigade were all well represented at a youth service on May 2. . . . The newly formed boys' Life Brigade was inaugurated. The boys appeared in their uniforms for the first time. . . . On Mother's Day the evening service was led by a group of ladies (Mesdames Lampshire, Miller, Chester, Royals and Arbon). The minister, J. W. Lewis, said that the women of the church performed many tasks, some seen, but very many unseen, and which, together, ensured progress in the work of the church. He expressed the appreciation of the men of the church.

FOUNDATION STONE

(Whyalla, S.A.). The foundation stone of the new church is to be unveiled on May 30 by R. Tippet, President of the North-West Dist. Conf. . . . Two young people were baptized in April. . . . The C.Y.F. travelled to Port Augusta to inspect the Elec. Trust Power Station. . . . I. J. Chivell, A. Griffiths and A. Norris, returning from Red Cliffs Men's Camp, shared in an evening service. . . . The C.W.F. enjoyed a visit from Mrs. Cunningham, State Pres. Two ladies attended Women's Camp at Balaklava. . . . At a missionary supper, the S.S. raised money to educate a native boy in the New Hebrides. . . . The sympathy of the church is offered to Mrs. B. Sawtell and J. Thoday, in the loss of their mother.

SHARKED EXPENSES

(Pt. Lincoln, S.A.). Members of the boys' club went into camp at Redcliffs with A. J. Storay minister, and B. Anthony, club leader, in charge. In a netting effort a gummy shark worth £2 almost paid the camping expenses. . . . A wood cutting picnic was enjoyed by several families. . . . Mrs. D. Holloway, of Tumby Bay, was guest speaker at Mother's Day gospel service, organised and conducted by the Women's Fellowship. Several items were given by their own choir.

WEST COAST MEN'S CAMP, S.A.

The first camp for the men of our churches to be held away from the city, was arranged for the weekend, April 23-25, at the Red Cliffs Camp Site near Tumby Bay.

The churches of the Eyre Peninsula requested the Executive to assist them to arrange this camp. Thirty-five men attended, coming from churches at Port Lincoln, Tumby Bay, Ungarra, Mount Hill, Whyalla and Wudina. There were also four of our men who are meeting with the Methodist Church in Port Augusta in attendance.

Leadership was provided by the local ministers, and Messrs A. M. Norris, A. J. Griffiths and I. J. Chivell. There were studies on our brotherhood work, the Holy Spirit, participation in public worship,

the mission of men in the local church, what the minister thinks of the Church Board, and what men in the church think of the work of the minister. There was very free and frank discussion, and sometimes, quite animated. It was a delight to have Mr. L. Riches, M.L.A., the Speaker in the House of Parliament in this State, in attendance throughout the camp, and his contributions enriched us all.

This is the first time such a camp has been attempted in a specific district. The men were so helped by the studies and the fellowship that, before campers dispersed, it was agreed that a similar camp should be held next year. We hope other District Conferences will follow the good lead given by the Eyres Peninsula Conference.

—I. J. Chivell.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

The Mid-Year Women's Conference was held on May 6, with Mrs. Cunningham presiding. There were approximately 100 ladies present, including two visitors, Mrs. Burt (Tas.) and Mrs. Green-shields (Pres., Nthn. District Women's Conference).

The meeting opened with a panel discussion. Members of panel were: Mesdames Lawrance, Lewis, Hammer, Watson. Questions which had been submitted by individuals and groups were addressed to individual members of panel and, following a reply, the topic was open for discussion. Replies were concise and to the point, and discussion was helpful.

Mrs. S. Haynes brought a greeting from Congregational women and gave an address challenging to wider service, emphasising our responsibilities and re-

sources. Meeting closed with hymn and benediction.

At the business session, held in the morning prior to Conference, attendance was 173, including 146 delegates. The President reported on visits to Southern Eyre Peninsula, Whyalla, Riverland churches, and Goolwa. The following announcements were made by the leader of Social Service Dept. — July 9, Jumble Sale at Enfield Shopping Centre, proceeds for cake stall at Temperance Alliance Fair. Good clean, secondhand clothing may be brought to next two monthly meetings. Welfare Centre requires warm winter clothing for children of all ages. The Youth Hostel requires cook — any interested are invited to contact Mrs. J. Searle at Hostel.

Next meeting, on June 3, is the Social Service Rally.—M. Wright, Asst. Sec.

17 GIRLS IN CAMP

(Loxton, S.A.). A G.L.B. camp was held, May 14-19, at Lake Cullullera; 17 girls from Loxton company attended. . . . A combined social of the Upper Murray young people was held on May 8, at Barmera; 24 attended from Loxton. . . . We have three teams entered in Table Tennis Association this year.

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NEW BILLY GRAHAM FILM

Youth for Christ International (S.A.) announces that the new Billy Graham film, "World Fair Encounter," will have premiere screenings in S.A. as follows:—

Adelaide Town Hall - Saturday, May 22, 7.45 p.m.

Port Adelaide Town Hall - Saturday, May 29, 7.45 p.m.

Salisbury District Youth Centre - Friday, June 4, 7.45 p.m.

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

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TRADESMEN REQUIRED — OVERSEAS MISSIONS

CARPENTER - BUILDER Required, **NEW GUINEA**. A builder (or carpenter with building experience) is required immediately, to accept the responsibility of the erection of the **Paternoster Memorial Hospital** in New Guinea, when Mr. Bolton returns for furlough in July. Single man preferred.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS NEEDED — Carpenters, Handymen, etc., to serve for brief periods, minimum 4 weeks, as voluntary workers (pay own travel, approx. £120, board and accommodation provided) are needed urgently for projects in New Guinea and the New Hebrides.

The Federal Overseas Mission Board will welcome enquiries from interested brethren. Write to Federal Secretary, R. S. A. McLean, 53 Tarragon-st., Mile End, South Aust.

TREASURER'S SCORE

(Grote-st., S.A.). A presentation was made to Ron Cotton on retirement as treasurer after 20 years' service. The new treasurer is C. W. McDonald. . . . The first of a series of cottage meetings to stimulate interest in missionary work was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. Hearnden, with encouraging results. . . . Bible School anniversary speakers were R. Holmes and R. Greenhalgh, with W. Watson as leader of all the singing. . . . At half-yearly business meeting, new deacons elected were W. Orr and K. Wight.

VIC. - TAS. NEWS

MALVERN CRUSADE

(Vic.). The Crusade for Christian Community commenced on May 16, with great interest shown by congregation and one confession on opening night. Youth Group conducted meeting on Anzac Day. They have opened their coffee shop which will be held after church twice a month. . . . Soloists have been Charles Pelling, Pam Easton and A. O. S. Baker. . . . The youth group held a weekend camp at Toolangi.

MISSIONARY MEETINGS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Recently two meetings organised by Victorian Churches of Christ C.E. Committee were attended by 240 — mostly young people. Through short talks by a panel of four, ably introduced and "timed" by Dr. K. R. Bowes, plenty of opportunity was given for questions — which came freely.

Speakers were E. W. Heard (India), A. Fletcher (New Guinea), W. Jenkins (Aborigines), K. Harvey (Home Missions).

The second meeting provided opportunity for people to hear and see many different aspects of missionary work.

The meetings were well organised and ably chaired by Bob Alabaster. Those present were challenged to think of "Missions" in ways different from the usual.—R. McKenzie.

COMMUNION TRAYS DEDICATED

(Warrnambool, Vic.). Two silver trays and two wine trays were dedicated on April 18 in memory of Mrs. A. Lucas. . . . Visitors included Mrs. Croxford, Shepparton, and Mr. L. Morffew. They served as organists for the day they were with us. Mr. and Mrs. Morffew were married in the chapel here 42 years ago. . . . Instead of usual Western Dist. Conf., a P.S.A. was held at Portland; 16 of our members attended. . . . For Good Friday we shared in a united service at the Presbyterian church, and also attended a film evening in the Town Hall. . . . N. Merritt, chaplain at the Technical College, addressed the Evening Group ladies on "Social Welfare". . . . A young lady has joined the church through faith and baptism. . . . Young people invited their parents to a special youth tea on May 2. The youth have painted the interior of the Kindergarten room.

TASMANIAN BAPTISMS

(Copping, Highcroft, Nubeena, Tas.). At Copping, on May 2, three young people were baptized at the morning service and then received into the fellowship of the church. The Director of the Dept. of Christian Education, V. Longthorp, was at Highcroft and Copping on May 4 and 5. . . . B. Golder, from Hobart, was guest speaker at the 11 a.m. service at Nubeena on May 9, and at a special Mother's Day service in the afternoon.

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THURS. to SAT. MAY 20th to 22nd 8pm
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Some Thoughts About Vietnam

BY Dr. DESMOND CROWLEY

Everyone has been arguing about Vietnam lately: Sir Robert Menzies and the Bishops, Parliament, President Johnson and Senator Moore, Stan Lowe and the Editor of the "Australian Christian." Since I've been in the argument for a long time, just for this occasion I think I'll stay on the sideline and comment on the debate and the debaters.

President Kennedy's foreign policy was the most thoughtful and realistic of any American President since George Washington. During his term of office one could see him making a careful study, one by one, of each of the main problem areas of the world, and then launching a new initiative. He turned to neutralism in Laos; he wasn't spared the time to make up his mind on Vietnam.

President Johnson doesn't seem to me to have followed his example. At first, as one would expect, he followed Kennedy's policies; more recently, having to make his own decisions, he seems to have resorted to force instead of thoughtfulness. Though much more skilful than Kennedy in American domestic politics, he gives no sign of having made a penetrating study of the Vietnam situation. (Not that anyone seems likely to

find a satisfactory solution to this extremely difficult problem.)

One of the interesting aspects of the Prime Minister's clash with the bishops is the attention he gave to their letter. The churches are used to being ignored on political matters: is a change in process? Has church pressure played an important part in recent changes in Government policy — in increased Australian contributions in overseas aid, in increased expenditure in New Guinea and the acceptance of aid from U.N. agencies, in the announcement (7/5/65) that Australia is increasing the number of Asians she is admitting, and that her immigration policy is no longer "exclusion on grounds of race except in special cases"? I believe it is.

If so, let us keep up and increase the pressure. Let us, as Christians, continue to urge that human values — respect for the God-given rights of all men to control and develop their own lives — be given higher priority than our own narrow national interests. Let us urge particularly that this kind of approach be the basis, even though it may not be easy to work out its detailed application, to the tragic situation in Vietnam.

"THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN" 50 YEARS AGO 1915

Church Decline. Among the principal causes of spiritual decline in church life, as suggested in an American official report, says "The Christian," are: receiving unconverted members; religion without God; love of pleasure; craze for amusement; cares of the world; preaching that leaves out God and the hereafter; too low a tone in religion; lack of true pastoral oversight; God not honored in the home; and last, but not least, church quarrels. These are all more or less familiar; but with Christ in his proper place, in the hearts and lives of professing Christians, not one of these conditions would be possible in any church fellowship. We know only too well that these same evils are causes of backsliding in our own lands as well as in America . . . **Comment on Conference.** Why do many preachers, who freely criticize the late attendance of their hearers, set so bad an example? At the preachers' session, the majority were late as usual . . . Brother Ingram, of Beechworth, in whose tent in 1853 the earliest meetings of disciples of Christ were held in Vic., received an ovation. He was 37.

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QUEENSLAND WOMEN

Approximately 200 women congregated at the Ann-st. chapel for Women's Day of Conference, April 30, 1965.

The capable handling of the day's programme by our President, Mrs. G. Giezendanner (Moorooka), was in itself a highlight.

Mrs. Chapman, of Kedron, responded on behalf of the wives of ministers new to Queensland since last Conference.

There was representation from each of the other Australian States. Mrs. Flood (ex-Qld.) responded on behalf of W.A. Two new Fellowships were welcomed to Conference — Baddow and Harlaxton.

Following Mrs. Machin's (Redcliffe) notes on Kenmore Christian College, and Mrs. Potter's (Ann-st.) report on the Brotherhood Centre, attention was drawn to the new Advancement Fund being set up to provide financial support for these projects. Albion C.W.F. provided a very appetising lunch, proceeds of which go to the Brotherhood Centre.

The afternoon session was most inspiring. No one present will forget the advice given by Mrs. Jauncey in her message, "Are You a Sucker?" If you're wondering where she got her text, turn to John 15, and read about the branch that doesn't bear fruit.

Our General Conference President, R. Acland (Southport) introduced the new officers, and brought greetings.

New Officers are:— Mrs. R. Haigh (Kedron), President; Mrs. H. Plint (Redcliffe), Vice-Pres.; Mrs. W. S. Cobine (Sunnybank), Sec.; Mrs. W. Hovard (Ann-st.), Asst. Sec.; Mrs. S. E. Smith (Albion), Treas.; Mrs. H. W. Wiltshire (Albion), Asst. Treas.

Superintendents: Mrs. Surtees (Albion), Home Mission; Mrs. Chalmers (Boondall), Overseas Missions; Mrs. Lee (Annerley), Social Service; Mrs. Burdeu (Albion), Aborigine Missions; Mrs. Chapman (Rocklea), Prayer Meeting; Mrs. Atkins (Kedron), Obituary; Mrs. Hubbard (Albion), Correspondence Fellowship; Mrs. Finch (Wynnum), Hospital Visitation; Mrs. Machin (Redcliffe), Kenmore Christian College; Mrs. Connell (Albion), Pianiste.

Representatives: Mrs. Chalmers, Mrs. Smith, World Day of Prayer; Mrs. Haigh, Mrs. Plint, Mrs. Giezendanner, Mrs. Payne, Inter-Church Council; Mrs. Haigh, Mrs. Potter, National Council of Women.

The profusion of color in the massed flowers, which had been arranged by Mrs. Berry (Albion), Mrs. Connell (Albion) and Miss Maiden (Kedron), was much appreciated, together with the warm feeling of fellowship which seemed to pervade the day, helped to make Conference Day '65 one of the most enjoyable to date. There were solos by Mrs. Sleaford (Rosewood), Mrs. Smith (Ann-st.) and Mrs. Reed (Ann-st.).—M. Cobine, Sec.

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THE "CHRISTIAN" GOES

ON A BUS TRIP



This story is a piece of unvarnished propaganda! It began almost a year ago when the small membership at Windsor Gardens, a new area and a new church, in Adelaide, began to look at the rapidly growing district around them. They had built up a Bible School of around 150 in one year.

Though small in numbers they were determined to do something about the nearby children. So, they thought about a bus, and thought about their finances. Result, they couldn't do anything about it at all! An appeal by way of this fine publication, plus the Home Mission "On the Spot" brought the story before the brotherhood.

The result was fine. Several churches made a weekly sum available, several individuals "came to the party," and the bus was secured. Within a month or so they had to put on a larger bus to bring the children.

Join the bus driver and his weekly assistant on the trip. They start off near the church and make their way to areas at Holden Hill and Strathmont, both over a mile from the buildings of the church. The sign on the bus tells who is coming, and along the route the little people are waiting for the Sunday School bus. Arriving at around opening time, the bus driver cools his heels until the session is over, and then he drives the children home again. Sometimes he has to handle two trips to bring the customers!

There are several interesting pieces in this story. The bus only costs £3 weekly! There's a big heart in the owner of the line. The school membership has lifted by 100 children. The area is growing so rapidly that another 50 children could be brought each Sunday. They haven't enough teachers to

staff the school, so are wary of such things as canvasses for scholars. It might cause too many problems! The church growth isn't as rapid as the school growth.

Now comes the rub! In June the gifts from their kind friends runs out, and the bus may have to be discontinued! This means stranding 50 children weekly and telling them, in effect, "We can't afford the bus, so it's been nice knowing you. We hope you can remember what we told you during our brief association." (Of course, the name of the church in the district will be really something!).

Naturally, such an idea could only occur to disturbed and frustrated Home Mission Directors! In his better moments the said Director knows that there are individuals in the S.A. brotherhood who, after reading this story, will say, "If he thinks that the children are going to be left without Bible School instruction and the Word of God simply for want of £3 weekly, then I'll put him right at once." And some of this kind of person might even say, "I can't do much myself, but I'll certainly put it up to the Board of our church to have a look at this wonderful opportunity to reach out beyond our own cause." Yes, it's simply amazing what people might say — and do!

When "The Christian" comes to know of situations like this it feels that it is fulfilling part of its mission in making the facts known. Therefore, this piece of evangelistic opportunity receives good wishes and commends the matter to the brethren in the South Australian churches.

The writer is still at 189 Gawler Place, Adelaide.

—E. P. C. Hollard.

QUESTING

WITH

A. E. WHITE



Someone said that our church is not a "warm" church. What is a warm church and how do you measure its temperature?

To start with, a "warm" church has nothing to do with temperature expressed in degrees Fahrenheit or Centigrade. Some of our churches are physically cold, drafty, and often half empty. Before heating systems became the rule rather than the exception all kinds of efforts were made to beat the cold. Some took blankets to church others even took hot water bottles. Others refused to pamper themselves. Some even gave the impression that God preferred them to be uncomfortable.

We do not believe now that there is any virtue in being uncomfortable. There is nothing wrong in having heaters in the church in winter, or fans in summer. But radiators during a service, or even soup or coffee before or after, do not ensure spiritual warmth.

Some churches like to get warm by engendering a little heat in the pulpit. But not even a "hot-gospeller" can really warm up a cold church. Let's have some passion for the gospel by all means, but let us not mistake sizzle for sincerity. There were times when Jesus spoke of the fierce wrath of God against evil, and we shall have to do the same. But the note of love is dominant in the words of Jesus as, for example, in the stories about the Samaritan woman, Nicodemus, Zacchaeus, and Mary of Magdala.

There is a warmth that should be found in our churches. It is the warmth which the two disciples of Emmaus found when they said, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he opened to us the scriptures?" It is the strange warmth that came to the heart of John Wesley in the Aldersgate experience of all that Christ had done for him and meant to him. This warmth from the presence of Christ is the only warmth that really matters. It is expressed in genuine concern for others and is Christian love in action.

When a stranger comes to your church and feels that the people care enough about him to want his friendship, and seek to give him theirs and if the source of this friendliness is Christ himself, then you will have a warm church.

Don't bother to find ways of measuring this warmth. Enjoy giving it and enjoy receiving it.



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SPOTLIGHT ON A.C.T. . . .

Second Church

As the first houses wait to have their clothing of brick veneer over their frame skeletons just over the road from the South Canberra Church of Christ site in Lyons, the Canberra Church is making significant moves to hasten the commencement of the work there.

A second minister has been engaged, to commence his ministry early in 1966. He is Richard Lawton. Mr. Lawton is a South Australian, and is in his final year at the College of the Bible. He is married and the Lawtons have one small son, Mark. After long consideration, the Canberra Church felt that Mr. Lawton was God's man for this task. They approached the Federal Executive for their consideration and were pleased to have their unanimous endorsement.

A design study has been completed and the church building committee is negotiating with an architect. It is hoped that building can commence by about September of this year. By then the neighboring suburb of Hughes should be well nigh completed, the next suburb of Curtin half completed, and development of Lyons the immediate suburb well under way, with the southern suburb of Chifley commenced.

The Canberra Church has planned to erect a £15,000 utility building as the first stage, and arrangements have been made to borrow this amount. A bombshell hit the church when notification was received of a recent Department of Interior policy change, withdrawing rental housing priorities. Up until recently it has been possible to get immediate rental houses for

ministers. This makes it necessary for the church to build a manse as well as the utility building. Members had to ask themselves whether the £7,000 cost of a manse should come off the £15,000 for the utility building. They decided to tackle both. At the completion of these buildings, the total indebtedness of the Canberra Church will be £28,000, with an annual repayment of £2,400. To this will be added the support of the second minister and the expenses of a second congregation.

The Campbell Edwards Trust has been most helpful in making loans possible at generous rates of repayment. The Federal Executive has agreed to a subsidy of £15 per week. Over and above this the Canberra church will need to find an extra £30 per week. This will represent a 30% increase in giving. Thus the Canberra church proceeds in faith believing that under God the work will develop in such a way that all commitments will be met, people will be won to Christ, and outgoing service be rendered in Christ's name.

Already the Canberra church has set out after its goals, and for some weeks there has been a steady increase in offerings. We could sit back and enjoy a comfortable and happy church life in Canberra without bothering with this new project. But in the name of the brotherhood we are going forward, in the hope that we will have the interest and prayers of the brotherhood. That God is with us in this enterprise, we have no doubt.

—G.R.S.

SUPPORT MISSION CHILD

(Wembley, W.A.). At a special ladies' luncheon, £11 was raised towards the support of a mission child. The Ladies' Fellowship held a united social, to which ladies from other denominations were invited; 70 attended . . . T. Banks, who pioneered the Sunday School when the district was new, has been welcomed as supt. of Intermediate section of the school . . . A coffee club for young people has been introduced, after the evening service . . . The Junior C.E. held a special Mother's Day meeting to which mothers were invited . . . A. Walkington has ably preached the gospel while the church has been without a minister. Those assisting in the mornings have been E. J. Sewell, K. R. Turner, G. A. Harrison and Dr. Menmuir, of the U.S.A.

ZONE PRAYER MEETINGS

(E. Ipswich - Leichhardt, Qld.). Five Zone Prayer Meetings are still being held in the homes and are well attended . . . Parents and friends joined with Bible School scholars in their picnic at Goodna Flats . . . A fellowship basket tea was arranged on May 9, by the Sunday Schools, to honor mothers; 70 attended. The evening service was centred around "Mother." Bouquets of flowers were given to the oldest and youngest mother present . . . The C.W.A. "Home for Aged" and "Lauriston Home" for Aged and Infirm, have been visited recently and items given, as well as a devotional talk.

National Diary

MAY
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.
29 V. North-Eastern and Riverina District Conference — Shepparton.

MOVEMENTS

RESIGNATION THROUGH ILLNESS

(Tas.). K. A. Mason has resigned from Ulverstone, on account of ill-health. He and his family have now moved to Sydney. M. R. Byard is conducting a part-time interim ministry with the church.

PETER FRENCH TO N.S.W.

(Wagga Wagga). P. French, minister at Wynnum, Qld., has advised acceptance of an invitation to minister at the Wagga church. He is expected to commence in January, 1966 . . . Local members assisted by visitors are speaking at services. Attendances have been well maintained . . . Several new books have been purchased to commence a library as part of the literature advance . . . E.W.F. entertained rest of mothers at a special luncheon on May 5, as feature for Mother's Day.

YOUNG MEN LEAD

(Ann-st., Brisbane, Qld.). On Mother's Day it was good to see all young men presiding, reading and serving. Members of the Intermediate Endeavour prepared sprigs of white flowers for the day, and each person entering the church received one . . . The C.Y.F. is helping to improve the grounds of the Kenmore Christian College, and joined in a working bee there on May 8 . . . Cottage prayer meetings were held in five suburban homes on May 12 . . . The old refrigerator in the Social Hall is being replaced with two, each of 7½ cubic feet; this will be a big help for the catering committee. The P.A. system in the church has been improved by the addition of two column speakers and two new microphones.

OPENING OF NEW CHURCH HALL

(Asquith, N.S.W.). A valuable addition to the property here has become available by the opening, on May 8, of the "Alfred Winter Memorial Hall," a fine structure of brick, with tile roof, adjoining the present chapel and harmonising with it in style and material, and about equal in size.

The main part of the work was carried out by a local building contractor, but plans and specifications, preparation of the site, laying the foundations, electrical installation, roof tiling, drainage, painting, and much other work was done by church members, under the leadership of W. H. Melville (convener) and O. Whalan (building supervisor). This is the fifth addition to the Asquith buildings in the past eighteen years.

The Conference President, C. E. Bowser, presided at the opening ceremony. The Shire President, Cr. Tulloch, and others, brought greetings. The D.C.E. Director,

Bruce Armstrong, gave a fine inspirational address, and the hall was officially opened by Miss Edna Harris, who has been a teacher in the Bible School from the commencement twenty-three years ago.

NEW OFFICERS

(Hornsby, N.S.W.). The following were elected at the annual business meeting on May, to serve on the Official Board for the coming year: elder, Ron Bartholomew; deaconess, Mrs. E. R. Bishop (treas.); deacons, Russ Bartholomew, A. E. Bell, H. R. Bishop, J. V. Ellerby (sec.), G. S. J. Glazier, A. E. Morton and R. E. Newton. All auxiliary leaders were re-appointed. There has been marked growth and development in young people's activities . . . J. Boswell was speaker at 11 a.m. on May 9 . . . Ron Bartholomew conducted Mother's Day gospel service, followed by the monthly after-church fellowship.

N.S.W. MINISTERS' FRATERNAL

(Sydney). The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. at City Temple, on Monday, May 31. The speaker will be Bruce Armstrong, Director of Christian Education, on the subject: "Christian Education in the Local Church."

HAROLD HUNT IN HOSPITAL

(Melb.). We regret to learn that Harold Hunt, minister of the church at Hawthorn, suffered a stroke last week and is a patient in the Moorabbin Community Hospital, Ann-st., McKinnon.

VISIT OF S. SEWELL

(Devonport, Tas.). On May 8, S. M. Sewell, B.A., B.D., from Thailand Theological Seminary, gave an illustrated address to an appreciative audience . . .

During the winter months, C.W.F. will meet in homes of members . . . A special service for Mothers was well attended. Posies made by S.S. scholars were presented to mothers attending . . . 25 boys and four officers of B.B. paraded on May 2. Presentations of cards, badges and other awards were made by W. Ratcliffe and G. Russell, of N.F.O. Mr. Taylor gave an illustrated talk on "Christ, the Rock"

CHAPLAIN WANTED FOR FLATS

(Richmond, Vic.). The Housing Commission will soon be erecting a block of flats in Richmond for aged couples. The church there has been in touch with the Commission and the Commission has promised to give favorable consideration to an application from a recommended person who could act as chaplain to people living in flats in the area.

The Richmond church invites any retired minister or suitable lay person to make further enquiries through the church secretary, R. Winstone, 7 Waltham-st., Richmond, E.I. Perhaps a minister who is close to retiring age could consider the potential ministry.

FRANK HUNTING AT GEORGETOWN

(Georgetown, N.S.W.). Twenty from Georgetown were in camp at South Swansea at Easter . . . The 25th church anniversary was held on May 1 and 2, with Frank Hunting giving stirring missionary challenges. 125 were at tea provided by the C.W.F. . . . The Kindergarten staff, at their own expense, have completely renovated the Kindergarten hall . . . Thirty mothers were present at the Kindergarten Mother's Day service. F. D. Craig's ministry is much appreciated.

Circulation Corner . . .

"MEET THE EDITOR" AGENTS INVITED

The agents for "The Australian Christian" from churches within a reasonable distance of Melbourne, are invited to "Meet the Editor" at the Brotherhood Centre, 217 Lonsdale-st., Melbourne.

To avoid clashes with local church activities an alternative evening is offered to the churches. "Meet the Editor" sessions will be held on Monday and Tuesday, June 14 and 15, at 7.45 p.m. Agents may attend either evening.

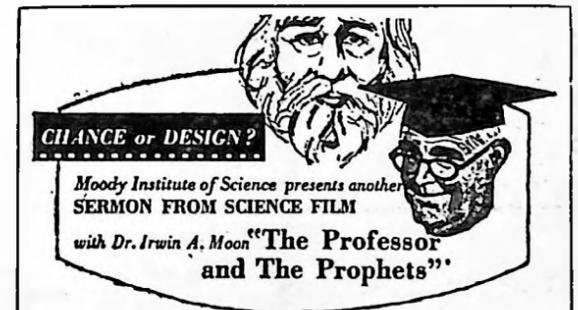
Where there are no agents appointed by the church, or if the agent is unable to attend either one of these two nights, churches are requested to ensure that someone is present to share in these informative talks with the Editor.

Every aspect of the partnership between the local churches with "The Australian Christian" will be considered.

AGENTS PLEASE NOTE!

AGENTS from CHURCHES in the MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA ARE INVITED TO MEET THE EDITOR

BROTHERHOOD CENTRE, JUNE 14 or 15, 7.45 p.m.



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ILLNESS OF F. B. STOW

(Tamworth, N.S.W.). The illness of our minister, Mr. Stow, necessitates a complete rest from duties for at least another month. He has been ill for some time and our prayers are continually with him for a complete and rapid recovery. He is resting at Newcastle at present with some of his family. Mrs. Stow has also been on the sick list, but is now improving . . . Local brethren have taken services and undertaken other duties during this time. Mrs. Stow spoke to the congregation on Mother's Day morning . . . There have been two decisions. Mother's Day included special evening, to which several of the aged of the community were invited, was a great success. An old-time programme was chaired by Mrs. Stow.

DUNMORE BOYS GUESTS

(Hurtsville, N.S.W.). On May 1, Harvest Festival boys from Dunmore House were invited for a special afternoon service, tea to follow, then gospel service. Mr. Jones, who works on a sheep station, brought the afternoon message. Our girls' choir sang for both services . . . At tea a farewell was given to Mr. and Mrs. J. Reid, prior to going overseas . . . On Mother's Day, parents were invited to special Sunday School service, with Kindergarten, led by Miss J. Saunders, taking most of the programme, followed by a cup of tea. The Evening Women's Fellowship had as their guest speaker for their anniversary, Mrs. Peggy Henderson. . . . Paul Toomey has won title of State Champion for squash . . . The Cordy family was farewelled, when gifts from church, S.S. and Y.P. were presented.

Roger Ryall Reports



Roger and Betty Ryall.

Betty and I were received into membership at the Dhond church on our first Sunday in India. We had taken letters of transfer of membership from Surrey Hills (Vic.). The pastor of the church at Dhond is a young man, and I understand from Sister Walker, and others, that he is giving fine leadership to the congregation. In the course of a few months he has visited scores of homes, and he is setting out to maintain effective contact with a community of people in the vicinity of Dhond who speak the Telegu language.

Last Sunday there was a reverently conducted baptismal service at Dhond, some of the candidates being Christians from other missions (including Sister Hiwale of the hospital staff) who requested immersion out of sheer conviction about Christ's command, and others being young people. Sister Walker said it was a splendid witness.

On one of the early Saturdays of the language school "season" here at Mahableshwar, a number of the students went to Poladhpur, a bus-ride of 1½ hours. At this town there is an important centre of the work of the Mission to Lepers. The Superintendent is a dedicated and hard-working Scot. There are 169 patients at Poladhpur at present, and an average of 50 persons are discharged cured each year.

We were most impressed with the Christian concern which underlay all the varied aspects of this centre, and every possible assistance is given in the rehabilitation of former leprosy sufferers. There is need for a doctor and nursing sisters at Poladhpur, so that more surgery could be undertaken in the cases where this is necessary.

An important part of the treatment for most patients is undertaken in the physiotherapy and handcrafts departments. We watched the procedure in the physio. dept. Several young people put their forearms into hot wax, which was then cooled, so as to set somewhat like a plaster cast. "The cast" was peeled off, oil rubbed in to the hands and a series of exercises performed. For

some, this procedure was necessary twice daily. After several weeks of regular exercises, much more use can be made of the hand and fingers. The appreciation of the hospitalised patients for the care they are receiving was very clear as we visited the wards of the hospital with the Superintendent.

The whole compound is a real Christian home for all — young and old alike. Many of the large buildings, including the lovely chapel with its high clock tower, were erected by the patients themselves. This is a remarkable achievement. The foundations have been prepared for staff quarters. Portion of the chapel tower, i.e., underneath the clock, is the 4,500 gallon water storage for the whole compound. Electric power is now connected to the leprosarium as part of the municipality, but the Mission to Lepers have their own generating plant in case of local power failure.

Another impressive feature was the painstaking way in which patients decorated the interior of their own living quarters. Small awards are made each year for the most attractively decorated room. The rooms would do credit to any Indian home, where all members of the family have full use of their limbs.

One of the language school students is an American E.N.T. specialist. He arranged this trip to the Leprosarium, and examined some of the patients. He showed us a lady on whom he himself had performed a successful bone graft on the nose. The Miraj Hospital, where this operation was performed, is one of the finest training hospitals in India. One of our Indian nursing sisters, Raswanta, completed her nursing training at Miraj.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Lily Bernoth.

After months of failing health, Mrs. Bernoth died on April 17. The church at Toowoomba, Qld., pays tribute to her gracious Christian witness during her life time. She was 76 years of age. After a service at the Margaret-st. church, the funeral took place in the Ma Ma Creek cemetery. In 1902 she was baptized in the Ma Ma Creek. She was a loyal and devoted member of the Ma Ma Creek church for 50 years. She transferred to Toowoomba in 1952 and remained active in church work until her death. She was keenly interested in every activity of the church. The church extends deepest sympathy to Mr. Bernoth and family.

—H.J.F.

Mrs. L. Cooper.

The church at Fremantle, W.A., was saddened by the death of Mrs. Laura Cooper on May 3. She had been unwell for some time and was resting at Skye Hospital, Fremantle. She was baptized by the late D. R. Stirling some 30 or 40 years ago. She was an active worker in the Bible School and also in the Women's Work for many years. She was also a diligent worker in visiting sick members and will be greatly missed by many. Her husband pre-deceased her. The church extends sympathy to daughter, Beryl in N.S.W., and son, Ernest, of Fremantle. The service at the Fremantle Crematorium was conducted by F. Rees, assisted by L. Donaldson.—S. G. Taylor.

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OBITUARY

Mrs. W. Nightingale.

On April 2, at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Sth. Brisbane, Mrs. W. Nightingale (nee Mrs. Dorothy Harlen) died. She was the eldest daughter of Fred Bignell, a member of a well known pioneer family of Churches of Christ in Queensland. He was among the founders of the Box Hill church in Victoria, and the Sunnybank church in Brisbane. At the age of 12 years she was baptized by W. Nightingale, who later married her to the late Jack Harlen. She reared a family of four sons and one daughter, while living at Sunnybank. She lived for Christ and the Church, serving the brotherhood in Queensland as secretary of the Women's Conference for a long period, and as Vice-Pres. for a number of years. Within the little church at Sunnybank, of which she was a foundation member, she served in every possible way to make effective the cause of Christ. Those of us who knew Mrs. Nightingale remember with gratitude and admiration her kindness and thoughtfulness, her smile and encouragement and, above all, her godly influence in church and community. About seven and a half years ago, after long years of correspondence and friendship she married our beloved brother, Will Nightingale, and together they served the Lord in churches in Western Australia and Queensland. Mrs. Nightingale and her husband were busily engaged in establishing a church at Wellington Point, Brisbane.—V. T. Parker.

Alexandra Annetts.

Alexandra Annetts, known as "Lexie" to her friends, was born in 1901. She learned of her Lord through the Bible School at Middle Park, Vic., and accepted him as Saviour during the ministry of the late A. R. Main. At 15, she transferred to Lygon St., where she became a teacher in the Bible School and involved in the Phi Beta Pi work. The late Arthur Eaton married Lexie and Harold Annetts in 1923. They settled in Middle Park, where Harold became secretary of the church, and Lexie, secretary of Women's Mission Band. Soon after the birth of her only child, Merle,

the arthritic affliction, which slowly limited her participation in life, evidenced itself. Throughout the long years of suffering, frustration and limitation she maintained a cheerful disposition and a keen interest in her family, her church and the brotherhood. As a student minister, 19 years ago, I first met this family and have been helped in my faith by her faith, by Harold's untiring devotion, and by the love of the family. Two years ago darkness descended on her and though sightless, she could see her brethren and her Lord. The call from her Lord which she had awaited so long came on April 18. Dan Stewart, a former minister at Middle Park, assisted the writer in the service in her beloved Middle Park chapel, attended by a large group of friends. The present minister, Ian Kernick, assisted at the graveside. Her loved ones are comforted in the faith they share.

—J. Manallack.

Alf. Morton.

Alfred Edward Morton, an isolated member of the church at Hurstville, N.S.W., passed from this life on April 19, at the age of 75. He was one of a family that made great contributions to the churches in N.S.W., especially in the assistance they gave in pioneering new causes. Alf, and his brother Will, entered the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, in 1911, and after training ministered for some time in Queensland. Alf later returned to his home State and to his trade as a painter, but continued to serve Christ as a deacon and Bible School supt. at Belmore, and by taking services wherever he could. The death of his wife, sixteen years ago, and his own failing health, made it necessary for him to retire from active service and when he moved to a district where we had no church he was cut off from the fellowship he loved, but continued to make a faithful witness wherever he had the opportunity, and his interest in the Lord's work continued unabated. The end was not unexpected, and came as a release from growing infirmity, for which we must be thankful. We sympathise with his family of five sons and one daughter. We thank God for the life and witness of a good man. Funeral services were conducted by H. C. Wheat and the writer.—D. Wakeley.

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Victorian News

SCARVES FOR LEPERS

(Gardenvale, Vic.). The ladies are continuously knitting scarves for Indian leper boys; 30 more have recently gone forward. Food parcels have been sent to India . . . Members of C.W.F. have recently enjoyed outings to beach and Botanical Gardens . . . The church has paid 12 months' subscription for two extra copies of "Christian" . . . District Prayer Rally on May 12 was well attended . . . A. G. Bennett has entered his 6th year of faithful ministry; Ormond, Bamba Rd. and Lygon St. are very helpful with presidential assistance . . . At C.W.F. 15th birthday celebration, Matron Davis, of Margaret Coles House Hospital, gave a most inspiring and interesting talk to a good gathering.

30 YEARS' SERVICE

(Oakleigh, Vic.). Mrs. Kempster has been farewelled in her removal from the district, after more than 30 years of faithful service at Oakleigh . . . P. Andrews (Ashburton) addressed a well attended service at 7.30 a.m. on Good Friday morning . . . Under Mrs. Miles' leadership, two groups have assisted at special evening services. On Easter Sunday an Easter Pageant was presented and on Mother's Day a group of young married women brought the drama, "Inasmuch" . . . The church has engaged Mr. Miles for a further period of three years after his present term expires next February . . . A young man was baptized on April 25 . . . The church is saddened to learn of the death of D. R. Stirling after a short illness.

MISSIONARY THEME

(Yarrowonga, Vic.). The S.S. anniversary introduced a missionary theme with special stories and songs. Ron Brooker was guest speaker and gave excellent illustrated messages . . . The film, "Missionary in Walkers' Garage," was screened with good results . . . A special afternoon for mothers was held on May 5. Mrs. Tepper led in devotions and a social time followed . . . A delegation joined with Wangaratta folk in meeting folk at Benalla with a view to recommending meetings there.

Department of Social Service

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feet of the church, functioning according to the measure of support it receives.
Three Homes, sheltering over 130 Sick and Aged.
Let us share together our prosperity and adversity.
Remember the Homes in your will.
Information from the Secretary,
32-2447.

PERSONAL

DISCIPLESHIP

Rhonda Allen, Wendy Peterson, Alan Schenk, Peel-st., Ballarat, Vic.
Bronwyn Stow, Gertrude Logan, Tamworth, N.S.W.
Anthony Hart, Oakleigh, Vic.
T. Self, Wembley, W.A.
Fay Monk, Linda Ashton, Springvale, Vic.
Helen Smith, Highcroft; Audrey Williams, Nubeena; Michael Bowerman, Judith Cragg, Beryl Bryan, Copping, Tas.
Maralyn Baohm, Alex Chicone, Whyalla, S.A.
Mrs. L. Willis, Mrs. Ted. Rolston, Chelsea, Vic.
S. Graham, Malvern, Vic.

MEMBERSHIP

Miss McLachlan, Owen; Mrs. Kilmire, Grote-st., to Forestville, S.A.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Walton, Strathmore, to Lygon-st., Carlton, Vic.
Mrs. Fullard, East Kew, to Hartwell Vic.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

G. C. Collins (church secretary, Asquith N.S.W.), Excelsior-rd., Mount Colah, N.S.W.
R. J. Brewster (sec., Chadstone church), 27 Valley-rd., Mount Waverley, Vic.

BIRTHS

LAUNDER (Williams). — Gwenneth and Malcolm wish to inform of the safe arrival of Robert Graham, at "Airlie," Ivanhoe, Vic., on May 7, 1965.
ROBERTS (Burbidge). — To Norma and Bryan, on May 5, a son — Francis James.

ENGAGEMENT

BAKER - McMASTER. — Mr. and Mrs. A. O. S. Baker, 11 Erica-cres., Heathmont, Vic., announce with pleasure the engagement of their only daughter, Carol Shirley, to John Bruce, only son of Mr. T. L. McMaster, of MacGregor-st., Mordialloc.

ments. We watched the procedure in the physio. dept. Several young people put their forearms into hot wax, which was then cooled, so as to set somewhat like a plaster cast. "The cast" was peeled off, oil rubbed in to the hands and a series of exercises performed. For

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MARRIAGES

Margaret McKennay to Graham Reade, Forestville, S.A.
Patricia South to William Smith, Tamworth, N.S.W.
Miss J. Young to G. Mogridge, Wembley, W.A.
Cheryl Dean to Brian Woolley, Gardiner, Vic.
Lorraine Lewis, Brooklyn Park, to Peter Leak, Blackwood, S.A.
Barbara Daff to Alan Condron, Springvale, Vic.
Carol Wilson to Gordon Berlin, E. Ipswich - Leichhardt, Qld.
Val. Cowan to Leon Lehmann, Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A.

DEATHS

Mrs. Millis, Lygon-st., Carlton.
D. R. Stirling, Oakleigh, Vic.
William Powell, Mrs. E. Knight, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.
G. Bowron, Margaret-st., Launceston, Tas.

DEATH

BUTLER. — On May 8 (suddenly), at his home, 1467 Burke-rd., East Kew, Vic., Frank, beloved husband of Maggie, loving father of Jean, Dorothy, Betty and Frances, loved brother of Ada (Mrs. Richards).

IN MEMORIAM

KEATS. — In loving memory of our beloved mother and grandmother, Pearl Alma, who was called Home on May 20, 1962.
— Myra and Laurie, Barry, Rodney and Jeffrey Ladgrove.

APPRECIATION

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. HURREN wish to express sincere appreciation of all good wishes received in cards, letters, telephone calls, visits and personal enquiries during Mr. Hurren's recent illness. The prayers and interest of our many friends were a great source of comfort. Thank you all.

GIRLS' HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION

Churches are advised that it is urgent that girls requiring accommodation for 1966 should apply immediately. Last year there were many late enquiries who had to be refused. Church papers may be kind enough to include a par. Apply to the Secretary, Church Office, 189 Gawler-place, S.A.

WANTED

Handyman - Gardener. — The Christian Rest Home, South Aust., requires the services of a handyman - gardener. Duties include general repairs and upkeep of lawns and gardens. Apply to the Secretary, Church Office, 189 Gawler-place, S.A.

GRAND SPIRITUAL MISSION

at the
Malvern Church (Vic.)
UNTIL MAY 31.

Missioners—
Bill Gaunson,
Col. Smith,
Alan Fletcher (Song Leader),
— All from the College of the Bible.
PRAY — PLAN — PREPARE
ATTEND.

CARNEGIE CHURCH (Vic.)

76th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

SUNDAY, MAY 30—
10.50 a.m.—Worship Service and Temple Day Offering. Guest Speaker: L. E. SNOW.
3.15 p.m.—Opening of Christian Centre and Dedication Service. Musical Items.
5.00 p.m.—Anniversary Tea.
7.00 p.m.—Gospel Service. Speaker: R. E. HILLBRICH.

All past members and friends cordially invited.
Come and spend the day with us.

CHADSTONE (Vic.)

10th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1965.
11 a.m.—Worship and Thanksgiving.
3 p.m.—Pleasant Sunday Afternoon.
All Past Members and Friends Are Cordially Invited.

CAULFIELD (Bambra-rd., Vic.)

HOMECOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, JUNE 6.

11 a.m.—C. H. DOW.
3 p.m.—P.S.A. - Capt. A. Lake, Ansett-A.N.A.
5 p.m.—Fellowship Tea.
7 p.m.—F. A. YOUENS.
Musical Items by Valentine Woff, Choir, Miss Winifred Lee, Miss Jean Milne.

SITUATIONS AVAILABLE

Responsible woman, total abstainer, for evening duties, on return own room and board. Further details, ring 23 - 2723 (Adelaide), between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

SECRETARY for Conference Executive Office. Apply Conference Secretary, 217 Lonsdale-st., Melbourne. Phone 32 - 2446.

CHILD CARE SERVICE. — The Gordon Homes, Nepean Highway, Highett, Vic., invite enquiries from persons interested in serving as House Parents. Experience in youth service preferred, but sincere and dedicated interest is more important. Supervisors of New Students' Cottage, Family Group Home and other positions will be available in the next few weeks. Some are for married couples with wife only employed and husband may continue present employment or studies. For further particulars ring 91 - 9813 after 6 p.m.

CHALLENGE TO YOUTH

MAY 29, 1965, at 8 p.m.

Meet your friends at a challenging and variety packed programme at Box Hill Church of Christ Hall, Court-st.
Artists include:
David Small, Ted Westaway, Jim Vine, and Cyril Minns and his dog, Andy.

"YOUTH UNITED" means ALL the young people of our Victorian churches getting together for Christian fellowship and challenge. JULY 19, ASSEMBLY HALL, Collins-st., Melbourne.

1965 FIELD PROGRAMME SERVES 26 CHURCHES.

A. A. Avery and K. J. Harvey will give intensive leadership in
Evangelism and Stewardship
A Major Move Forward by
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Victoria - Tasmania.

WANTED

CHAPLAIN for Housing Commission Flats. The Richmond church invites consideration of this challenging ministry. See news item on page 11, and write to R. Winstone, church secretary, 7 Waltham-st., Richmond, E.I, Vic.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Ladies interested in caring for school-age needy children (not delinquents) are invited to apply for permanent resident positions as cottage mothers — one child can be accommodated. For full details please contact The Principal, Northcote Children's Village, Box 42, Bacchus Marsh, Vic.

IN CONTINUAL DEMAND—

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The Early Years (560 pp.), 34/9.
Lectures to My Students. A splendid re-print, 30/-. Biography (Day), 27/6. Sermons, 1855-1860, 6 vols., 25/6 each. 20 vols., attractively printed and bound, 23/- each.

Daily Readings, 23/-; Morning and Evening, 19/-.

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MORNING COFFEE HOUR

(Blackburn, Vic.). Eighty ladies were present on April 28 at first of new series of "Morning Coffee Hours." Mrs. Morrison (Hartwell) was guest speaker, and Mrs. Willing (Hartwell) guest soliste... Church School and family picnic was held at Ferny Creek on May 8... Church School anniversary was held on April 25 and May 2 and speakers were E. W. Heard (Mitcham), R. V. Amos and G. McLeod (Boronia). Anniversary services concluded with presentation of a play by some members of senior school.

NEW MEMBERS

(Chelsea, Vic.). Two young mothers have been welcomed into full membership... B.S. picnic was held at Fernytree Gully on May 15. Two buses and ten cars were required for transport... At the 41st anniversary of the church, guest speakers were K. A. Jones, C.O.B. sec., and J. McCormick, of Wattle Park. Soloist was Miss Jean Milne... The annual business meeting of the church re-elected all deacons and deaconesses. Exciting plans for a forward move were adopted by the meeting. Planned giving is being considered and a spirit of eagerness and willingness was evident... Growth of the clubs and the membership roll are indications of aliveness.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

(Warracknabeal - Brim - Minyip, Vic.). Membership classes are being held at W'beal. Later young people from Brim will share in these special studies. The classes were held partly because of requests from young people who indicated their desire to become members... The annual meetings of the circuit churches reveal increases in attendances and offerings... A youth service on May 2 at W'beal had interesting features. One was a boys' quartette, accompanied by two guitars. They sang "It is no secret" and "There is a green hill," the latter to the modern ballad tune, "Blown in the wind."

OTHER VIC. CHURCH NEWS

LYGON-ST., CARLTON. Interest and attendances are still being maintained at all services... Church extends Christian sympathy to Mrs. J. Atkinson in the Home call of her sister, Mrs. H. Gross... C.W.F. special speaker on May 9 was Mrs. R. Dorning, of "The Open Door." Guest speaker at May 12 Bible Class session was Ken Cross, of the Roelands Native Mission Farm, W.A.

R. V. AMOS FOR SUNRAYSLIA CONFERENCE

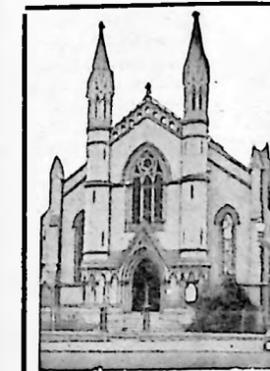
(Mildura). The minister of the Blackburn (Vic.) church, Ralph Amos, is to be guest preacher at the Sunrayslia Conference of Churches of Christ on June 4, 5 and 6. The churches in the Conference are Dareton, Merbein, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Robinvale. The Conference will conclude with a United Evangelistic Service at the Mildura Hall on June 6, at 7 p.m.

101st YEAR

(Bayswater, Vic.). Mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers were honored by C.W.F. of Bayswater — 87 were present. Mrs. Kirk, who is into her 101st year, was presented with a spray of flowers. Elocutionary items by Mrs. Ray Davis and singing by Mrs. Libby provided entertainment. C.W.F. choir also assisted. A display of antiques created a great deal of interest. Guest speaker was Mrs. Doreen Strack, to whom a box of fruit was presented by Mrs. Don Handasyde.

MARRIAGE RENEWAL SERVICE

(Dandenong, Vic.) Two special services were held to mark Mother's Day. A marriage renewal service was held at morning worship and at night the service was conducted by mothers of the congregation. The sermon was preached by Mrs. C. Warmbrunn. An every member present Sunday was held on April 11, L. G. Cooke, Hobart minister, was speaker... Instead of a sermon on April 25, at 7 p.m., the congregation divided into small groups for discussion on the theme "The Second Coming of Christ." Our 16th Dandenong Scouts and Cubs held their church parade that morning. Our scout troop was in camp for the first time this Easter at Officer... The Youth Council elected B. Black as president and M. Gowty as secretary. This council will be of great help to the various youth groups of the church. Our C.Y.F. as a "Service Project" helped to clean up the grounds at the Mentally Retarded Children's Centre to prepare for a lawn... Miss Wendy Reveleigh and Alf. Smith have both been farewelled prior to their going overseas. The Methodist Church conducted a baptismal service at our sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, April 25... The Doncaster C.Y.F. came to tea and then to the gospel service on May 2.



Swanston Street Church

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

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

Winter Programme of Sermons—

11 a.m.—SERMON ON THE MOUNT (Second Series).

7 p.m.—PROTESTANT HERITAGE Series.

May 23 — "PROTESTING ABOUT WHAT?"

OPEN FORUM

WORLD CONVENTION VALUE.

To the Editor,

At this time, when so many of our folk are talking of the forthcoming World Convention, and stating that, in all probability Adelaide, South Australia, is to be the next venue in 1970, I would question the true value of a World Convention.

True, it is a time of great inspiration to those who attend, and a time of planning and sharing on an international level, but surely this is obtained at a most uneconomical cost. In the light of the gains of a World Convention can we truly justify the use of God's resources of the personnel, time and finances of our churches on this tremendous scale?

To stage a World Convention here in Adelaide will demand a considerable channelling of our already limited resources into many months of planning and organising. This, of necessity, will mean a severe curtailment of local and brotherhood programmes and evangelism.

Conventions, themselves, have little outreach — their main appeal being to those already within membership, and their impact on the community at large is minimal.

Undoubtedly a World Convention is a great time for those in the Church, but to some extent we may come away with a tendency to feel rather proud and satisfied with the work and witness of our brotherhood. However, this was never less justified — the Church as a whole

must rid itself of complacency and prove by its life and programme its relevancy to today's world.

Certainly the World Convention will be a "success" — we will come away inspired and re-dedicated and some progress will be made; but we must ask if the real return is great enough to justify all that will be put into it.

If the answer is no, then surely we must utilise this selfsame amount of planning, manpower and finance on a project which would make a Christian impact on the community.

—J. M. Hemer, S.A.

RUBBISH BIN.

One of your writers says: Where are the old brethren of the churches? Why don't they write a protest at the views of our modern leaders?

I was baptized 66 years ago by G. T. Walden, and have lived then and met personally many of the great men of the days (1898) that have passed. I feel that, to use a common expression, they would turn in their graves at the letters and articles appearing in the "Australian Christian" of today.

As elder of the Southport church, I always gave my copy to others, new members if possible; today I read it and then throw it in the rubbish bin. Another wants to wear a long gown, another says a man can be a Christian without being baptized. I suppose he has never

read John 3: 5. That brother should read Christ's parable of the Ten Virgins. They all loved Jesus, only half entered Heaven. Has he never read why the other half was left outside?

Another says: let's make use of the Roman Catholic pagan festivals of Christmas and Easter. God gives his opinion of the Church of Rome in Rev. 17 and 18 chapters. I will stick with him in his opinion and have nothing whatever to do with pagan festivals.

As an old man, my opinion is that the time is fast coming when a movement will be necessary to restore the Restoration Movement.

—W. H. Morton, J.P., Qld.

ALAN WALKER.

To the Editor,

I wonder why Percy Williams gives thanks to God for Alan Walker, and is so sure there will not be a knighthood for him in the Honors List. Mr. Walker's thinking is well known to all. In the "Sydney Morning Herald" on two occasions recently, remarks by this gentleman are reported, such as, "Sending Australian troops to South Vietnam was a tragic blunder," and we have become "America's supine and obedient ally."

I do not remember Mr. Walker being so vociferous during the Second World War, when our American friends helped to save us from the rice fields of Asia nor wearing a placard, "Go home, Yank." Reading the "Australian Christian" these days means a series of jolts for me.

—Mrs. Anita Munro, N.S.W.

(More Open Forum - pages 17, 18).

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



"What time is the next performance?"

OPEN FORUM

BOOKS ON THE CHURCH'S MISSION.

To the Editor,

The listing of book titles and book reviews ("A.C.", May 6, '65) is a commendable service to the brotherhood. The need to read is urgent, and guidance in what to read is important. Perhaps there is no greater need at present than for all Christians to understand and appreciate the real mission of the church.

Some books that could be added to the lists suggested are: "Call To Commitment," by Elizabeth O'Connor; Bruce Kernick's "Come Out of the Wilderness," and George W. Webber's "God's Colony In Man's World" and "The Congregation in Mission." These books stem from significant ministries of Christian groups in East Harlem, New York, and in Washington, D.C. Besides other significant features, they portray thorough planning and instruction of whole congregations for total mission in the community.

As a brotherhood we have rejoiced at every trend toward the expression of the priesthood of all believers on the part of the Christian world. However, a reading of such books suggested leaves one rather dismayed at our remissness in training and inspiring all of our brethren for the work of the ministry. Until we are prepared to "let the Church be the Church," there cannot be a promising future for us as a people.

—W. F. Nankivell, Vic.

SMOKING.

To the Editor,

Continual sniping at smokers in the "A.C." by well meaning brethren is becoming wearisome. Whether a man smokes or not is a personal matter, and is not the yardstick by which a Christian can measure another Christian's love for Christ. The "holier than thou" approach never won anyone, and I find V. A. Symes' attitude to the subject offensive, unscientific, not necessarily scriptural and illogical.

It is offensive because a great body of

believers inside and outside our brotherhood smoke. They include ministers, elders and deacons, who deserve better than to be held up to public criticism in our national journal.

It is unscientific because it prejudices a medical issue which has not been resolved and upon which the medical profession is by no means in agreement. It also states that nicotine is a deadly poison second only to prussic acid. Brother, you smoke the stuff, you don't drink it! There are many other poisons which, if used in their right proportions and for certain purposes, can be very beneficial to man.

Mr. Symes then quotes Scripture, the relevancy of which is obscure. If my body is the temple of God, and God is going to destroy me because I smoke, then John 3: 16 is of no effect.

It is illogical because he equates smoking with the use of alcohol. Surely the New Testament has nothing to say about the use of alcohol except to forbid its over indulgence. Or is our Lord to be condemned for turning the water into wine?

We have many problems. When we have solved the world's poverty, war, thuggery and bashings, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, the lack of impact made by the church on the man in the street, etc., etc., then we may have time to tackle the "vices" of smoking and table tennis.

—P. G. Verco, N.S.W.

APPRECIATION.

To the Editor,

This is not a letter of contention, but of commendation. I would like to express my appreciation of those who have helped me in preparing to go out to New Guinea. Three in particular I would like to mention: Our Overseas Secretary, R. S. A. McLean arranged my passage, permit of entry, etc. For all this I am very grateful. I don't think I can express adequately my thanks to F. H. Simpson, of the Vic.-Tas. Overseas Committee. He has helped not only me, but all who send parcels out to our three mission fields. He arranges cargo space, permits, bills of lading. He forwards the goods and, where necessary, packs the cases. He arranged for and sent forward my luggage weeks ago, and takes pleasure in helping us and our missionaries. Then, if it had not been for R. F. Geyer's help and guidance my present visit to the mission field in New Guinea would not have been possible.

—Grace Waterman, Vic.

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RYE, Vic. — Self-contained Holiday Flat, all convs., on beach, accom. 4 & 8. Wes Jenkins, 2 Government-rd., Rye, Vic. Phone, Rye 5-2104.

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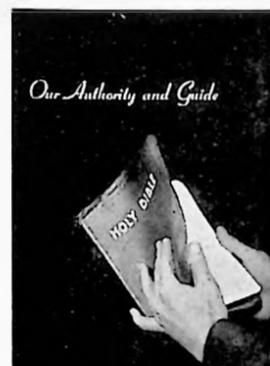
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OPEN FORUM

SOME ARE SILENT.

To the Editor,

Reading "The Australian Christian" is certainly interesting and thought-provoking. True to our tradition, there is liberty of expression. True growth depends upon this exchange of ideas. I find the "Open Forum" column necessary reading. However, there are in our brotherhood men who have had years of experience in methods of scriptural interpretation and in wise leadership. Could they not be asked to express their views on such matters as "Trends," "Baptism" and "Robes"? Their contributions may not be dogmatic, but they would provide helpful guidance.

—G. Setsman, S.A.

A COURAGEOUS CHALLENGE.

To the Editor,

Dr. H. R. Gough, Anglican Primate of Australia in "A.C." (13/3/65) has given a challenge which, if accepted by all, and acted upon, would speedily transform the tragic state and ineffective witness of the churches and hasten the attainment of Christian Union. Dr. Gough demonstrated great courage and honesty in publicly declaring his own convictions.

The Archbishop has given a reason for the new approach, stating that the ten years of conference has been most valuable, "But I suggest that the time for dialogue is now over and the time for judgment by the Holy Spirit has arrived."

What a challenge this is! Among causes of divisions and disunity, Dr. Gough said, "The ultimate sin was the obscuring of God's truth, by the accumulation of man-made traditions, and its distortion by human opinions." Every faithful student of the Christian scriptures and church history knows of the intrusion and development of man-made traditions, which in general, by adulteration of, and substitution for the inspired Word of God, are contrary to and in conflict with the express will of Christ.

Dr. Gough acknowledged the prevalence of man-made traditions in his own and other churches, and his challenge is to each and all in these words, Australian churches should have the cour-

age and honesty to face up to the problems of doctrines and practices which divided them. The suggested method of procedure is this, that "Each church, through its leaders should submit itself to self-examination." In other words, to test its own doctrines and practices, in the light of the Holy Spirit's revealed will of Christ concerning his church, and to eliminate all that is contrary to Christ's will. This challenge is to us as one of the Australian churches.

—D. D. Stewart, Vic.

BAPTISM.

To the Editor,

Obviously one must turn to the Bible in developing an attitude to baptism, but it is neither intellectually honest nor in accord with Christ's own example to accept scripture at its "face value."

The Jews were guilty of such a literalist (or is it naive?) approach causing the psalmists to write that God did not desire a burnt offering but a contrite heart and a right spirit; Christ, too, was led to exclaim, because of this attitude, that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath.

One looks at Christ's encounter with people and sees no sign of fussiness about religious observances; rather, an overwhelming concern that men's lives be transformed. So when Zacchaeus proclaims Christ as Lord and announces that he will make amends to those whom he has wronged, Jesus discerns that his spirit has gone through a baptism of change and says, "Today salvation has come to this house." This, it appears, is the nature of the baptism essential to salvation, rather than the so-called baptism which is merely a symbolic act signifying such a transformation.

Christ sometimes spoke in parable and allegory, and the significance of baptism was conveyed through symbol. All this was milk for those who were babes, "but strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age."

Various writers claim that the act of immersion brings with it special blessings. What are they? Among the immersed we find the apathetic and careless just as we do among the non-immersed. More important, amongst both we find those of the highest Christian integrity. These are they who have experienced the kind of baptism which brings salvation.

—Collin R. Johnson, Vic.

THE SECOND ADVENT.

To the Editor,

May I make a plea for more preaching in our churches of the great doctrine of the Second Advent? I grant that the obsession of a few on this subject, together with a number of far-fetched theories, date fixing, etc., have brought the subject into disfavour but surely it is not a reason for neglecting it altogether. I fear that some young Christians are not even aware of his Second Coming. Yet there are over three hundred references in the N.T. (including his own testimony) that he is coming again to this world.

I feel that with the rapidly worsening world situation this great truth would be a great comfort to confused Christians if it were preached more freely.

It has been rightly said that apart from anything else, common justice demands that our Lord who came once in humiliation for our salvation, shall also come again in judgment, triumph and glory to put all enemies, including Satan, under his feet.

—Mrs. E. G. Magarey, S.A.

ROBES.

To the Editor,

Correspondence in reference to clerical attire reminds me of an occasion when I was fulfilling a preaching appointment in a Melbourne church (not one of "ours"). I was about to leave the vestry to commence the morning service, when the deaconess opened a cupboard, took from it a clerical robe, and held it out for me to put on. I looked at it quizzically and said, "You know I have sometimes wondered how David looked, clad in Saul's armour." The deaconess hesitated, smiled, and put the robe back in the cupboard leaving me clerically unadorned, but quite suitably and comfortably attired. The congregation did not appear to be unduly embarrassed!

—Joseph Plummer, Vic.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Who will be Canberra's 2nd minister? (p. 10).

You could be a Chaplain? (p. 11).

Tradesmen can travel? (p. 7).

You could be taken on a profitable ride? (p. 9).

Qld's new President? (p. 4).

They caught a gummy shark? (p. 6).

Which State gained 154 in 1964? (p. 4).

• DAILY DEVOTIONAL CORNER

THERE IS ONE LORD

DAY BY DAY THROUGH EPHESIANS

Thursday, May 27. Ephesians 5: 1-2. Christ loved us and gave himself (v. 2).

It is possible to give without deep care. Someone knocked on my door, collecting for some cause or other. I didn't care much about it, but I didn't like to say No!, and I didn't give much anyway. Even if much is given, as when a rich man endows a school with a great sum of money or builds a church, or gives to charity, it is still possible to give everything but the thing that makes it a gift of love. The gift of self. When Jesus loved us, he gave himself.

Our God, we thank you for the gift of the Christ, who gave himself to us and for us. Amen.

Friday, May 28. Ephesians 5: 3-5. Impurity or covetousness must not be named among you (v. 3).

Paul insists that a new standard of purity has come into the world through Christ. The Greeks and Romans looked upon sexual immorality as the expected way of life. The Greeks even built a temple to the gods with the profits of immoral living. Christianity had to declare its standards in the face of entrenched vice, and the life of Christ was to be the measure of our conduct.

Our Father, we know that the presence of Christ is our guardian against the dangers of thought and deed. Amen.

Saturday, May 29. Ephesians 5: 6-7. Let no one deceive you with empty words (v. 6).

The early church had to be on its guard against possible enemies, even inside its fellowship. For instance, a clear distinction was made between matter and spirit by some. The spirit was the only thing that mattered. Matter, which included the body, was evil and nothing could be done about it. Therefore, they argued, it didn't matter what you did with the body, it was quite unimportant. Paul is expressing the Christian view that spirit and body are both created by God and the whole of man is saved by Christ — spirit and body.

Dear God, we know that the best way to escape being deceived is to keep close to the truth in Christ. Amen.

Sunday, May 30. Ephesians 5: 8-12. Behave like Children of the Light (v. 8, Schonfield).

It was common to describe the contrast between Christian and heathen as the difference between light and darkness. Those who belonged to the light had not always done so. They had once belonged to the darkness. They had not known how dark it was until they saw the light of Christ. Now they did know, and they were expected to behave as the children of light.

Eternal One, we know that the best way to escape the darkness is to remain close to the light of Christ. Amen.

Monday, May 31. Ephesians 5: 13-14. When anything is exposed to the light it becomes visible (v. 13).

Those who walk in the light will be able to see what is good and right and true, and do them (v. 9). These are now visible in the light God has given us. It is impossible to say which is the greatest because they are inter-related. Goodness is based in love. It is not just being pious. When we say that Jones is a good man we don't just mean that he goes to church or pays his debts, although he may do these. We mean that the life of Jones is decent and wholesome. Goodness is love in action.

Our God, we do not care if people fail to call us religious but we do want to add goodness to life. Amen.

Tuesday, June 1. Ephesians 5: 15-17. Look carefully, then, how you walk (v. 15).

Righteousness follows goodness in the list of the three fruits of light. Righteousness is loyalty to God's will. It is not the outward keeping of formal rules. It is a love of God and a decision to do his will. Goodness and righteousness belong together. We cannot really do good to our neighbour without loving

God's laws that make him my neighbour. I cannot truly know God's law without knowing that it is a law of love.

O God, preserve me from mere rule keeping, but help me to keep the rules in love. Amen.

Wednesday, June 2. Ephesians 5: 18-21. Making melody to the Lord with all your heart (v. 19).

The third of the fruits of light is truth. Truth is not simply veracity of words. Even men of the world expect this and have contempt for the liar and even punish him through the laws of perjury. But you can tell the truth in words while you act out a lie, and you can lie by a look or a hint without using words. We need to be outwardly truthful, but the outward must conform to the inward truth. This is what we have learned in Christ.

Heavenly Father, we want our lives to sing truly our heart's loyalty to you. Amen.

NEW ZEALAND BAPTISTS

The New Zealand Baptist Union is planning a nation-wide evangelistic crusade in September. More than 130 churches and mission stations have indicated their desire to co-operate and others are expected to do so. The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, U.S.A., has been asked to help enlist 100 preachers from the United States to serve as evangelists.—E.P.S.

KOREA SENDS MISSIONARIES

Seven Korean Methodists were commissioned for service in Pakistan, Bolivia and Malaysia — the first to be sent by the autonomous Methodist Church of Korea — at a recent joint session of the three Korean annual conferences. 1,150 persons attended the commissioning service held in Seoul's historic Chung Dong Methodist Church.—E.P.S.

NO NEGROES

The congregation of St. John's Episcopal Church in Savannah, Ga. (U.S.A.), has voted, 700 to 45, to withdraw from the Protestant Episcopal Church rather than admit Negroes to its worship services.—E.P.S.

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THE LAST WORD . . .

Greatheart.

Lord, where are you going?

—John 13: 36.

Where are you going, Greatheart,
With your eager face and fiery grace?

Where are you going, Greatheart?
"To fight with all my might,
For Truth and Justice, God and Right.
To grace all Life with his fair Light."
Then God go with you, Greatheart!

Where are you going, Greatheart?
"To break down old dividing lines;
To carry out my Lord's design;
To build again his broken shrines."
Then God go with you, Greatheart!

—John Oxenham.

☆

It's surprising how much good a man
can do if he allows others to take the
credit.

☆

Sign on window of a used car dealer
in Tokyo: "We pay highest prices for
cars we buy. We get lowest prices for
cars we sell. How we stay in business?
We lucky."

☆

A sermon is as long as it seems.

—Jas. H. Snowden.

☆

When my husband doesn't feel well,
he drinks, and when he drinks, he doesn't
feel well.

—Woman in Court.

☆

Hidden Resources.

"And now," continued the Member of
Parliament. "I wish to tax your memory."

"Good heavens," muttered a colleague,
"why haven't we thought of that before?"

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