

One Lord . . . One People

May 29, 1965



**ONE
IN
WITNESS**

**ONE
IN
WORSHIP**



CHRISTIAN
UNION
NUMBER

THE AUSTRALIAN

CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL WEEKLY OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

THE GOALS OF UNITY

The road to the present divisions was long and tortuous. There was bitterness, too. The phrase, "how these Christians love one another," began as genuine admiration. It later became a cynical and well-deserved taunt. A convert won from another church was given a welcome warmer than that reserved for a sinner who repented. Indeed, it often appeared that members of other churches were considered further away from God than those who rejected him all together.

We must be grateful to God for the almost universal desire for unity. It is natural for us to look with pride to the emphasis given by our own Restoration Movement to the idea of the church as essentially and intentionally one. Nearly all of the churches accept this as axiomatic today and there is a genuine desire to heal the wounds inflicted upon the body of Christ since the first Pentecost.

The divided church is uneconomic, inefficient, and competitive. But our motives are inadequate if we desire union in order to attain solvency, efficiency, and a zone of operations free from rivals. If we desire a united church it must be to achieve the purposes of the Christ whose church it is.

What are those purposes? They may include many things, and they may even include a great monolithic institution, a super Church. We cannot be sure, however, that this is his will, certainly not at this stage. After all, the divided churches each have tensions, difficulties, and dissensions. A super-church could so easily multiply its weaknesses as it increased its numbers. There must be rejoicing at the prospect of genuine union of churches, but something more than size must be our target.

What are Christ's purposes? Jesus came into the world to win all men for God. He made this reconciliation possible through his life, death and resurrection. His mission is now the mission of the church to those outside her life. To win men for God.

This surely must be the great goal of the unity movements of our day: in the words of Christ himself, "that the disciples may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them even as thou hast loved me" (John 17: 23). The will of God will be sought by the church as it was sought by her Master.

We may not expect the divisions of a thousand years to be healed in a generation, but there is an urgency as never before. This urgency stems from the fact that wherever the world is going it is travelling a lot faster. We may not have even a generation in order to take decisive steps for unity. The path to reconciliation may lead to suffering and sacrifice, but it will be a path shared with Christ. It cannot mean compromise, but it will mean humility and submission. It cannot mean disloyalty, but it will mean love.

To do Christ's will, we shall have to take risks and the way to unity may well be dangerous. To take any other pathway without Christ will certainly be disastrous.

MY PART OF THE SKY

On one occasion I visited an observatory. It seemed an ideal night for the purpose. The sky was bright and starry and apparently cloudless. The expert on the stars adjusted the telescope and I looked at the glory of the double star which is the pointer of the Southern Cross. Suddenly everything was blotted out. "What happened?" I asked wonderingly. The expert said, "There are a few very small clouds up there this evening. You may not have noticed them before, but it doesn't take a very big cloud to blot out your part of the sky."

So often life appears bright and trouble-free. But the clouds are there all the time. We do not notice them, and we settle back to enjoy life. Suddenly, a cloud seems to blot out everything. It may be that sickness comes to us or a friend, or a financial loss, or a failure in expectations, or perhaps even the black cloud of bereavement. Suddenly, our whole life seems dark. At such a time we need to turn away from the telescope that points only at our part of the sky and see that life as a whole can still be bright, true and lovely.

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CHRISTIAN UNITY

PENTECOST, 1965

Message from the Presidents of the World Council of Churches.

"YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER"

When the apostles were all together, they asked Jesus: "Lord, is this the time when you are going to establish once again the sovereignty of Israel?" He answered: "It is not for you to know about dates or times which the Father has set within his own control. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will bear witness for me in Jerusalem, and all over Judea and Samaria, and away to the end of the earth." (Acts 1: 6-8).

These men have learned to know Jesus as Lord. They believe in his resurrection. They understand that his death was not defeat, but victory over all that enslaves and destroys men. But they want to know what this is going to mean in practice. Does it mean the Kingdom of God now? Does it mean that we are on the winning side, and we shall forthwith see the enemies of God put to flight?

Jesus tells them plainly that God has not given us the timetable for his campaign. We simply do not know what are the limits of human life — for good or for ill. But God is going to give them something more important. He is going to give them his Spirit, who will empower them to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. When this Spirit comes, they will become the evidences to the whole world that Jesus reigns, and that evil is doomed and on the way out.

That promise was fulfilled at Pentecost. In a mighty outpouring of divine power, these doubting disciples were transformed into living signs of the reign of Christ over the whole earth. Out from Jerusalem they went searching for the farthest corner of the world, a great movement of resistance against the established powers of evil, living torches to illuminate the night with certainty of a new day to come.

The Church today is losing much of the power that it had when it was an accepted and honored part of the established order. Very many Christians to-

day live scattered in small groups, minorities without political power. In this, they are nearer to the Christians of the first century than to those of the 19th.

But God has never cancelled the promise or withdrawn the gift he gave at Pentecost. That power is always available to the church which wants it enough to pay the price. The price is to be made utterly one with the Lord Jesus Christ — one with his humiliation in order to be one with his victory. The power is power to believe and to help others to believe, power to hope without wavering to the end, power to love to the limit, power to make peace, to work for justice and reconciliation between men. It is the power of the coming Kingdom, given to us now. It is the pledge of glory. And it is offered to all who ask.

We ask you, then, to join with us at this season of Pentecost, in praying the Lord to fill the whole Church afresh with the power of his Spirit, so that it may be his witness to the ends of the earth.

The Presidents of the World Council of Churches:

- Dr. J. H. Oldham, Hon. President.
Archbishop of Canterbury, London.
Archbishop Iakovos, New York.
Sir Francis Ibiham, Enugu.
Principal David G. Moses, Nagpur.
Dr. Martin Niemöller, Wiesbaden.
Charles Parlin, New York.

BRITISH BAPTISTS AND UNITY

(Leeds). Preparation of a full study designed to help shape and express Baptist opinion about theological concerns of current union discussions in Great Britain was reported to the annual Assembly of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

News of the new study was given to the 2,000 delegates convened here in the Union's 1964 report, which stressed the urgency of fresh examination by each church of the "terms" (on which) new alignments are desirable and pos-

sible." While these are difficult questions for all churches, it said, they are perhaps more difficult for the Baptists who "have been somewhat slow to engage themselves in current theological discussions."

Such study is required, however, because "on the basic issues Baptists have a testimony of their own to give as well as testimony to which they should be ready to listen. There is also the special Baptist witness regarding the right mode and subjects for baptism . . ."—E.P.S.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES SUPPORT FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN

(Sydney). The Australian Council of Churches, representing 11 Anglican, Protestant and Orthodox churches, has commended to its member churches the £1,500,000 national appeal for the Freedom From Hunger Campaign.

The Council's Executive Committee reminded "our people of the convictions of our churches that economically advanced countries such as ours should be contributing at least one per cent of their national income to assist economically underdeveloped countries."

Church-sponsored food production and nutrition projects for about £240,000 are included in Australia's national Freedom From Hunger Campaign programme.

Projects to which funds will be devoted are sponsored by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation, the U.N. International Children's Emergency Fund, the World Council of Churches, and Catholic Overseas Relief.

The W.C.C. projects included in the appeal are in Tunisia, India, Thailand and Fiji. Approximately £120,000 is being sought for them.—E.P.S.

FELLOWSHIP OF LEAST COIN

(Singapore). Funds totalling £25,000 given by Christian women around the world to the Fellowship of the Least Coin are being distributed to a wide variety of projects this year.

The 25 projects being aided range from support of families of political prisoners in South Africa, to a farm project in Bolivia. They include the Delta Ministry in Mississippi, U.S.A., a project of the U.S.A. churches to upgrade living conditions and secure racial justice in that area; as well as the outreach work of evangelical churches in Spain. In Asia the funds will support a Sunday School for the blind in Pakistan, and subsidise the purchase of equipment for prison chaplains in New Zealand.

The Fellowship was started eight years ago as a means by which Christian women around the world, whatever their economic status, could combine their efforts and resources for programmes of evangelism, relief, and rehabilitation. The Fellowship asks each participant to contribute the "least coin" in her purse every month "in an act of worship and intercessory prayer." Started by Asian church women, the Fellowship now has international and interdenominational support.—E.P.S.

£500 FOR UNION COMMITTEE

(Adelaide). The South Australian Committee for the Promotion of Christian Union is asking for an offering of £500 on Pentecost Sunday, June 6.

NEWS AND REPORTS

W.A.	- - - - -	7, 8, 13
S.A.	- - - - -	6, 7
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THE BODY OF CHRIST

BY STAN NEIGHBOUR

Resurgent world religions such as Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism; Communist ideology; the worship of science and technology; the lust for power; the constant threat of war; the complacency of large numbers of Christians in the affluent society of our Western world immersed in its preoccupation with material possessions, all urge upon us the necessity of a strong united witness to the Christian faith.

The world thinks of the church as irrelevant and unworthy of serious consideration. The church is not insensitive to the world's appraisal, but is becoming more and more aware of its mission under God to the world. It is manifesting a deep concern marked by a spirit of humble penitence as it seeks to discover the causes of its relative failure and frustration.

There is ample evidence that God's Spirit is leading Christians, both within and without the Ecumenical Movement, to a deeper study of Scripture; to penitent self-examination of attitudes and traditions; to a reassessment of methods and techniques in evangelistic outreach and service to the world in which God has placed us.

The Ecumenical Movement is under constant scrutiny from Christians within and without; their criticism is valuable so long as it is coupled with a readiness to recognise honesty and sincerity where it is manifest. The Ecumenical Movement, in common with other Christians, must always be ready to examine aims, motives and doctrines under judgment of the Word of God.

It is significant that the modern Ecumenical Movement received its impetus

Mr. Neighbour is chairman of the Department for the Promotion of Christian Union in South Australia.

from the recognition of the authority and urgency of its task in a missionary situation in lands such as Africa, Asia and the Pacific. The enormity of the task emphasised the frustrating nature of our division. Christian converts of various communions in predominantly Moslem, Buddhist or Hindu countries more readily recognised what was common in their Christian experience than their brethren living in nominal Christian lands.

We rejoice that Thomas and Alexander Campbell saw the evil of division on the American frontier more than 150 years ago. We rejoice that today Christians of many communions are becoming increasingly aware of the need to attend to the prayer of our Lord, "That they may all be one, even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou didst send me." While aware of many deep cleavages between Christians we are seeing some of these disappearing under the leading of God's Spirit.

Humanly speaking we may despair of the unity of all God's people, yet we are under a divine imperative to yield ourselves in willing submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit; that humbly and penitently we may be used more effectively with our brethren of all Christian communions to tear down those attitudes and practices that keep us apart. A world torn asunder by racial violence, resurgent nationalism, and clashing ideologies needs the vision of Christians united in the one body of Christ as a worshipping, ministering and dedicated community fulfilling Christ's intention and prayer.

We solicit the prayers of the brotherhood for ourselves and all Christians that we may realise the unity which is according to Christ's will.

TALKING WITH THE UNITING CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

SERIES OF ARTICLES TO APPEAR IN "THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN"

By now everybody knows that Churches of Christ in Australia, at last year's Federal Conference, agreed to enter into conversations with the Uniting Church of Australia (Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists). No actual meeting with their representatives will take place until the closing part of this year, but the first steps are being taken for this dialogue now.

As a first move, your Federal Department for the Promotion of Christian Union is finalising a written "response" to the U.C.A.'s proposed basis of union. This is being discussed with State Christian Union Departments by the Federal Christian Union Secretary, in a series of interstate visits. This response, when finalised, will be forwarded to the U.C.A. Commission, and published for the information of our own membership. The response has something to say, both to our own churches and to the Uniting Church.

In order that members of Churches of Christ should be helped to think about the issues raised by our conversations with the U.C.A., a series of articles will shortly begin to appear in this journal dealing with some of these.

Writers from all States have been invited to discuss such topics as Baptism, the Ministry, the role of Restorationism, and the Creeds. Three, four or five articles will appear on each of these subjects, and others. Between each group of articles a few weeks will elapse before the publication of the next group.

We hope these articles will form the basis of thought and discussion in many congregations, and we invite other members of the brotherhood to share in this internal dialogue amongst ourselves, which is a necessary preparation for dialogue with other communions.

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ECUMENICAL WORK CAMP

BY JOHN OLDFIELD

How would you like to spend three weeks' holiday with thirty Christians from ten different communions? I did, and enjoyed the best holiday of my life.

Before entering camp we were told by the Victorian Christian Youth Council, "The Ecumenical Work Camp which you will be attending is just one of the many similar camps which are held throughout the world each year. You will be taking your place amongst the 1,000 or more young people who have shared in Ecumenical Work Camps this year. The work project is not just a humanitarian service, it is a work of Christian obedience to him who commands our service in meeting need.

"The experience itself is not just a worthwhile holiday, it is an ecumenical confrontation and education for youth. It is hoped that we will learn to know and understand one another, learn to live and work together, discover afresh what it means to be a Christian in our day, discover that we have a basic oneness in Christ that is deeper than our differences, and as a result of these experiences gain a new sense of our mission to the world and responsibility in our churches."

From 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. each week-day girls joined boys at wielding hammer, sandpaper and paint brushes as we renovated and painted the exterior of a large dormitory building of the Sutherland Homes for underprivileged children at Diamond Creek, Victoria. About 100 window panes were put in, and all the exterior woodwork was prepared and given at least two coats of paint.

Later the building is to be converted to a teenage hostel, the former occupants now being housed in smaller cottages with their cottage "mother and father." Meanwhile we had the use of the dormitories and facilities. Through the noise of sandpapering and hammering could be heard many casual discussions in which both the realisation of our common bonds and difficulties in doctrine highlighted our perplexity at the lack of a united church in Australia.

Leo de Ru, of the McLeod Presbyterian Church, was our chairman. "I am always prepared to change my mind,"

John Oldfield is the third son of Dr. G. H. Oldfield. He is a member at Surrey Hills, Vic. He works in the bio-chemistry department at Melbourne University.

he said as he opened a most lively series of after-tea studies. In these, two Roman Catholic lads participated for part of the camp. They were joined one night by Father Willie and two representatives of the Young Catholic Workers. Nine Bible studies based on 2nd Corinthians were interspersed with speakers and discussions on relevant topics. For instance, the treasurer of the Sutherland Homes Committee told us of its foundation and future plans. Miss Bennett in charge of Allambie, told of the work her home is doing and of the heart-breaking need there is for help for unwanted and underprivileged children. The camp work-leader, John Every, told us of other work camps he had attended in Australia and overseas.

Hikes, trampolining, a campfire and a social to which the local youth were invited and attended in good number, rounded off the programme.

Some of the incidents at the camp come back vividly . . . One of a group of campers who arrived late for a meal and were expected to sing grace on their own, said that they would follow an old Quaker custom and say grace silently . . . An irate work-leader to a chastened camper, "You gossiped where you should have undercoated." . . . Mr. de Ru, explaining the camp communion service, "We will follow the Lutheran order of service because we do not have a Lutheran representative in camp." . . . The visits to the Friends' service, and that of two Orthodox Churches on successive Sundays . . . The twenty-first birthday of one of the girls from Sydney, who was given a huge cardboard box containing one of the boys . . . The celebration of a Russian Orthodox Christmas in honour of one of the campers . . . The visit to a Roman Catholic monastery, "Tarrawarra," in Yarra Glen, where the brothers began their day of worship and work at 2.30 a.m.! . . . A moonlit folk-singing session by the Yarra, held around a campfire which had barbecued our tea.

The "koinonia" which Harold Gross describes ("A.C." 27/2/65), "signifying a common participation, a togetherness, a community life," was truly ours. I have never experienced its equal. Leo de Ru addressed us as "adelfoi," meaning "brothers and sisters," and this we were and still are, not only amongst ourselves, but in the world-wide church of God.



Another Book Week Selection . . .

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE CHRISTIAN

Some time last year I happened to be watching television when a Christian scientist was interviewed. Unfortunately, he was interviewed by church people; but his answers seemed so good that at my first opportunity I bought his book: "Science and Christian Belief." The scientist was C. A. Coulson, F.R.S., Professor of Applied Mathematics in the University of Oxford. I found that book so stimulating that I was glad of the opportunity to read another book by the same author: "Science, Technology and The Christian."

The book is dedicated to Youth Groups and University students who, the author says, "have made me think out some of the questions raised in this book."

Professor Coulson offers, as the excuse for writing the book, his belief that it is "exceedingly important in any democracy that ordinary people should know enough about the factors which affect and influence their lives as will enable them to recognise the problems which have to be solved." It is felt that Christians need to clarify their attitudes toward technology which are compounded, the author thinks, of suspicion, ignorance and misunderstanding. His special plea is that Christians really must see what is happening; we must see the revolution taking place as a spiritual one as well as a material one; and that it is for the Christian to set the pattern of thought and action against which decisions and action may be judged.

The role of the Christian community is not to do science, or devise the technology; or form a new political party; it is to see the need of all these, to welcome them as gifts of God; and then to think creatively, bringing all these aspects of human toil together, using for this purpose all the clues and signposts that are available. Science and technology are needed, but we need to bring them into live contact with our sensitive Christian insights. In this way there is fashioned one of the best tools in all the bag for the building of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Here, the author feels, is the one great dominant purpose, big enough and worthy enough and sufficiently demanding to become the cohesive force which modern society needs. — A. B. Clark.

See also "GOD AND HIS PEOPLE," by A. Leonard Griffith, in the "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; "JUNGLE PILOT," by Russell T. Hitt, in "A.C." 22/5/65.



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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1,044 PENCILS

(Forestville, S.A.). As a result of a combined C.E. project, 7¼ gross of colored pencils, and 4 doz. pairs of scissors were sent to U.F.M. missionaries in New Guinea . . . At the youth service on May 1, the J.C.E. formed a verse speaking choir and the youth sang. A. R. Jones as speaker, ably filled in for K. D. Horne, who was indisposed . . . B. and F.B.S. representative, R. C. Clarke, was a morning speaker . . . Five boys' and seven girls' teams are playing basketball. . . . Ross Fatchen has moved to Port Lincoln . . . Mrs. L. Harris, and Mrs. G. Patterson represent the church on the Ladies' Auxiliary at the Black Forest Christian Rest Home . . . Mrs. C. McKennay was elected president of the Evening Women's Fellowship, and Mrs. Tuck, secretary.

60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

(Fullarton, S.A.). Mr. and Mrs. J. Roberts, of the Christian Rest Home, have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary . . . Three B.S. scholars attended Intermediate Camp at Longwood . . . Sister Helen Lillywhite, of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, told of her experiences as a S.A. delegate to the East Asian Christian Youth Conference last January, to a combined youth group on May 16. . . . 30 young people attended first after-church "coffee hour." Featured artist, with singing, guitar and gum-leaf, was Jimmy Lester, the blind Aboriginal from our Brighton Gardens church . . . H. Norris has met with Officers' Board to plan a Visitation Evangelism Campaign, under his direction, during July.

37 YEARS AT TABLE

(Stirling East - Aldgate Valley, S.A.). Mr. Golding has terminated a job he has held since 1928. In that year he took over from Sam Scudds the preparation of the Lord's Table each Sunday at Stirling East. He was an officer for 33 years and church secretary for 25. Mrs. Golding is again in Stirling Hospital. Before leaving home the C.W.F. met at her home to remember her birthday . . . Ross Graham is making steady progress . . . Mrs. J. Pickup was made Pres. of the Stirling East C.W.F. . . . At Aldgate Valley, the S.S. has purchased a piano. The S.S. picnic anniversary was successful, with good attendances.

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OPENING OF NEW WINGS AT CHRISTIAN REST HOME BLACK FOREST, S.A.

On May 1, the two new wings at the Black Forest Rest Home were opened by the Hon. G. A. Bywaters, Minister of Agriculture. A large and representative gathering, including Members of Parliament and local Council and the Churches witnessed the opening. Mr. Roland Pittman and Mrs. Cunningham gave greetings on behalf of the General and Women's Conferences respectively.

The wings consist of eight bed sitting-rooms, with Matron and sub-Matron's cottages attached, and 21 single rooms—with staff quarters attached—costing in all, £55,000. With the existing 22 cottages, four single rooms and six infirmary beds, there will be accommodation for 77 persons and six hospital beds.

The Home provides care for those who need it, as well as independent living for those who prefer it. In addition, we have provided infirmary care. We have here a community in which aged people are provided with security, but may live life the way they choose.

The total cost of the scheme will be approximately £184,000. A loan of brotherhood money being held in trust by the Extension Committee made it possible for the project to be undertaken, and it is anticipated that with the completion of the scheme the amount of £14,000 will remain to be repaid to the Extension Committee.

The brotherhood has another splendid asset in these Homes. It also has an obligation to meet which we trust the churches will feel they are obliged and happy to honour. We now have Homes worth £250,000, of which we are very

proud. If we are grateful for the provision made for our aged members, we will give our loyal support in gifts and legacies, to make possible repayment of the advances from the Extension Committee and the provision of further Homes.

There is still a long waiting list for all types of accommodation. There are people willing to make a donation if a home can be provided for them. There are sick people who desperately need the care of a Church Nursing Home. This has now been placed within our reach by the State Government offering a subsidy of £2 for each £1 raised by the church.

But we cannot attempt any further building for the time, although we believe there is an urgent need for nursing care. When we provide such accommodation it will release the infirmary beds in the two Homes for ordinary guests and increase our regular income.

The aged will always be with us, increasingly so as science enables more people to live longer. The churches accept the responsibility because they are Christian. The Government recognises that the service the churches render in this field cannot be matched by anything that they can offer, and so they give their assistance and encouragement. Together the church and the Government can do much to make the life of our older citizens creative and useful and happy. They can provide a community which will provide responsible living and enable the guests to feel it is still true that "age is opportunity no less than youth."

Interstate News

C.Y.F. FLYING SQUAD

(Port Pirie, S.A.). The C.Y.F. Flying Squad from Adelaide visited Port Pirie and led the Saturday C.Y.F., helped with services on Sunday, and led a session for youth workers entitled "Programming for Youth" . . . Nine ladies attended the Nthn. Conf. Camp at Balaklava . . . 102 were at Mother's Day morning service. There were 98 present when the ladies led in the evening and formed a choir. Four young ladies were baptized, and there was one more decision. At the after-church fellowship, the men served supper. Slides of New Zealand were shown by Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

TARPEENA IS 12

(Tarpeena, S.A.). The church celebrated its 12th anniversary on May 2. The minister of Naracoorte, Ern. Stevens, was speaker . . . Misses Kay and Jan Leedham, of Mt. Gambier, gave a message in song. Graham Smith conducted a song service and Miss Judith Stratford was organist. Visitors were present from Millicent, Mt. Gambier and the Tarpeena Presbyterian Church . . . T. R. Mason is minister.

STONE UNVEILED

(Hawthorn, S.A.). In a short ceremony S. R. Beck unveiled the foundation stone of the new chapel . . . Miss Margaret Dillon obtained top credits among the first-year nurses at the Adelaide Memorial Hospital . . . 34 young people went to Fullarton on May 16 to share in a youth tea, with Nurse Helen Lillywhite showing slides of the Manila Youth Convention . . . Mrs. Dixon is convalescing after surgery . . . R. C. Dixon is minister.

FAMOUS AND INFAMOUS

(Margaret-st., Launceston). There was a large attendance of ladies at the annual C.W.E.F. mother's night, when a panel of speakers were interviewed on the topic "Famous Mothers and Infamous Fathers." The C.W.E.F. conducted the evening service on May 9 and also provided a mother and daughter choir. Viney Longthorp and Miss Heather Robinson, representing the Dept. of Christian Education, conducted a Bible School Teachers' Seminar on May 1. Mr. Longthorp also addressed the church and young people conducted the evening service in which members from the three C.E. societies took part. An exhibition of Christian literature and D.C.E. material was a feature of the weekend . . . Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Sewell visited the church on May 7, when Mr. Sewell spoke and showed slides of missionary work in Thailand. Mr. Sewell also addressed the morning service on May 9.

QUIET HOUR LADIES

(Margaret-st., Launceston). The C.W.F. recently entertained ladies of the City Mission Quiet Hour. Miss Queenie Daniel, on furlough from New Guinea, showed slides and spoke of the mission work being done in the Central Highlands. This annual function is enjoyed by both the C.W.F. and City Mission ladies.

CAPTAIN - COACH

(Queenstown, S.A.). Graham Ladner, ex-Port Adelaide B and A grade footballer, is captain and coach of the church team . . . The second night of the B.S. anniversary was preceded by tea and annual prizes . . . The B.S. picnic was held at Athelstone . . . C.W.F. held a special "Eastern" afternoon — 4 hostesses in Eastern costume spoke on "The Land of the Book" . . . The ladies have commenced a prayer and Bible study group. . . . The special services on Mother's Day featured a men's choir at night.

OPENING OF NEW YOUTH CENTRE

(Wollongong, N.S.W.). The official opening of the New Youth Centre building of the church at Wollongong took place on May 15. This special occasion coincided with the church anniversary services, which continued on May 16, with guest speaker, Hon. C. F. Aderman, Federal Minister for Primary Industry. The anniversary was further celebrated by a series of meetings, from May 18 to 23, at which Dr. James Jauncey, Principal of Kenmore Christian College, Qld., was the visiting preacher.

VISIT FROM GEO. SMITH

(Morawa, W.A.). A weekly church paper is being printed . . . Fellowship was enjoyed with Mr. and Mrs. George Smith on May 2, when Mr. Smith gave address at evening service and later showed slides of various aspects of the State work and some taken on his trip to England . . . Assistance of Mr. and Mrs. W. Lake on May 16, was appreciated, when Mrs. Lake spoke to the ladies and Mr. Lake to the youth group . . . A baptismal service was held on the 16th. A young man also made his confession of faith that day . . . A. Anderson is minister.

ADDED TO CHURCH

(Marrickville, N.S.W.). Three young ladies have been added to the church following their confession and baptism. A group of young people attended the Easter Camp . . . The Girls' Brigade are planning for their silver jubilee celebrations in August . . . The Young Worshipers had a picnic with "Uncle Tom" . . . Members of the C.W.F. led and took part in a family service on Mother's Day. Guest speaker was Miss Cooke. The Evening Fellowship had a special mother and daughter evening, at which Mrs. M. Elsmore spoke to a group of 40.

SYDNEY VISIT OF STANLEY SEWELL

(N.S.W.). Mr. Stanley Sewell, M.A., B.D., Principal-elect of Overdale College, Birmingham, Great Britain, and formerly missionary on our British Churches of Christ field in Thailand, paid a short visit to the churches in Sydney from May 12 to 19.

His itinerary included preaching appointments at Bexley North and Chatswood, a visit to Woolwich College, attendance at Wollongong for the opening of the New Youth Centre, a meeting with the N.S.W. Ministers' Fraternal, and several informal gatherings.

The Australian Christian.

CANBERRA VIGIL AS VIETNAM PROTEST

(Canberra). More than 300 people held a vigil of silence and prayer outside Parliament House on May 20, in protest against the Government's Vietnam policy.

The gathering, including 50 clergy, stood in silence on the lawn in front of Parliament House.

The Rev. Alan Walker, a member of the organising committee said later that the vigil was an attempt by Christians from all States to express the widespread concern in the Christian world on this subject.

The churchmen issued a statement saying that they shared the deep concern of all Australians at the developing war in Vietnam, and were appalled by the human tragedy and suffering that had come to the Vietnamese people.

They condemned the military action of the Communists in Vietnam and "the growing Western response."

"We believe that a supreme effort must be made now to turn from the battlefield to the Conference table lest the world be dragged to nuclear destruction," the statement said.—"The Sun."

"SHUT-INS" VISITOR

(Inglewood, W.A.). Mother's Day services were very well attended, the ladies taking part in the evening service, and also spent a day visiting the sick and "shut-ins" . . . Another young lady has confessed Christ as her Saviour . . . The C.Y.F. recently entertained four other youth groups . . . 24 attended the last meeting of the Young Marrieds' Group . . . K. Turner is minister.

CARRAMAR FOR CHRIST

(N.S.W.). The church at Carramar is at present engaged in a "Carramar for Christ Atmosphere Crusade," with Doug. Willis as missionary.

The aerosphere has been erected in the main shopping centre of Carramar and Max Harrison and Don Barter have been assisting as song-leaders. Bruce Armstrong and his puppet, "Leon," have also been featured and a considerable impact is being made on the youth of the district.

48 CONFESSIONS

(Carramar, N.S.W.). The church received deep and wonderful blessing from the four weeks of Crusading for Christ with D. Willis. There were 48 who made an outward confession and five were baptized. The thankoffering was £380. The excess money will be used to hold a mission in an area without a New Testament witness . . . 17 men of the church turned up at 4.15 a.m. to dismantle the Aerosphere and transport it to Canley Heights for the mission there.

LYLE WILLIAMS

:: FLORIST ::

37 Toorak-rd., South Yarra, Vic.
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SPOTLIGHT ON N.S.W. . . .

"Round-up"

BY DR. A. G. ELLIOTT

Conference comes and Conference goes, but the day-to-day work of the Committees, the task of the churches and the witness of the individuals still must go on. Following an encouraging Conference, with challenging messages from guest speakers, Frank Hunting and Dr. Jauncey, we in New South Wales stride forward in faith and spiritual vigour to new ventures for Christ.

Conference President, Colin Bowser, has a busy year ahead. He is senior Classics Master at North Sydney Boys' High School, an elder at Belmore church, Editor of "The Christian Messenger," secretary of the Christian Unity Committee, lecturer at Woolwich College — and now, Conference President. It is a big task; but he has a great faith and a great Lord!

Incidentally, his elevation to the Presidency is also the reason he has relinquished the position of Associate-Editor for New South Wales — and the reason why I appear on this page!

We also have a new Conference Secretary, Eric Hart. He takes over from Kevin Crawford, who has for some time felt the pressure of the work and has now been relieved so that he may devote himself more effectively to the ever-expanding sphere of Home Missions and Evangelism.

One interesting and commendable feature of the Conference year just concluded has been the establishment of F.C.C. (Finance Co-ordination Committee) under the direction of Gordon Brogden (Chairman) and John Christison (Secretary).

This Conference year has been the first year of complete operation and has marked the introduction of brotherhood budgeting and the consequent elimination of all annual appeals by Conference Committees. Of course,

there is still much more required of committees, local churches and members in ensuring the smooth running of this new approach to finance and stewardship, and there is still a vital necessity for further education at the local and at the brotherhood level.

Ventures in evangelism have been the order of the day. Following efforts in recent weeks at Lane Cove and Telopea, Penrith conducted a successful week of meetings with Ray Ewers. Carramar, too, is in the midst of an Aerosphere Crusade with Doug Willis.

Furthermore, here in New South Wales, Youth is definitely on the march! Bruce Armstrong continues his faithful and confident direction of Christian Education. Easter Camps at Lake Illawarra and Lake Macquarie were well up to standard and now plans are well on the way for the forthcoming youth evangelistic effort, "Crusade '65."

Woolwich College also rejoices in a very full round of activity during first term. Dr. Jauncey and the writer recently represented our churches, together with Woolwich students, in sharing in the programme at the Sydney Theological Students' Inter-Collegiate Conference. As is so often the case at such gatherings, many ties, not only in the realm of Christian scholarship, but also in real Christian fellowship, were welded more firmly together.

Finally, our prayers are with one of our faithful veteran ministers, Bob Hilford, who, following months of serious illness has had to relinquish the work he loves so well. He, with his wife, was recently farewelled at Hornsby, and will enter upon a well-earned retirement at Gilgandra, after 40 years in the ministry of our Australian churches.

INTERIM CHANGE

(Perth, W.A.). Ray Vincent concluded his interim ministry on May 2, and his service to the church during this period of 15 months was suitably acknowledged at a gathering at which Mr. and Mrs. Vincent and Philip were presented with tokens of appreciation prior to their departure for overseas, during which they will attend the World Convention at Puerto Rico. George Smith is assisting with a short interim ministry pending the commencement of the ministry of Tom Morrison on July 11 . . . A successful jumble sale on May 15 raised over £33 for C.W.F. funds.

IRAN BIBLE HOUSE

A new Bible house has been dedicated in Teheran, Iran, at a service attended by representatives of the Armenian Apostolic Churches, the Russian Orthodox Church, and the Nestorian Church of the East, as well as of several Protestant churches.—E.P.S.

HOLLARD IN QLD.

The Secretary Organiser of the S.A. Home Mission Department, E. P. C. Hollard, will conduct a mission at Boonah, Qld., from May 30 to June 13. Prayer support will be appreciated.

The Australian Christian.

DR. ELLIOTT JOINS "CHRISTIAN" TEAM

Because of pressure of duties, the Associate-Editor of the "Christian" in N.S.W., Colin E. Bowser, has been forced to relinquish this position. We thank him for his services in this field.

The N.S.W. Executive has appointed Dr. Allen G. Elliott in his stead, and we welcome him and promise to give him plenty of work. His first "Spotlight on N.S.W." appears on this page.

Dr. Elliott is Vice-Principal of the Churches of Christ Bible College in N.S.W.

BOOK DISPLAY

(Kalgoorlie, W.A.). Our Church Bookshop has been used well and suggested books for literature week have been on display . . . Thirteen young people journeyed to the Easter Camp at Bungulluping . . . The Sunday School combined with the church on Mother's Day. The evening service was taken by a number of mothers . . . There was a fine attendance at the screening of the film, "The Way Out," one Sunday evening . . . Three of our members, Mesdames Varney, Wright and Bird are in hospital.

FORTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

(Invermay, Tas.). Forty-first anniversary services were held on May 16, with Lloyd G. Cooke, of Hobart, as guest speaker. There was a special Temple Day service in the afternoon when the film, "The Prior Claim," was screened, and a special gifts offering was received amounting to nearly £30. The day concluded with a fine gospel service and a baptismal service, when three young people were baptized . . . The visit of Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Sewell to Tasmania was much appreciated. Our people joined with Margaret St., Launceston, church in a combined meeting on May 7, when Mr. Sewell enthralled with his speaking and films. Mrs. Sewell addressed the church on May 9, and her talk on the work in Thailand was most informative . . . At an Easter Camp Echo, short talks were given by Mrs. E. M. Hughes, Chris. Peart and Tony Armstrong, with E. K. Morrison drawing the threads together. A group of our own campers, Helen Madden, Lynette Porter, Carlene Nilsen, Robert Porter and Graeme Slater, presented a resume of camp experiences

National Diary

MAY

- 29 S.A. Laying of Foundation Stone at Whyalla by R. W. Tippett.
- 29 V. North-Eastern and Riverina District Conference — Shepparton.
- 29 V. Eastern District Conference, Quarterly Meeting, Boronia, 6.30 p.m.
- 30 Q. Dept. of Christian Education Offering.
- 30 Q. Mission at Boonah, Qld., with E. P. C. Hollard.

JUNE

- 1-30 V. Good Companions' Junior Arts and Crafts.
- 3-30 S.A. Engaged Couples' Course, Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- 4 V. C.W.F. Vic. and Tas. Council Meeting will be held at Churches of Christ Centre, Friday, June 4, 11 a.m. Guest Speaker: Mrs. G. N. Frost, C.B.E., Chairman of the Alcoholism Foundation.

May 29

ABORIGINES MISSIONS

NEW ORGANISING SECRETARY

The Federal Aborigines Mission Board has pleasure in announcing that D. G. Hammer has accepted the Board's invitation to the position of Organising Secretary in succession to J. K. Robinson, who has held the post for 14 years. Mr. Hammer, currently serving with Maylands Church, S.A., is well known to the Australian brotherhood for his ministerial experience and organising ability.

The scope of our work among Aborigines has considerably expanded since he and Mrs. Hammer were last at Carnarvon five years ago. However, their two terms on the field, including originally establishing Carnarvon Mission, and an earlier term in New Hebrides, provide good foundation for understanding the demands of this work. They will be located in Perth, and Mr. Hammer takes up duties mid-January, 1966.



OUR MAN OVER THERE

It is announced that Mr. and Mrs. E. P. C. Hollard will be leaving Adelaide on July 5 on their way to the World Convention at Puerto Rico, August 9-16. It has been made possible for them both to go, and whilst there Mr. Hollard will send regular reports to the "Australian Christian" on the events of the Convention.

After visiting the United States they will journey on to England and the Continent for two months, spend time in the Holy Land, then visit the mission fields in India, on to Bangkok and Hong Kong, and home via the Philippines. They expect to be back by Nov. 5.

The S.A. Home Mission Dept. was delighted to release the Secretary-Organiser for this period, and members of the Committee have all agreed to step in and undertake various offices in order to keep the work going.

We hope to print reports of Convention and other places of interest visited by the Hollards.

CHURCH SADDENED

(Inverell, N.S.W.). Sincere sympathies are expressed to the families of George Brighty and Mrs. Martyn, who passed away recently. Mrs. Martyn lived in Inverell less than 12 months, and in that time had won the hearts of all who knew her. Mr. Brighty was a loved and devoted member who served in the capacities of deacon and elder for over 55 years . . . Several young people journeyed to Lake Macquarie for the Easter Camp . . . C.W.F. held their annual garden party on May 5 at "Somerset." A large gathering participated in competitions and enjoyed bright fellowship . . . Mother's night and youth service were combined on May 12.

C.W.F. PAGEANT

(Caringbah, N.S.W.). At the Mother's Day evening service on May 9, presided over by the student-minister, F. A. Elliott, members of the C.W.F. presented a most impressive pageant on various aspects of the faith and witness of women of the Bible, written and produced by Mrs. Titterton and entitled, "In His Hands."

1965

NEW GOVERNMENT IN N.S.W.

(Sydney). The recent N.S.W. Elections resulted in the overthrow of the Labor Government, which had held office continuously for 24 years. The new Liberal-Country Party Government, led by Mr. Askin, as Premier, is hopeful of initiating certain reforms.

From the viewpoint of Christian people, however, the chief concern centres largely around the policy the new government will adopt in regard to Liquor and Gaming Laws, as well as the problem of Poker Machines on club premises. Other speculations concern the vexed question of State aid to non-government schools, and the curtailment of expenditure on the Sydney Opera House, which thus far has been financed mainly from the proceeds of State Lotteries.

CRICKET — AND FELLOWSHIP

(Sydney). The annual cricket match between the N.S.W. Ministers' Fraternal and the Woolwich College students proved once more to be a happy time of fellowship. Bexley Oval was the venue again, and this time the College gained a fairly easy victory.

N.S.W. YOUTH BROADCAST

At Burwood, N.S.W., on May 2, the Department of Christian Education conducted its annual Youth Broadcast over Station 2CH. F. L. Ewers, minister at Burwood, introduced the Youth Director, Bruce Armstrong, who presided over the gathering. Chairman of the D.C.E., John Morris, and President of the Youth Conference, John Morris, jr., shared in the service, and musical items were rendered by Miss Gasnier and Mr. Holt.

Circulation Corner . . .

HONOR ROLL

Further acknowledgment is made to churches throughout the Commonwealth for donations to "The Australian Christian" and for assistance in promoting our brotherhood national news journal.

- Camp Hill, Qld. — 3 copies for 6 months and £5.
- Townsville, Qld. — £5.
- Inverell, N.S.W. — £5.
- Wentworth Falls, N.S.W. — £10.
- Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. — £10.
- Hobart, Tas. — 5 copies for 1 year.
- Essendon, Vic. — £10.
- Sunshine, Vic. — £2.
- Mildura, Vic. — 4 copies one year.
- Doncaster, Vic. — 23 copies.
- Dunolly, Vic. — £2.
- Naracoorte, S.A. — 6 copies one year.
- Clovelly Park, S.A. — 3 copies one year.
- Yarrawonga, Vic. — 3 copies one year.
- Hampton, Vic. — £5.

The Australian Christian.

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.

Christian Unity

THE WORLD SCENE

Since 1925 there have been 37 instances of reunion between separated churches. In almost every case each of these unions has involved at least three communions. They have taken place on every continent except Australasia. Twenty-two of these unions have been between members of the same confessional family (e.g., Lutherans joining with Lutherans, Presbyterians with Presbyterians, etc.) Fifteen of them have been across the lines of confessional similarity.

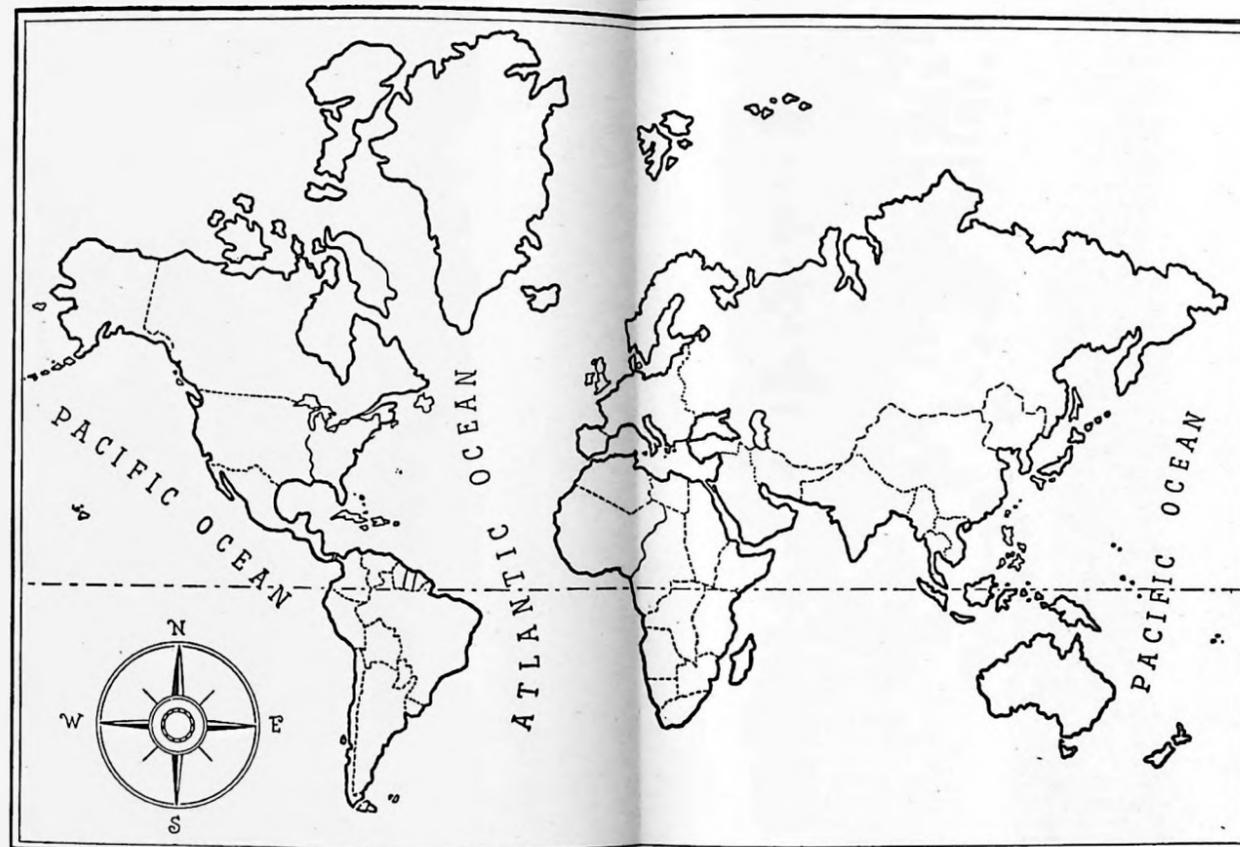
Churches of Christ (Disciples of Christ) have joined united churches in Japan (1941) and the Philippines (1948 and 1962). They are at present involved in union talks in North India - Pakistan, New Zealand, Argentina-Uruguay, Jamaica and U.S.A. In Australia we will have observer status when the Uniting Church of Australia (Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists) resumes its negotiations at the end of this year.

JAMAICA
Congregationalists.
Presbyterians.
Churches of Christ
(Disciples).
Methodists.
Moravians.

CEYLON
Anglicans.
Methodists.
Baptists.
Presbyterians.
Church of South India.

ENGLAND
Anglicans.
Methodists.

GHANA
Anglicans.
Methodists.
Evangelical Presbyterians.
Presbyterians.



Negotiations or conversations looking toward union are being conducted at the present time in those countries and between those churches indicated around this map. In every case except Jamaica an actual Basis of Union has been prepared. Other countries where union talks are proceeding are Kenya-Tanganyika, Madagascar, Nigeria, South Africa, Burma, South India, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Ireland, Jordan-Lebanon-Syria, Argentina-Uruguay, British Guiana, Canada and U.S.A.

WALES
Baptists.
Congregationalists.
Presbyterians.
Methodists.

AUSTRALIA
Presbyterians.
Methodists.
Congregationalists.

**ZAMBIA
(NORTHERN RHODESIA)**
Presbyterians.
French Reformed.
Independent Free
Churches.
Methodists.

NEW ZEALAND
Presbyterians.
Methodists.
Congregationalists.
Churches of Christ.
Anglicans.

N. INDIA - PAKISTAN
Anglicans.
Baptists.
Churches of Christ
(Disciples).
Church of the Brethren.
Methodists.
Presbyterians.

CHRISTIANS - DRINK - LATE CLOSING

BY C. P. HUGHES, J.P.

The Editor of the "Australian Christian" made the following statement recently: "Many of us are ready, as before, to support with enthusiasm the traditional viewpoint. But we shall need facts, and figures, and logic. Somebody had better start producing this ammunition in a hurry."

Mr. Editor, will you kindly permit me to add to your statement something which I hope is implicit in it, and yet which is being overlooked, or forgotten, or thought to be unnecessary by so many concerned with this problem? It is, however, the most important aspect of the whole question and should govern all our thinking about it. I refer to the Christian attitude to our "Brother," not only in relation to strong drink, but also every other social problem.

My Brother's Keeper

First and foremost, we are our brother's keeper, and what we say and do must always be measured according to its influence on our brother. Paul details this principle on several occasions, e.g., Romans 14: 21: "It is good neither to eat flesh nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."

This is the Word of God. It is a particular challenge which we cannot escape. It involves a double duty. First, to assist in the reclamation — or, better still, salvation — of the alcoholic; and secondly, to do everything possible to prevent the creation of further alcoholics.

It is impossible to over-emphasise the fact that every alcoholic was once a moderate or social drinker, and doubtless fully intended to remain such. Alcohol, however, is a narcotic drug which is dangerous because it creates a craving, and makes addicts of a large percentage of those who consume it. Our experts, and scientific men handling these cases, quote one in ten to one in fifteen of all who drink as become alcoholics — addicts!

The America Business Men's Research Foundation, in its publication, "Report," writes: "There is a mathematical certainty that out of every group of persons who begin to drink alcohol, a definite percentage will have their lives adversely affected or ruined by the use of alcoholic beverages."

Does This Relate to Closing Hours?

The report of the Commissioner in the Victorian Liquor Enquiry reveals that with Ten O'clock Closing in N.S.W. there was an increase in the number of drinkers, and that a substantial number of these were women. The fact that there was no immediate increase in the per head consumption — reputedly — is not of great importance. The tragedy was in the large number of people who commenced drinking after Ten O'clock Closing was introduced, and the example this gave to youth.

This is all about to be repeated in Victoria, and the tragedy is all the greater because it comes in part through a hurried decision by two temperance leaders, made before all the evidence was submitted and before mature consideration was given by Temperance bodies and Church Courts.

We may well ask, indeed we must, if the many people who will commence drinking as a result of the introduction of Ten O'clock Closing are of any concern to the Christian Church? Does it matter that thousands more will become alcoholics as a direct result of later hours, and drink themselves to an alcoholic hell? How can there be "neutrality" when the souls of men and women are at stake?

There Are Other Facts!

In addition to the N.S.W. Licensing Branch 1963 Report (see "A.C." 17/4/65) dealing with adverse effects of later closing, the Sydney daily papers frequently contain reports of drinking in hotels by juveniles, and the subsequent prosecution of the licensees. A special

article appeared in the "Sydney Morning Herald" on May 11, in which the behaviour of young people in the hotels at night was criticised, particularly in relation to drinking and to subsequent immoral practices.

Home life suffers as a result of night drinking. Once the parents commence to spend time in a hotel the young people soon follow, and home life and parental influence soon become as degraded as the standards found amongst those who centre their social living around alcohol.

Let us be realistically logical, and face facts. Whoever heard of trying to overcome a problem of any kind by increasing facilities to practise the very thing that makes for the problem? Jack London was a popular author of the past generation. He wrote about drink from a personal experience, saying: "The more facilities there are for drinking, the more drinking there will be."

We are not interested in basing our arguments on figures. The same statistics can be twisted to mean two entirely different things. Figures were submitted to the Commission, accepted by the experts, and apparently rejected by the Commissioner. If statistics are wanted, however, those wanting them had better consider the ever-increasing sum of money spent by Australians on liquor. Last year it was £313,000,000. This business is promoted by a multi-millionaire traffic, with a great public relations organisation. It has produced, and is producing hundreds of thousands of alcoholics with all their attendant problems and sorrows.

No statistics can prove anything about the social implications of liquor trade plans, nor the many added facilities of late closing that entice thousands to indulge in alcoholic leisure. It is wishful thinking to reflect that extremes of drinking "Can't happen here." They can!

Let me summarise. We are Christians, and therefore we must face this problem from the Christian standpoint, basing our decisions and actions on the teaching of the Word of God. This may commit us to a seeming "beating of our heads against a brick wall," or attempting an apparently impossible task. What of it? If we do not follow the Divine Word we will never achieve any useful purpose.

We are not here to compromise with evil. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses and we, too, must be faithful — even though we think the task beyond us. All things can be done through Christ.

WESTERN WOMEN

The May Auxiliary meeting was led by the President, Mrs. J. Pallot. Roll call was answered by 94, representing 20 C.W.F.'s. Financial Statement showed a balance in hand of £759/6/5. The Budget, £93. The President-Elect is Mrs. C. B. Reid. In appreciation of many years of service as treasurer of the Women's Auxiliary, Mrs. T. Beck was made an Executive Life Member.

Prayer for the loved ones of D. R. Stirling and Mrs. Cooper, of Fremantle, was offered by Mrs. G. A. Ewers.

A committee of seven has been appointed to formulate a working plan for a year of preparation for Woman to Woman Evangelism.

President's Aims for 1965

● BUDGET AIM OF £1,200 minimum. Every woman to personally prepare herself for service by:—

1. Every Woman Seek to give more time to private prayer, and when possible, public prayer.
2. Every Woman to Become a witnessing woman at home, and wherever possible.
3. Every Woman to Learn the added joy of service in Christ's name, and the joy of increased stewardship of Time, Talent, Treasure.
4. Every Woman to Win one person for the Kingdom this year.
5. Every Woman to Encourage one another in the wider work of the brotherhood.

● DIAMOND JUBILEE PROJECT — £200 for Youth at Home and Abroad.

● REPORTS —

Home Mission: Mrs. E. C. Smith — Bridgetown, is in need of a piano, and Scarborough is now self-supporting.

United Council of Christian Women: Mrs. J. Bridge — the Council is responsible for the arranging of the World Day of Prayer. This special day has been observed over a period of 75 years in 125 countries. In W.A., services are held in 80 metropolitan and country centres. The offering this year of £465 was given to the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Social Service: Mrs. Holloway — prayer request that the Committee might be guided to establish an avenue of service at the Pt. Walter Migrant Centre, and that the £700 needed to commence the building of the Pt. Peron Holiday Home will be made available.

Aboriginal Missions: Mrs. D. R. Manning — prayer request for the young children who have responded to the claims of Christ at Norseman; for the "Fairhaven" girls that they may maintain a Christian witness as they work in private homes at Esperance; for the establishing of the Christian Centre at Carnarvon. — D. M. Gordon, Secretary.

deepened, and the effect surely will be felt in many homes and churches. To busy women, the opportunity to relax in Christian fellowship, amidst delightful countryside, has been a very precious and refreshing experience. Our women are looking forward to a similar Retreat next year.

—G. M. Mackenzie, Pres.-elect.

CAMPING COMES OF AGE

The 21st Ballarat (Vic.) Churches' Easter Youth Camp was held at Hall's Gap this year, with 152 participants.

Under the leadership of F. C. Hunting, with the theme, "His Cross and Ours," the numbers were divided into seven senior and three junior groups. Campers came from as far afield as Adelaide and the Mildura district. M. F. Murray was secretary and song-leader; Miss Rita Roberts was again camp "mother," and she was ably supported by Mrs. F. C. Hunting and Mrs. Brian White.

C. W. Jackel prepared quiet time studies and recorded vespers (amplified to each dormitory and tent). Brian White (Norlane) gave senior Bible studies, and G. Jackel led in junior Bible studies. Vic. Berry assisted in leadership. Trained, experienced group leaders are a feature of these Easter camps, as is the dedication of six cooks led by H. G. Feary.

This year we were privileged to have Alan Fletcher (New Guinea missionary) for our guest, and he ably led our Friday night "missionary" meeting, as well as leading a group throughout camp.

A memorable incident was the "Open Air" church service held in the Hall's Gap camping ground, in rough weather this year but, with Vic. Berry preaching the gospel we were thrilled to see one young lady make her decision for Christ.

The "Gospelaire" male singing group played an important part in the musical success of the camp.

A "quiet time" preceded each day, as usual, and a camp newspaper was issued.

The 17 campers who made decisions and rededications, and the spiritual uplift gained by the others, will bear testimony to the value of these Easter camps.

FIRST N.S.W. C.W.F. RETREAT

In glorious weather, amidst beautiful surroundings, the first C.W.F. Retreat in N.S.W. was held at "Gilbulla," Menangle, April 30—May 2. Sixty-five ladies, representing many city and country Fellowships, were welcomed by our President, Mrs. Henderson, and Hostess, Mrs. Dickson. A high feeling of expectancy was very apparent, as women entered wholeheartedly into all aspects of the programme.

Mrs. Rofe led us in very thoughtfully prepared prayer periods each day in the lounge room, and these proved of great blessing. Of tremendous help and encouragement also were the Bible studies on the Book of Colossians, conducted by Mrs. Chambers.

A very stimulating session was presented by Mrs. Bedwell concerning "Programmes That Work," in C.W.F. meetings which must benefit by adopting these suggestions.

Many women visited historical places of interest in nearby Camden on the Saturday afternoon. Others the famous "Rotalacta" at Menangle, whilst some enjoyed the lovely gardens and country walks.

Early on Sunday morning, in the beautiful log chapel, all gathered to take part in an unforgettable communion service, led by our Conference President, C. E. Bowser. We greatly appreciated Mr. Bowser travelling from Sydney especially for this service. Of great blessing also was the solo, "For All My Sins," sung by Mrs. Cole.

The Christian experience of all women who attended this first Retreat has been

ROY PRINCE OFFERS THIS UNBEATABLE VALUE! THREE-BEDROOM BRICK VENEERS, PRICE INCLUDING LAND, FROM £3,995 to £5,350.

Thirty-one Brick Veneers have been sold this year already. Even £3,995 homes include: three good-sized bedrooms, lounge with oil-heater installed, a kitchen to make cooking a pleasure, bathroom with separate shower recess, 60-gallon electric hot-water service, internal flush toilet, secure paling fences, sanded hardwood floors, valuable building block.

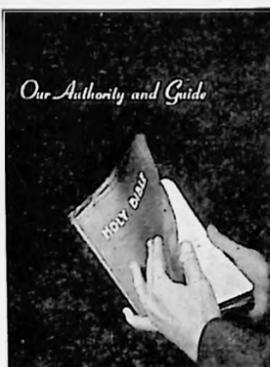
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C. P. Hughes, J.P., is secretary of the Australian Temperance Council.

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Sandra Wyndram, Aldgate Valley, S.A.
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D. Beynon, Miss N. Niddrie, Ormond, Vic.
Dorothy Wisby, Copping, Tas.

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Mr. and Mrs. Wild, Wangaratta, to Reservoir, Vic.
Beth Cockroft, Swan Hill; Wilf. Holloway, Stirling, S.A., to Malvern, Vic.
Mrs. Pearce, Gospel Hall; F. Stone, Miss A. Stone, Margaret-st., Launceston, to Devonport, Tas.

MARRIAGES

Pam Fyfe to Vic. Wilson; Zelma Brown to Don Herbert, Rockdale, N.S.W.
Nurse Heather Brew to Malcolm Wright, Stirling East, S.A.
Jan Woodfield to Kevin Boxhall; Elaine Byard to Robert Hardy; Valerie McElwee to Michael Saunders, Invermay, Tas.
Dawn Webster to Garry Phillips, Camp Hill, Qld.
Barbara Bray to Peter Foster, Queenstown, S.A.

DEATHS

W. Adair, Queenstown, S.A.
George Brightly, Mrs. Martyn, Inverell, N.S.W.
J. A. Turner, Croydon, Vic.
Mrs. Quenault, Hampton, Vic.
Mrs. Caroline Clarke, Goolwa, S.A.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

I. Burden (secretary, Dandenong church), 42 Edinburgh-st., Hallam, Vic.

ENGAGEMENT

BASSETT-REED. — The engagement is announced of Rosslyn Eleanor, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Bassett, Brisbane, Qld., to Geoffrey Arthur, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Reed, Frankston, Victoria, formerly of Ivanhoe.

IN MEMORIAM

BENN, Margaret. — Loving and treasured memories of our dear mother, called home May 30, 1960. "In heavenly love abiding."
—Dorrie and Lorna.

FLOWER, William James. — Memories linger on of a beloved father and grandfather called home May 3, 1961; also loved husband of Emily and father of Allan, Vin., Arthur and Geoff, Nov. 25, 1964. "Sadly missed."

TAYLOR. — In loving memory of my dear wife (Mays) who passed on, May 27, 1964, at Will H. Clay Nursing Home. — "Our hope in the resurrection and faith in Jesus Christ minimises our sorrows until the 'morning breaks' and the mists have cleared away."

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.

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.
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ATTEND.

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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.

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Opening of New Chapel and Education Centre

SATURDAY, JUNE 5 at 3 p.m.

Induction of A. G. MATHIESON A.V.A., at 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 6, by R. E. Pittman, J.P. Conf. Pres.

"VICTORY IN LIFE" MEETINGS

at the
KALGOORLIE CHURCH
MAY 30 — JUNE 6.

Missioner: GEORGE SMITH.
Prayer support requested.

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60th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY, JUNE 6—

10 a.m.—Speaker B. Greenwood.
7 p.m.—W. W. Saunders.

TUESDAY, JUNE 8—
7.45 p.m.—Social Gathering,
Dr. Lloyd Jones.

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NEW MANSE OCCUPIED

(Springvale, Vic.). The new manse is completed and minister and his family have moved in. The manse is very attractive. Extensions and alterations were helped by working bees . . . The church is now being painted. Church members are having a time and talent effort to meet expenses.

FAMILY LIFE DISCUSSION

(Balwyn, Vic.). The S.S. presented white flowers to all who attended on Mother's Day. Couples married at Balwyn were invited back to Balwyn for evening service. There were items by Mr. and Mrs. D. Warmbrunn and the Carr Bros. The minister, L. F. Barker, preached on "Will You Take This Man?" and later, at supper, Dr. Oldmeadow led a discussion on family life . . . On May 16, the footballers paraded . . . C.W.F. groups are busy raising money for Monbulk chapel . . . E. S. Sanders spoke to church on Temperance . . . Endeavourers entertained aged members in their homes.

LADIES LEAD FAMILY SERVICE

(Doncaster, Vic.). The ladies of the C.W.F. evening group were in charge of a family night service. Mrs. Don Smith presided. Mrs. M. McNicol read the lesson and Mrs. J. G. Shaw gave the address. They were supported by a ladies' choir, under the leadership of Mrs. G. Crouch, with Mrs. Keith Crouch at the organ . . . The young people, with Malcolm Gaskin as leader, chartered a bus, worshipped at the church at Scoresby in the morning, spent the afternoon at Emerald Lake, and in the evening joined the gospel service at Dandenong.

FILM REVIEW

(Melb.). The next meeting of the Adult Counselling Fellowship for C.Y.F., Vic.-Tas., will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Richards, 890 Doncaster-rd., East Doncaster, May 31, 8 p.m. The programme will consist of movie film reviews indicating the kind of film programmes that can be used for youth. The films Alan Morgan will review include "Neighbours," "What Alcohol and Nicotine Does to Your Body" and "Are People Sheep?"

BAPTISMS AT MAIDSTONE

(Vic.). Since the Crusade ended last month there have been four further decisions, and over four Sundays there have been 37 baptisms. Average attendance at the four services, 115. Morning average over same period also 115, with 103 communicants.

PREPARATION FOR OPENING

(Parkdale, Vic.). Working bees in preparation for the new chapel opening on May 22 have been well supported. Final meetings in the old chapel on May 16 took many back in memory to the early days of the work which was begun in 1923 . . . Sunday evening attendance since Easter has averaged 72.

"YOUTH UNITED" - JUNE
19. Speaker: Kevin Harvey;
compere: Barry Jenkins; items:
Campbell singers, "P.K.'s",
Sing-a-long, with Vic. Ryall.
Place: ASSEMBLY HALL, Col-
lins-st., Melbourne.

PRESIDENT AT CROYDON

(Vic.). S. Russell Baker, Federal President, was speaker on May 16 in Bible Society interests . . . J.C.E. held a church parade on May 2 . . . A luncheon was held at the home of Mrs. Lacey on May 11, after which the C.W.F. (afternoon group) attended a Mothers' and grandmothers' function at Bayswater . . . There was a good representation from Croydon at the Eastern District prayer rally at Scoresby Road . . . A young marrieds' tea was held on May 16 . . . Sympathy is offered to relatives of J. A. Turner, who died on May 12 . . . W. J. Thomson is minister.

MALVERN MISSION

(Vic.). Mission has continued during the week with attendances keeping up. A feature has been those taking part in the Gospel in Song. Col. Smith and Bill Gaunson have been giving very inspiring addresses. At the conclusion of the film, "Decision," on Saturday night, one girl rededicated her life to Christ. Total results so far are two rededications.



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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 30 — "OUR SUPREME PONTIFF!"

New Guinea Survey

BY R. S. A. McLEAN

During June a survey of the church and mission in New Guinea will be made by Executive Officers from the following Mission Boards: Australian Board of Missions, Australian Baptist Missionary Society, Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board, London Missionary Society, Methodist Overseas Missions, and the United Evangelical Lutheran. There will also be a representative from the Division of Missions of the A.C.C., formerly the National Missionary Council.

Arriving in Port Moresby on June 1, the team's visit will include Popondetta, Dagura, Lae, Rabaul, Madang, Ramu Valley, Baiyer Valley, Mt. Hagen, Tari and Mendi, returning to Port Moresby on June 24.

This venture is an indication that churches realise they cannot witness in complete isolation. The magnitude of the task of world evangelism compels missions today to stress co-operation rather than comity.

The visit will enable Mission Boards and the churches in Australia to have a greater insight to the total witness of the church in New Guinea. The following paragraph from "One People — One



Mission" is relevant:— "We cannot be obedient to Jesus Christ by ourselves, in isolation from our fellow Christians in the other congregations of our church and in other churches in our country. Christ's mission is one, and if we are to share it, we must share in it together with others whom he has called into the company of his people.

"Are we doing anything about this? Do we know the other congregations of Christian people in our neighbourhood? Do we think and pray with them about our common task, and carry it out together so far as is possible? Do we encourage our church leaders when they make plans for common work with other churches; or do we look at this sus-

piciously, wondering whether it means that our own group might lose something?"

The visit will help the church in one part of New Guinea to become aware of the church in another part of New Guinea. It may be difficult for us to realise that often churches in so-called "mission field situations" are more acquainted with the church in a distant country that has sent missionaries to them, than a church less than 100 miles away in their own country.

"Before World War II, the churches of South-East Asia had few contacts with one another. Except at world conferences, where a few churchmen from the area met one another, there was little or no fellowship among the leaders. The lives of the churches had been closely linked with their parent bodies in the West. A Filipino Methodist was better acquainted with the work of the Methodists in distant America than he was with that in nearby Singapore. Educated Karens in Burma knew more about American Baptists than about the Chinese Baptist Church in Bangkok." —(A Factual Study of Asia).

We pray that as a result of the survey and goodwill visit to the churches in New Guinea, there will be a greater sense of unity in the common task of making Christ known.

The Federal Overseas Mission Secretary, R. S. A. McLean, will represent the Churches of Christ and, following the survey, will attend the Annual Meeting of the Churches of Christ in New Guinea, which commences on June 29. He will then visit the New Hebrides, via the Solomon Islands.

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IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

When One Realises that Twentieth Century Saints are Characterised by an Unobtrusive Faithfulness.

The word Saint conjures up men and women with pale faces who retreated from the world's battles to fast and pray and practise self-mortification. Though the medieval concept lingers, there is a growing recognition that saints dwell amongst us, more often on life's frontiers than elsewhere. The word "saint" can be put in quite simple speech. A saint is "one who makes us think of Christ, who went about doing good." So commonplace are the frontiers where modern saints are in action, and so unobtrusive their service, that they go unrecognised. It is a profitable exercise to engage in discerning saints and in classifying them.

Sewing Saints are found in unattractive church halls. Their numbers are small, but their fingers are busy, like Dorcas of old, providing garments for needy ones. They are as zealous in prayer as in garment making.

Knitting Saints. They work solofashion with a singleness of purpose. They discern the world moving along on the feet of little children. They delight in helping mothers keep pace with the recurring need of those feet and in working overtime on garments that give warmth to those frail in body.

Befriending Saints. Unseen by the community and unknown to their friends, they gather in twos and threes to give hours and hours of time sorting and classifying used garments and footwear in readiness to meet individual needs in distressed families, in orphanages and in Overseas Mission Fields.

Missionary Saints. A box is in the centre of a circle of women. Each layette is placed in it with care and a prayer for a tiny babe; colourful dresses for girls and strong suits for boys are folded into the box with a prayer that those who wear the garments may grow up in the knowledge of Jesus.

Neighbourly Saints. They are frequently knocking at neighbour's doors making welfare inquiries. And oftentimes the door knocking is in reverse. Neighbours have come for counselling from the one in whom they have

gained confidence. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Scrubbing Saints. Six reverent saints were recently disturbed by a minister. They were on their knees in the sanctuary, not praying, but scrubbing. Saints discern the relationship between clean floors and clean hearts.

Bedside Saints. "What a wonderful mother I have" was the thanksgiving of a seven-year-old daughter to the mother who had given comfort and relief from pain. There are battalions and battalions of bedside saints in our hospitals. Patients provide unending testimonies of the genuine saintliness manifested by nurses. A conspicuous saintliness often resides in devoted young nurses.

Household Saints. Perhaps the most ancient order of saints is that of the "Household Saints." Saints in the household of Caesar is one of the surprises of early Christian history. Ministers in their pastoral work stumble unawares on saints in various households: a Christian wife with an unbelieving husband, refusing to let her faith sag; a Christian workman maintaining a godliness in the company of ungodly workmates; a Christian young woman commending Christ by her sweetness and naturalness in a worldly environment; a university student manifesting the Christian graces in the company of intellectual snobs.

A Model Saint. Young people do not disclose any ambition to be a model saint. In the context of the centuries the Saint par excellence is Francis of Assisi. There was about him a rollicking gaiety and an abandonment that made one of his biographers call him a "troubador of God." Such buoyant hopefulness is characteristic of many modern young saints. The spirit of dare is manifested in every saint. Such a spirit may be detected in many twentieth century young Christians. While Christian youth inject such hopefulness and dare into society, there will always be a succession of saints.

— W. R. H.

— Occasional Scribe.

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Secretary: M. Davis, 39 Kaoota-rd., Lindisfarne, Tas.

Faith's Bitter Test

(The Story of Betty Elliot)

By Mrs. THELMA WOOLFORD, Qld.

MEDITATION.

John 9: 4. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work."

Hymn, "Jesus and shall it ever be."

PRAYER.

Dear Father in Heaven,
Forgive us for our lack of faith. We thank thee for Jesus, for his love, his life and his sacrifice. Search our hearts that this may be our prayer. Dear Father, lay some one upon my heart, and love that one through me,
For Jesus' sake, Amen.

Reading — 1 Cor. 4: 11-14.

DEVOTIONAL.

As the boat pulled into the harbour in Ecuador, Jim and Betty Elliot sang that wonderful hymn, "Faith of our Fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death." They were ready and willing and believed God would work miracles in response to their faith. "O God, guide," the missionaries prayed. They had given their all that the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ would go forth with power, that those who were in darkness and knew not the wonderful Light of Jesus Christ might come to a knowledge of his saving grace and of sins forgiven and peace with God.

What a wonderful story is theirs and it is true we have all been very touched and inspired to hear and to read of their lives. Five young men were murdered for the sake of the gospel. What a waste, some say, but because of this the way has been opened that another tribe has been reached by the gospel.

When Betty Elliot lost her husband in the terrible massacre, she did not give in to self-pity, but tried to see in the fearful deed the hand of God. Believing it to be God's will, she remained in Ecuador to serve him.

And what about us? Is God Master of our lives so that we are ready and willing to be used, no matter what may happen? Can we say thank you for every situation that comes along, whether happy or sad? Or do we feel that the sacrifice given by the Elliots, and their companions, has very little to do with our Christian lives?

Early on the morning of the massacre, Olive Fleming, one of the other missionaries, had the following verses impressed on her mind, "For we know that if the earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heaven. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord."

Jesus gave up all his heavenly glory to travel the road from a manger to the cross, so that we might be reconciled to God. But maybe our love of material things is cutting us off from the presence of Christ.

Jesus is calling us to become disciples, to be up and doing, willing to be used in whatever sphere we find ourselves. He wants every part of our lives, our time and talents, our fears and sorrows, our joys and hardships, that every situation will be Christ-filled, so we too, like Betty Elliot, can sing, "We will be true to thee till death."

Hymn, "King of my life I crown thee now."

MISSIONARY NEWS.

MISSIONARY PRAYER.

BUSINESS.

ADDRESS.

Hymn, "In full and glad surrender."

BENEDICTION.

OPEN FORUM

WORLD CONVENTION.

To the Editor,

If one had the audacity to write an article or letter to this paper posing the question, "Is the return on moneys paid to a minister, or spent on erecting buildings great enough to justify them?" the correspondence aroused would probably equal that on baptism. But this is the type of question asked by J. Hemer ("A.C." 22/5/65) on the "value" of a World Convention. Yes, let us by all means carefully consider the various ventures of the Christian church, and not be like the builder who began the tower but was unable to complete it. However, can we equate "values" and "returns" on time and expenditure in the activities of the church as we can in a balance sheet?

Mr. Hemer suggests that the time, expenditure and effort be put into a project which would make an impact on the community. However, even in this field the church must beware that it is not becoming merely a benevolent society and preening itself on the amount of charitable activities that are undertaken.

Let us remember that the greatest impact the church can make comes when the church (i.e., individuals) makes some effort in personal outreach. Surely there are two aspects to the church's life. One is personal outreach; the other is to provide a means of sharing fellowship. The Thessalonian letter illustrates these (1 Thess. 1: 7 and 5: 11).

Perhaps the community impact of a Convention or Conference is small, but is it possible to measure the "value" in terms of fellowship and inspiration? One could easily question the services of the church on exactly the same grounds, but the answer would be similar — there are both aspects to consider.

Let us not attempt to evaluate the church's programme by one yard-stick alone; let us consider all sides of the question.
—M. J. Pederson, S.A.

ROBES.

To the Editor,

A correspondent says that in wearing a cassock he was at one with his brethren in Christ. This means that he was at one with the twenty who wore distinctive dress, but what about the rest? The wearing of distinctive dress may not debar anyone from wearing a robe of righteousness, but the practice shows a distinction between clergy and laity, and in the priesthood of all believers there should be no such distinction.

The practice is pre-Christian, coming partly from Judaism, but to a greater extent from the heathen temples, particularly pagan Rome. Pagan Rome inherited the practice from pagan Rome and has passed it to the various reformed churches. There is no reference in the New Testament to special attire being worn by the twelve apostles who were the first to be commissioned to preach the gospel.

The distinction between the clergy and the laity cannot be in the best interests of any church. It is in the best interests of the church that the minister should be a part of the congregation and not apart from the congregation.
—A. Middleton.

WE ARE APPRECIATED.

To the Associate-Editor,

I have just read "Hello, Mr. Editor" in "A.C.", May 1. I have been away from home so that is why I am so far behind with my reading of the paper. However, it reminds me that I have not yet paid my sub. for this current year, so I enclose my cheque for £10 to cover same, and balance can go to "Christian" fund to help maintain our national paper. I would feel the loss if I did not receive it. How can we hope to maintain our great brotherhood throughout Australia if we do not have a National means of communication? I would prefer that my name be not mentioned in connection with this, except an acknowledgment of receipt.
—One of the Partners.

VIC.-TAS. MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION

Next meeting will be held on Monday, June 7, 2 p.m., at Brotherhood Centre. G. S. Brown will speak on "A President's View of the Brotherhood." Luncheon fellowship at 1 p.m.

HELD OVER

Because of pressure on space, Questing, many news items, and Open Forum letters have been held over.

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Young man (18) requires work (board) on Vic. wheat (sheep) farm. Excellent references. Reply, Arthur Thorpe, 22 Mimosa-rd., Carnegie, Vic.

THERE IS ONE LORD

DAY BY DAY THROUGH EPHESIANS

Thursday, June 3. Ephesians 5: 21-24. Wives, be subject to your husbands (v. 22).

The history of mankind begins with a marriage. The family is the building block of society and the family is based upon a partnership. In Paul's day the family life was based upon a partnership. In Paul's day the family life of Greece and Rome had broken down completely. Paul's advice to the Christian wife was to be subject to her husband. But note the phrase which introduces this passage says, "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ." It doesn't matter who is head of the house if Christ is placed first.

Our God, when two have become one, there is no inferiority in subjection to each other. Amen.

Friday, June 4. Ephesians 5: 25-33. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church (v. 25).

Those husbands, who use v. 22 to make secure their position as head of the house, will have some trouble with this further word. If husbands love their wives as Jesus loved the church and "gave himself up for her" there will be little temptation to seek a place of superiority. Jesus changed the position of women from slavery to that of partnership.

Eternal Father, we pray that partners may show the same concern for each other that Christ has for both. Amen.

Saturday, June 5. Ephesians 6: 1-4. "The first commandment with promise" (v. 2).

Paul expected this letter to be read in the presence of the whole family. Marriage had been placed under a guardianship by God which made the parents partners. The tie between parents and children was also subject to God's control. Children are expected to obey their parents. Obedience is a law of childhood. Children who will not obey reasonable parents are not likely to obey God either. But fathers are warned against provoking their children. One youth found it impossible to think of God as a Father. His own father had completely destroyed any satisfactory picture of God as the Father of a world family.

Eternal Father, whatever our position in the family may be, help us to fill it in a way that honors you. Amen.

Sunday, June 6. Ephesians 6: 5-9. Slaves, be obedient (v. 5).

Many passages in the New Testament have to be understood against their social background. Slavery was not only a recognised aspect of society, the community life was practically built upon the idea. But slavery is unknown in our situations. Slaves were utterly without the human rights we take so easily for granted. This passage cannot possibly

mean for us what it meant for those who first heard it, but it still has something to say. When we work for others, we must see our work as unto Christ also.

Lord, when we serve others, may we know you as our true Master. Amen.

Monday, June 7. Ephesians 6: 8-9. Christ is both their Master and yours (v. 9).

The masters of slaves, because of their great power, also had a greater responsibility. This applied especially to Christian masters who would be fellow-Christians with some of their slaves. But they were required to treat all slaves with the same consideration. The ultimate application of this rule resulted in the liberation of all slaves. Masters could never wholly own those for whom Christ had died.

Dear God, our society may be different, but we still serve and are served. May we make Christ the centre of our society. Amen.

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Tuesday, June 8. Ephesians 6: 10-11. Be strong in the Lord (v. 10).

A serious testing time was coming for the young church. If it was to endure it would need all of its resources. The devil was the chief enemy. The N.T. assumed that Satan was a person, a thinking, active being leading the forces of wickedness. Jesus did not repudiate the current belief in Satan and demons. Instead he accepted the belief and it is seen to be a part of some of his deepest experiences.

Dear God, we know that evil is a real force and we need your strength. Amen.

Wednesday, June 9. Ephesians 6: 12-13. Take the whole armour of God (v. 13).

Paul is fond of the imagery of warfare. The Christians were to be soldiers with the task of overcoming the world, and holding any ground they gained. Victory would not come easily. There was to be a desperate struggle. The life of Christ, his suffering and sacrifice, were to be repeated in the church. We see something of the battle in John's letters to the seven churches. Each church was told of the rewards for the one "who conquers." Paul's orders are to take the whole armour of God "that you may be able to stand."

Lord, we are again in the midst of a battle. Lend us your strength so that we may stand firm. Amen.

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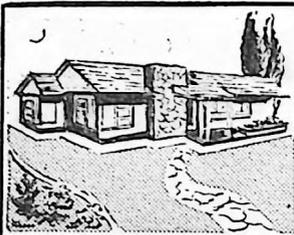


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THE LAST WORD . . .

Self-Control.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires.

God harden me against myself,
This coward with pathetic voice
Who craves for ease and rest and joys . . .

Yet one there is can curb myself,
Can roll the strangling load from me,
Break off the yoke and set me free.

—Christina Rossetti.



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We never fail when we try to do our duty. We always fail when we neglect it.

—Baden-Powell.



There was once a chairman named Brown

Who was much in demand in this town.

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He gave a donation,
And amid wild applause he sat down.



A business man is judged by the company he keeps solvent.



A six-year-old girl submitted the following composition on "people" to her teacher: "People are composed of girls and boys, also men and women. Boys are no good at all until they grow up and get married. Men who don't get married are no good either. Boys are an awful bother. They want everything they see except soap. My ma is a woman, and my pa is a man. A woman is a grown-up girl with children. My pa is such a nice man that I think he must have been a girl when he was a boy."