

Church Opening Traralgon (Vic.)

(see page 10)



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WITH ALL
THE CHURCHES

THE AUSTRALIAN

CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL WEEKLY OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA GETS LOTTERY

The State of South Australia went to the polling booth last week and voted to have a State Lottery. The majority in favour of the lottery was 71%. This surprisingly large majority in support of a lottery indicates that many church people voted "Yes" at the referendum.

The result is probably due in part to the many new young voters who have been conditioned to accept gambling as a part of the Australian way of life. In a world of different values, one might expect Governments to discourage young people from looking to a lottery ticket as the key to material success. The country has so much more to gain by developing incentives for industry and thrift. But Governments have been quick to seize the opportunity for increased revenue without higher taxes. They have been much slower to recognise the social dangers.

In appealing to human cupidity, the lotteries offer a salve to conscience by linking this form of gambling with hospitals and charities. The ticket buyer is enabled to feel, even if he loses, that he is really doing a decent thing in helping the sick. This is nonsense. The motive for buying lottery tickets is not to help the sick but to make a fortune. In any case, only 30% of money invested in lotteries ever reaches charities.

It must be said, in fairness to the S.A. Government, that with lotteries operating in all of the other mainland States, a great deal of money chases across the borders to Tattersalls, Golden Casket, etc. The referendum results must surely reflect the interest of people in those other lotteries. Then, too, in defence of the S.A. Government, it must be acknowledged that this was not something foisted upon the people, but strongly desired by them.

A recent article in the "Australian Christian" pointed out that gambling is morally wrong, socially undesirable, and economically unsound. It was on these facts that the S.A. campaign was fought. The people in general were not convinced. But the most serious aspect of the referendum result was the small "No" vote. This indicates that the reasons given were not even sufficient for many church members.

THE DECLINING CHURCH

There are fewer Christians today, comparatively, than there were yesterday. There are more Christians today than there will be tomorrow. These things are true, no matter how many children have been born into Christian families today, or how many converts will be won from the world tomorrow. What makes Christianity a declining force numerically is the fact that the non-Christian peoples are increasing much more rapidly than Christians are born or born again.

There is a general recognition of these unhappy facts in the Christian churches, but it is questionable whether we have begun to find the real answers. To make the church more attractive we have made moves to smarten up our church buildings, to modernise our church government, and to brighten up our church services. These are probably important in their own areas, but they do not even touch the main issues. These are the external presentations of the real life of the church. If that real life is out of touch with the Spirit of God, then the more we do with the trappings the more we shall emphasise our internal poverty.

The areas in which the church will have to make its true impact will be precisely those areas of human concern that are the most difficult and the most sensitive. Because of the difficulties in finding the right answer, we are tempted to believe that there is no answer at all, or that there will have to be a cataclysmic intervention by God to deal with the enemies of peace in His world.

It is worth considering the possibility that God may count among His enemies the indifferent or half-hearted members of the Christian church who are so busy with insignificant side-issues that they count for little or nothing in the real world.

If the church is to make any great impact it must deal with the problems on page one of our newspapers. Our business is to translate the word of God and to demonstrate the will of God in terms of everyday need.

The declining numerical strength is a sad thing, but an even sadder thing is that the church is declining in concern and compassion. The two things may not be unrelated.

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INDIAN JUBILEE

BY E. P. C. HOLLARD

By train, by bus, and on foot, people teemed into Baramati for the jubilee celebrations of the Churches of Christ in Western India. There were no cars, except two mission vehicles, and both of those have some celebrations coming up soon.

Out here people simply ignore distance, and time, and head for whatever is important. The bells ring 30 minutes beforehand to warn everyone that something is due to happen, then when it starts they ring again, and around 15 minutes after it has supposed to start they commence streaming in. And when the Benediction is being pronounced quite a few arrive! It's as simple as all that.

And no one seems to care about coming in 30 miles by train, going home the next morning, and then returning again the same night. It's all a matter of what you are used to, or possibly how important a thing is.

The Baramati church, and its committee, had prepared well. For 60 years these churches have reached into many areas of life and their people have scattered far and wide, but all wanted to come back for the Jubilee. So local people, in their small homes, simply moved over a little closer to the wall to make room for the friends and relations. The missionary bungalows looked like dormitories.

FULL PROGRAMME.

The actual church services were amazingly well attended. Each morning at 8.30 (or thereabouts) Ron McLean, the Federal Overseas Secretary, gave an address to a filled building. They do not pack the meeting with too many solos or anthems or specials, and the preacher is soon on his feet.

Afternoons at 4 (or thereabouts) were also well packed, with even less padding. At night there were special functions and programmes presented in the "Boarding" compound on a specially prepared stage. This stage is set beneath the tree where the mission was first set up 60 years ago.

These night programmes were of special interest. The Indian brethren like to sing, and some of their songs are narratives which go on and on. One in particular told the story of the Prodigal Son, and the embellishments to the story took about 45 minutes to get through. But anyone will get up and sing, or preach, or pray!

Possibly the two presentations which stood out presented the commencement of the mission, which meant the portrayal of some missionary characters who gave splendid service years ago. The script was written by local members, and casted by them. And these people had all come in through the work of the missionaries whom they sought to portray.

This had an extra thought for visitors from Australia, but the one which really brought the Australian "house" to its feet was a group of young people presenting the beginnings of the work in the New Guinea field! Mr. and Mrs. Beale would have been touched to have seen two young Indians, representing two Australian missionaries going into New Guinea! This was taped and though falling below some Sunday School concert standards, could well be sent along the tour of the Australian churches. It's all in Marathi! Miss Hazel Skuce did the script.

The Sunday morning service was a climax in every way. It began at 8.30, to a packed building, and as time passed the crowd grew until there were at least 500 people present in and around the chapel. Fourteen young people were baptized into Christ, with Mr. McLean baptizing the girls and the writer baptizing the boys. The girls, in their white saris, flung into the church afterwards made a spectacular picture.

The service of communion then followed, with Mr. McLean giving the address. At 11.30 (3 hours later), the service was completed. Our Indian brethren are great pray-ers, and almost storm the ramparts of heaven! They certainly make "their wants and wishes known"!

RETROSPECT.

Missionaries and visitors were then guests of the "old boys" of the "Boarding" who had come back for the Jubilee. Cross-legged and using "fingers before forks," long lines of people dealt with a sumptuous Indian chilli dinner. This was followed by a meeting of the "old boys," and this, too, began at the usual time, and like all "old boys" gatherings, it revealed that most of the "old boys" yearn to talk, and mostly want to do it at the same time.

Even so, as each man stood and told the year he came into the "Boarding," and what he is doing now, one could not help but say, "What a dividend is

this." Ministers, teachers, government officials, businessmen, newspapermen and the like, they all paid tribute to the school.

And when you add the usefulness of the Shrigonda Girls' "Boarding" to this, a tremendous work has been done through the years. It was touching to hear them mention names, or when they asked us about some who had served. "How is Miss Cameron?"; "Do you know Mr. and Mrs. Bolduan?" and the Coventry families, the Michaels, the Heards, Miss Vera Blake (Mrs. Price), Miss Foreman, the Colin Thomases, and as far back as the Struttons and Escourts. As everywhere, some names are always green in memories.

The afternoon service was packed again, and the Jubilee was over. Baramati church, which is as old as the mission, held an evening meeting to which greetings were brought from the other churches. Afterwards Trevor Morris, of Melbourne, showed movies.

The ladies of the churches held an afternoon meeting whilst the men were likewise engaged. Mrs. E. P. C. Hollard gave an account of the World Convention and the C.W.F. work throughout the world, whilst her husband spoke to the men about "Witnessing."

One sad note came into the celebrations in the passing of Mrs. Hiwale, wife of one of the ministers. Australians will recall him as a gracious visitor several years ago. The large attendance at the Dhond church showed the respect in which this wonderful family is held.

Another man whose contribution could not be assessed was the Bombay minister, Barlu Bohnsle, who was also in Australia with Mr. Hiwale. He was the official interpreter and stood alongside the speakers and passed the message on. For 21 days and 25 addresses he had stood alongside the writer and we became fast friends. Previous to the Jubilee an evangelistic campaign of 4 nights (and 4 mornings in Baramati) had been conducted by the writer. In a number of these there had been reconsecrations and decisions for Christ.

ASSESSMENT.

It isn't easy to assess the work of the mission as distinct from the church. That they are two separate entities is strange to the visitor. The fact raises some questions in the mind, but answers seem to be ready enough. Is the church strong enough and equipped enough to conduct its own affairs whilst the mission stands by simply as an adviser with a cheque book?

One could raise the question of vehicles again and again. Roads are a nightmare, but when motors have to be started with a team to push each time, one wonders if the cost of batteries and maintenance should not be met without demur. Maintenance is a problem of major proportions. There are some items of need which one could write about, but only the wise use of men and money will see these things through.

Regarding the strategy of missions, there seems to be a "melting pot" period just now as writers and experts consider the best techniques. Is it still the day of the evangelist who goes from village to village? Is McGavran's idea of family concentration coming to the

(continued on page 18)

World News of the Church

VIETNAM PROTESTS

(Washington, D.C.). The action of a 31-year-old Quaker executive from Baltimore, who set himself on fire, was a protest against U.S. involvement in Vietnam, his wife later told reporters.

The death of Norman R. Morrison occurred outside the Pentagon, only 50 feet below the office of Defence Secretary, Robert S. McNamara, who was unaware of the tragedy. But thousands of employees on their way home witnessed the immolation.

Mrs. Morrison said her husband "was convinced that the control and ultimate elimination of war is imperative in this country. He considered war itself — and the hatred and passions it inspired — as the real enemies of the people of Vietnam and the United States. He gave his life as a witness to this belief."

The tragedy served to highlight growing discussion and protests about U.S.A. involvement in the Vietnam war. On Nov. 27, 25,000 demonstrators from all parts of the nation are expected to participate in a "March on Washington for Peace in Vietnam," at which Dr. Martin Luther King, jr., will be one of the speakers.—E.P.S.

NO CHURCH SPLIT

(Singapore). The split of Malaysia into the two independent States of Malaya and Singapore, should have no effect on relations between the churches of the two nations, according to the Rev. Robert M. Greer, president of the Malayan Christian Council.

Mr. Greer said plans are moving ahead to form a council of churches which would include churches of both Malaya and Singapore in "a geographical Malaysian Council of Churches." He said the Chinese Methodist Conference in Sarawak and the Anglican Diocese of Jesselton, Sabah, have applied for membership in this Council.—E.P.S.

CHRISTIANITY IN JAPAN

The Japan Christian Yearbook reports there are 3,566 Protestant churches and 1,906 places of worship in Japan served by 7,405 clergy, of whom 5,348 are Japanese and 2,057 are from abroad. The total number of Protestants in Japan was given as 443,709.—E.P.S.

SNOWY CHURCH

An Australian Government agency, the Snowy Mountains Authority, will build a church in the wild mountain area for use by Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Presbyterians. The Authority, which is responsible for the hydro-electric irrigation project, one of the largest such undertakings in the world, will pay for the church, but the building will be designed by architects chosen co-operatively by the three churches.—E.P.S.

AUSTRAL-ASIA RELATIONS

(Vic.). The Inter-Church Aid Secretary, Rev. Frank Byatt, reports that the 250,000 Christmas Cards designed and printed Christmas Cards have been completely sold out. There will be no further supplies this year, but half a million have been ordered for 1966.

Though the cards will show but a slight profit, they will have brought the on-going work of Inter-Church aid before the Australian public as a crucial point of Australian-Asian relationships. Australian churches are member churches of the East Asian Christian Conference which, through Asian Christian Service, has established offices in Hanoi and Saigon under Indonesian and Burmese

Directors. Funds are urgently sought for the programmes being planned to meet human need with Christian concern in North and South Vietnam and Inter-Church Aid has undertaken to provide 1,000 Midwifery Kits as part of the Christmas Bowl programme.

FOUR SENTENCED TO DEATH

(Yaounde). A military tribunal has sentenced four men to death for the murder of two Swiss missionaries in Cameroun. One of the four was National Assembly deputy Thaddee Nya Nana.

The court has also sentenced six others to hard labour for life as accomplices. One person was acquitted.

The missionaries who were killed at Bangangte, about 190 miles west of Yaounde, in August, were Mme. Gerard Markhoff, wife of a Protestant pastor, and Roland Waldvogel, a teacher.

The murders occurred because one of the condemned men wanted the job in the local school held by Monsieur Waldvogel. Mme. Markhoff was killed because she was at the scene.—E.P.S.

[The Melbourne "Age" reported on Nov. 22 that the condemned men were publicly shot before 15,000 people at the scene of the crime.]

• CHURCH AND LIFE MOVEMENT

LEADER TRAINING

The leader training programme of the Church and Life Movement aims to train 10,000 leaders for the group programme in mid-1966.

To achieve this, training will be offered at three levels.

1. Persons with previous experience in adult group leadership are being nominated to attend metropolitan courses. These Primary Training Courses will prepare them to train other leaders.

2. Persons selected to be group leaders will attend regional courses (in both suburbs and provincial towns). These regional courses will be held in March, April, and early May, next year.

3. Those trained as group leaders in regional courses will meet together in their local communities prior to the June-July group programme, to share their training experience with other leaders who could not attend, or who were selected later.

The Victorian Panel is planning on the basis of up to 30,000 participating

in the 1966 group programme. To train sufficient group leaders, 300 people are to be trained at the Primary Training Courses. The first series of two courses with 85 participants, was held in September this year, under the direction of the Revs. Gordon Beatty and Peter Mathews.

A second series of three courses for 120 leaders is being held at Retreat House, Cheltenham, from Nov. 17th-19th, Nov. 19th-21st, and Dec. 3rd-5th. Leaders will include the Revs. Bruce Rollins (Methodist), Colin Coish (Anglican) and Messrs. Val. Brown (Anglican G.B.R.E.) and Ray Johnston (Victorian "Frontier" Panel).

Additional courses are now being planned for Melbourne and Geelong, and will be held in March, 1966. A further 100 people will be trained in these courses.

All enquiries should be directed to the Church and Life Movement, Victorian Panel, 6th floor, 37 Swanston-st., Melbourne.

• REPORT FROM VATICAN COUNCIL

ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

From BASIL HOLT, Delegate-Observer.

The Fourth Session of Vatican Council II was officially opened on Sept. 14, 1965. Dr. W. B. Blakemore (my fellow-Disciple from the University of Chicago) and I were the first two Observers to enter the vast basilica at the head of a long line. The long nave was filled with over 2,000 bishops from all parts of the world. They sat facing one another across the nave in long tiers of seats; their wine-colored robes making a splash of red exceeded in brilliance only by the scarlet silk of the cardinals. The great courtesy of the Vatican is shown in allotting to us Observers some of the best seats in the basilica, by the pillar of Longinus facing the High Altar.

To a burst of clapping Pope Paul VI entered and we all rose to our feet. In every visible nook and cranny the basilica was packed with a crowd which I heard variously estimated at from six to ten thousand. We noted that the usual fanfare of trumpets on the entry of a Pope was omitted, and — even more significant — that instead of being borne in shoulder-high on his Chair, the Pope entered walking humbly on foot among his attendants, as if to say that we had come here to glorify not man but God.

The Mass of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was then celebrated by Pope and cardinals. It is usual for the Enthronement of the Gospels to come near the end of the Mass, but for this Council session it shall come at the beginning.

And it was the Pope himself, not another, whom we saw receive the Holy Book, and, bearing the large volume open and held upright in his hands, advance slowly and reverently with it from the High Altar to the special altar set up for the Council in the nave. Here the Gospels were enthroned, there to remain till the end of the day's proceedings.

This is to be done every morning, so that the Holy Scriptures of our Lord are conspicuously seen at the centre of all deliberations. How significant of the new emphasis upon the Bible that is emerging in the Roman Catholic Church!

Great applause greeted the announcement in St. Peter's on Sept. 20, that subject to agreed amendments, the schema on religious liberty, *De Libertate Religiosa*, had been accepted by the conciliar Fathers by a vote of 1,997 in favor and 224 against. The fight for religious freedom had been lengthy and sustained.

And a remarkable document it is! Our Protestant forefathers would never have believed that a declaration of such charity and tolerance towards (though not of

compromise with) other beliefs would emanate from the Roman Catholic Church.

In positive terms it states, that it is essential to human dignity that people should be free to worship God according to the dictates of their consciences, that they should be free from any coercion in matters of religion, that this includes not only freedom to hold their faith privately, but the right to propagate it publicly within proper limits, that it is the duty of civil governments to uphold this freedom, and that, even where the faith of the majority of people may be such as to justify a nation in having one established religion, the rights of minorities to believe and practise otherwise within the same country must be recognised.

Certainly this is not the face Rome has always worn! This fact was pointed up for me by a visit to the Chiesa del Gesu, mother church of the Jesuit society. It is the most opulent church in Rome, with 500 kinds of marble in the walls and floor, and many gems. In it is the tomb of St. Ignatius Loyola. On one side of this is statuary depicting the triumph of the True Faith over Heresy. A woman of majestic mien represents the Faith. Heresy is represented by the prostrate figures of Luther and Calvin, hands upraised in attempted defence, and faces registering agony and terror. Luther, whose name is inscribed under one shoulder, has a serpent coiled about him. Faith bears down on the pair with a cross in one hand and (like the Master on another occasion) a whip of small cords in the other. It is evident enough what she would have thought of the schema on religious liberty!

Nor was it passed without a prolonged struggle, as I have indicated. Even in this session it was strenuously debated. Conservatives complained that the philosophy was shallow, the presentation of Scripture lop-sided, the uniqueness and "objective truth" of the "one, true Church" compromised, that the Church would in fact be ruined by such liberalism, "because before God man has no right to choose, but only the duty to accept." Said a Portuguese prelate: "If all men are given the right to a public profession of any religion, this will be an insult to the Catholic Church."

But the progressives had the upper hand. Cardinal Heenan, of Westminster, said, "It is a fact that Protestants have sometimes suffered at the hands of Catholics. Tolerance between Catholics and Protestants is a comparatively new phenomenon. In the past, Christians were either on your side or they were heretics and schismatics. No one ever considered, much less conceded, the right to follow one's conscience. It was customary on both sides to burn heretics.

Basil Holt was for many years minister of the Church of Christ in Johannesburg, South Africa. This report was supplied by the office of the World Convention, Churches of Christ.

Today no Christian would put up with such intolerance. It is not correct to affirm flatly that error has no rights or that truth has. Rights are founded not in things but in persons. It is every man's inviolable right to profess the faith dictated by his conscience. Hence this must be recognised on all sides." And in St. Peter's it was — in the resounding victory in the vote on the question.

Now the schema will be put into its final form, taking into consideration the suggestions of the Fathers. But, according to the rules, no substantial alterations may be made. Then the final Declaration of Religious Liberty will be voted upon again, section by section. Thereafter it will be promulgated by the Pope, together with the Bishops, as a Decree; and — let us hope — will be implemented in places like Spain and Columbia.

INDONESIAN CHRISTIANS MOURN

(Djakarta). In an "atmosphere of national mourning" Christians filled to overflowing this city's Immanuel Church for a memorial service for the six army generals and others murdered in the recent attempted coup. The congregation included two Ministers of State, Members of Parliament, and other high-ranking government officials.

The service was led by the Rev. Simon Marantika, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, which organised it. Prayers were offered for the families of the victims, for the safety of the lives of President Sukarno and other government officials, and for guidance in leading the nation out of this "dark and difficult situation."

A statement by the N.C.C. read at the conclusion of the service called the whole nation to "self-examination before God who has given us freedom (for) our first responsibility is to him."—E.P.S.

DR. PAUL TILLICH DIES

(Chicago). Dr. Paul Tillich, one of Christianity's most influential contemporary theologians, died on Oct. 22, aged 79.

The German-born philosopher who fled from the Nazi regime in 1933, had been admitted to the hospital the week before, following a heart attack. His wife, the former Hannah Werner, whom he married in 1924, was with him when he died.

Dr. Tillich's career in the U.S.A. was singularly distinguished. Most of his life there was spent at Union Theological Seminary, New York, where for almost 20 years he was Professor of Philosophical Theology. Students came from all over the continent to study under him, and his influence on young American theologians was marked. In 1955, he moved to Harvard University to become University Professor. In the early part of this decade he became John Nuveen Professor of Theology at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago.

The bulk of his prolific writing was in essay form. The third and final volume of his magnum opus — "Systematic Theology" — was published in the U.S.A. in 1963 and in Britain last year.—E.P.S.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

"E.P.C." RETURNS

South Australians will be happy to know that the Home Missions organiser will have completed his trip abroad and be back at his desk in 189 Gawler Place, on Nov. 29. Their many friends will join with us in these pages to say welcome home to Mr. and Mrs. Hollard.

PRESIDENT'S CHURCH

(Beverley, S.A.). Because of the many service calls to our minister, and Pres. of S.A. Conf., M. T. Lawrie, the church is indebted to visiting speakers for their assistance. Mr. Pemberton addressed the church in the interest of the B. and F. B. S., and screened a film at an after-church fellowship. Miss Hackett told the B.S. of her work in the Warburton Ranges with the United Aborigines Mission. The Aborigines Missions Dept. showed films and provided the monthly programme for the Women's Fellowship. Young people's activities included a discussion, followed by tea, and a most successful coffee hour.

AID FROM TIMBRELS

(Beulah Rd., S.A.). The Norwood Salvation Army Timbrel Brigade presented an excellent concert to raise money for Christmas Cheer for patients at the Adelaide Hosp., Salvation Army Girls, and the church Tape-recorder Fund. A. Griffiths was speaker at the B.S. anniversary. The singing was led by Ron Pitkin, Mrs. Fletcher, pianiste, and Ron Dix, organist. The picnic was held at Morialta. The C.W.F. had a sewing day. Clothing has been sent to Aborigines Mission, to New Hebrides, and toys to prisoners' children. After a floral afternoon, flowers were sent to shut-in members. The prayer meeting group visited Maylands, where I. J. Chivell showed slides and told of his World Conference experiences.

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SIX SOUTH AUSTRALIANS FOR COLLEGE

When the 1966 College Year gets under way at Glen Iris, Vic., there will be six new students in residence from South Australia. Word has come through to the State that the applications of these men for admission to the College next year have been accepted, and the S.A. brotherhood is delighted and proud of the group who will make their way to our College. We congratulate these young men and wish them well in these next months as they make final preparations for their entry to the College. Reports indicate that the six men to go from S.A. are: Barry Heath (Maylands); Barry Miller (Cowandilla); Douglas Smith (Bordertown); Geoffrey Rogers (Hawthorne); Douglas Goode (Long Plains); and Robert Collins (Mundalla).

AFTER THIRTY YEARS

(Forestville, S.A.). After serving the church in various capacities for 30 years, W. R. C. Bell did not seek re-election as elder, at the 46th annual meeting. The income for the year, including brotherhood and auxiliary offerings, was £5,000. Dorcas ladies made, repaired and distributed 1,050 garments during the year. As part of the church anniversary celebrations, an "At Home" was held on Nov. 13. 100 visitors inspected the manse and enjoyed afternoon tea. M. T. Lawrie, Conf. Pres., was guest speaker on Nov. 14, when five were received into fellowship. The offering to reduce manse debt was £200. At night there was one baptism and two further decisions. There was a coffee hour afterwards.

TERM EXTENDED

(Gawler, S.A.). The minister, G. O. Setsman, has accepted an extension of his ministry until February, 1968. At the annual meeting, L. Springbett was elected secretary, and G. Weldon as treasurer. Thanks were expressed to R. Moyle for many years of faithful service as treasurer. Mrs. A. Harvey was also thanked for her unofficial hospital visitation.

LOXTON. Sixty children attended each service of the B.S. anniversary on Nov. 14. The minister, H. Cave, spoke at both meetings on the theme "Christ is the Answer, a Better World Begins in Me." The Kinder children received a book. Scholars gaining over 300 marks received a second prize, and over 375 marks a first prize. Miss N. Huggins led the singing.



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N.S.W. NEWS

MEN FINISH HALL

(Mayfield, N.S.W.). The men have completed renovation and redecoration of the B.S. hall, giving seating capacity for nearly 300. Recent speakers have been Bruce Armstrong, Director of Christian Educ., at the B.S. anniversary (assisted by "Sgt. Leon"); R. S. A. McLean, at the District Overseas Missions Rally; Dennis Nutt, representing Woolwich Bible College, and Maxwell Hall, of Inverell, as guest preacher at a two-weeks' "New Life Crusade." There were three primary decisions at the Crusade, which concluded with the 28th church anniversary services on Nov. 6 and 7. The offering was £135. Nursing Sister E. Harris has been accepted as a student at Kenmore College for 1966.

"DIBISM" IN N.S.W.

The N.S.W. Dept. of Christian Educ. has introduced specific Bible Study and Discussion cells to promote greater knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures. Throughout their history Churches of Christ have endeavoured to major on the Word of God as the sure basis of Christian Unity, and the ultimate authority in faith and witness. The effective continuity of the "Restoration" message will only be assured as we present the essential Biblical basis of our Movement to our young men and women. The scheme of group Bible Study that has been developed is known as "DIBISM" — DIsciplined Bible Study Movement.

GILGANDRA. S.S. anniversary at Baladoran and Gilgandra had Bruce Armstrong, as guest speaker, along with "Sergeant Leon". Two open air Sunday Schools have commenced in different parts of the town, with the young people leading this work. A married lady and teenage girl have made reconsecrations.

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NEW SOUTH WALES

MACKSVILLE MEETINGS

(N.S.W.). The small but vigorous congregation at Macksville, on the north coast of N.S.W., is capitalising on the forthcoming Christmas and New Year holiday season, when many travellers and holiday-makers will be passing through the district. The local C.W.A. Hall has been hired for four Sundays, commencing Jan. 2. Services will be at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Members of Churches of Christ holidaying in the district will be made welcome. The church secretary is Mr. Bulmer, of Ferry-st., Macksville.

SERVED "THE CHRISTIAN"

(Kingsford, N.S.W.). After 35 years as agent for "The Australian Christian," R. Picton has resigned. As a mark of appreciation for his service, the Deacons' Board has given him a life subscription to the journal he served so well. At the annual business meeting it was de-

CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

(Liverpool West, N.S.W.). Early this year an Evangelism Committee was formed and the organisation began for a Crusade.

However, with the planning, came the enthusiasm and the dedication and, with a common cause in mind, the church set itself the task of winning at least thirty new members.

Decisions were made at the Sunday evening gospel service, church members were strengthened as they studied and prayed together, the challenge of the surrounding areas was realised as the primary task of the church was understood.

Of great encouragement during these preparatory months was the interest shown by the brotherhood churches.

The climax of months of prayer and personal preparation was the "Crusade" itself. The Lismore church released their minister, K. Christensen, to be the guest evangelist. C. Nutt, from the Marrickville church, was organist and Max Harrison, song leader.



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1965

ecided to assist the new work at Orange with a £500 gift, and a £500 interest-free loan. The B.S. anniversary took the form of a T.V. presentation, with children enjoying the use of a microphone. Franklyn Elliott was guest speaker. Four men attended "Naam-aroo," Lane Cove, for the activity on "Evangelism Through the Local Church." Sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs. R. Scott, who died unexpectedly on Nov. 10. Mr. and Mrs. W. Saunders have moved to Peakhurst. There have been two recent decisions. R. M. Wilson is minister.

BOOK WEEK IN N.S.W.

Several Sydney churches shared in "Book Week" in N.S.W. to feature Christian Literature. The N.S.W. Bible Society workers also effectively used this special week, Nov. 14 to 21, to present aspects of their work and to further support for the Society by featuring Christmas Scripture portions, Christmas cards and copies of the N.T. and Psalms for the use of men in the armed services.

MORE AT MURWILLUMBAH

(N.S.W.). At a special service on Nov. 7 for "the over 60's" there were three more decisions.

Total attendance for the 13 nights was 909, making an average nightly attendance of 70. Parents brought their young children every night; neighbours and friends were brought to hear the gospel; enthusiasm was evident in prayer and in the singing.

Thirty-one responded. Twenty-five of these were initial commitments to Christ; six were for open re-dedication. Many of those who made decisions were from the ranks of the Sunday School and clubs, after faithful preparation on their behalf by S.S. teachers and club leaders. To the time of the writing of this article, the church has witnessed 42 responses to the preaching of the Word of God.

The future holds a tremendous challenge to this growing church. 2,200 new homes are being built on the other side of the road from the chapel, by the Housing Commission. This will mean a second Sunday School being formed; the need for more buildings and all the other needs that arise in an area so vast as this. By God's strength this small, yet vigorous church will respond to the challenge. —D. O. Norling.

C.M.S. ANNUAL DINNER

(N.S.W.). 100 men gathered at the Chatswood Peace Memorial Hall for the Annual C.M.S. Dinner. The chairman was Norm Edwards.

Colin Bowser, Conf. Pres., brought a greeting from the brotherhood, with Eric Wade, vice-chairman, welcoming the visitors.

Representatives of the Baptist, Church of England, Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian and Salvation Army responded through J. C. Mackay, President of the Baptist brotherhood.

An unexpected visitor, Dave Watt, Pres. of Vic.-Tas. Men's Fellowships, was cordially welcomed. The guest speaker, Frank L. Evers, of Burwood church, challenged the men.

John Hoppitt, secretary, Dept. of Men's work in N.S.W., expressed appreciation, especially to the Chatswood ladies for catering, and the Chatswood officers for the use of their building.

Men came from as far as Warrawong and Wyoming.—Les. Yelds.

MEMBERS ADDED

(Marrickville, N.S.W.). Three new members have been received into fellowship. The S.S. anniversary featured singing led by Allan Rae, General Supt. Musical accompaniment was provided by Mrs. Maxwell, piano; Mr. Nutt, electric organ, and Mr. Bedwell, trumpet. Dux prizes were awarded to Carolyn Bedwell and Howard Bedwell. Mrs. Gwen Benson spoke to Evening Fellowship on entertaining and table decoration. C.W.F. entertained members from other churches as guests for lunch at annual Christmas meeting. Miss Oliphant, of the Sudan Interior Mission, was speaker. At the communion meeting on Nov. 7, a dedication service was held for Mr. and Mrs. Monogue, and their son, Anthony Thomas. The church is saddened at the death of Andrew McAllister.

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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

GEORGE FOXHILL

—CANBERRA

It was the first Sunday in December. Text of the sermon was Luke 1: 78, 79, "The Dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

These words stirred the vivid imagination of George Foxhill, and he went home and began to paint. At Christmas he brought the finished picture as a gift to his minister. It is entitled, "The Congregation." It is contemporary expressionist art. It portrays the interior of the sanctuary, and from the cross there is a great burst of white light, shattering darkness into fragments. The strong sunlight through the sanctuary windows is dim beside the brightness of the light of Christ. The members of the congregation who are right in close are transformed by the light. Even those who hang back are not un-influenced by the glow of it.

Before naturalisation, George Foxhill was George Fuchsberger, from Austria. He and his wife and son Kurt came to Queanbeyan. Their neighbours, the McGregors, brought the boy to the Canberra Sunday School. The passing years found George Foxhill questing an experience of God and a faith for the family to build on. Although Roman Catholic by upbringing, they turned to the Church of Christ minister for instruction. George had already been coming to the Men's Fellowship. Instruction was given for some months. The Foxhills had not been used to using a Bible, but quickly became adept at it. They then asked for baptism.

George is a painter in two senses. He plies his trade as a house painter by day; he paints in his spare time in the other sense. Recently he had a one-man exhibition sponsored by Studio Nundah.

We asked George a few things about painting. He believes that religious art is a special field, and requires a religious experience. One cannot really create Christian themes unless one is a committed Christian, because true art must rise out of experience. For him, art is creation. God is the great creator, hence any work of beauty and integrity, that is creative, is to the glory of God.

He explained to us the difference between impressionist and expressionist painting. The impressionist looks outside himself and paints what he sees. The expressionist looks inside himself and portrays his feelings. What he produces may thus not always be clear to others, unless he explains how he felt and what aroused the feelings. George is an emotional painter, and therefore makes use of expressionism. He believes this form of art is good for religious expression, for true religious experience is very much a matter of the emotions.

As George Foxhill reads his Bible he is sometimes, as he puts it, "filled up, and must express the emotions bursting within him, to get empty again." He uses the word "Verlangen," the German word for "demand satisfaction." The Word of God inspires, and his overpowering experience demands the satisfaction of expression. Not everything comes to him by such inspiration. As he follows the main idea that has been given, other ideas come crowding in as detail is given to the art work. We could not help thinking that it is rather like sermon preparation at its best.

George says that painting is an experience of both joy and suffering. There is the sheer joy of creating. But there is also the suffering that comes from the failure of human craft and human material to express truly what is being felt so strongly. In another sense, the Great Creator also knows what it is to feel joy mingled with suffering, if Calvary tells us anything about him.

Even George Foxhill's paintings with non-religious themes seem to have a religious feeling about them. His "Carnival" shows nothing of the gadgets of the fair, but rather happy people. Color splashes here and there give the sense of happiness that cannot be contained. The picture is simply people, feeling something strongly. Perhaps George could not express it any other way, for he has the very deeply ingrained Christian feeling, that people matter more than gadgets.

"Apparition," another recent painting, portrays the night-marishness of night when life has no meaning. A single fragile carnival balloon is all that stands out from the blackness, representing a gaiety that cannot dispel darkness permanently. The wraith-like figure of the soul of man looks on and finds it bewildering. One could feel what Jesus meant when he used the word "lost."

His "Loneliness" is in burning colors of the desert to give the feel of grim emptiness and stark space. They make the two solitary figures seem transparent as the devastating feeling of alone-ness passes through them. They are lonely, even in the presence of one another. One could not help feeling that it would be good if preachers could paint as effectively, the stark desperation of loneliness in words, when telling people of the loneliness of life without God, or when challenging them to service of the lonely aged folk and the lonely disturbed folk, and the lonely difficult folk of their communities.

God is by nature a Creator. Made in his image, man must create. Some such as George Foxhill find their expression in painting, and in George's case, to the glory of God.

—G.R.S.

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DO CREEDS SERVE ANY PURPOSE?

No. 7

By Dr. LLOYD JONES (Vic.)

Let's face it. Creeds are our concern. The Restoration Movement, as we have known it in our generation at least, has always had one!

To be sure, we have preached "no creed but Christ," and when the awkward question has been asked, "But which Christ?" we have awkwardly replied, "Why, the Christ of the New Testament, the divine Christ, all that he taught and commanded."

And when the point has been pressed still further, on the grounds that others who accept the same guiding Light as we, hold radically different beliefs, we have never been embarrassed for some suitable piece of literature showing precisely what we do believe: Here you are; read this — "First Principles" or "What Churches of Christ Stand For." It's all there. Our creed, you see; the crystallisation of the traditional teachings and practices of our fathers.

Not that this is bad. In my view it's very good. We have used this set of beliefs with notable success in our evangelism and many have been won to Christ. We have formed hundreds of vigorous fellowships through it. We meet in great conferences, drawn together by our common loyalty to it. Our worldwide brotherhood is a precious consequence of it. These all believe substantially as we believe — this creed of ours.

Further, we have employed this "statement of faith" in our Christian education programmes for generations, to the eternal benefit of many of the instructed and with a resulting informed church membership. What is still more, it has been securely incorporated in our worship. Not, of course, in the liturgical manner of some, but in our regular acts of worship, our hymns, prayers, Bible readings and expositions, and in our careful observance of the ordinances.

All these have declared, and do declare, each time we engage in them, the "faith of our fathers" and "our faith." To introduce these beliefs of ours as a still more repetitive exercise in worship through some form of liturgy, as a few might suggest, would add nothing to the effective presentation of "our creed."

But what about the use of creeds in

the ecclesiastical climate of today, by others or by us? The most that can be said is that they still retain their place and purpose — officially. But not nearly so vitally. This is the virtue or vice (depending on your point of view) of all Christian communions. At least in part it is accounted for by a growing "togetherness," an awareness of credal divisiveness, widespread shallowness of conviction, and ignorance of elementary Christian truths.

Certainly, creeds are still tests of fellowship in most communions whether it be for membership in the "ministerial ranks" or simply for membership within some one of the branches of the Church. But not too seriously! And why not? Because the fences are coming down and a Spirit-created concern for the unity of all God's people bids us look again and re-examine "those things most surely believed among us."

What sort of creeds we'll come up with is anybody's guess in view of some recent attempts. We can be pretty certain, however, that they'll be largely dependent on the sort of unity we want. (Me? I'd like to stick to the creed I have, of course!) But let the prophets declare this, that the pursuit of any sort of unity short of "unity in truth" is a forlorn one. Of this I have no doubt, that the unity for which our Lord prayed, and the Apostle Paul pled, can only be achieved and then preserved upon revealed truth. In other words, the only unity that can conform to the New Testament ideal of unity is that which is based on the full body of irreducible evangelical doctrine, itself firmly and squarely set upon the final revelation of God in the Christian Scriptures.

Anything other than that, whilst appearing to make for unity, can but result in the further fragmentation of the Body of Christ. For this reason, let's face it, creeds are our concern.

Of two things I shudder to think. The sort of man-devised creed, so straitened as to shut God in to a tiny righteous remnant, and some sort of united church, wearing the name of Christ, and held together by loyalty to a creed that can say nothing more than "I believe in ecumenicity!"

QUESTING

WITH

A. E. WHITE



Literature was sent to me saying that the day we observe as Christmas Day was not the birthday of Christ. When was Jesus born?

It is almost certain that Jesus was not born on December 25. It is equally certain that no one today knows the exact day of his birth — or the year either.

It was not until 533 that the reckoning of dates from the birth of Christ began. A Russian monk named Dionysius made the mistake of fixing the birth year of Jesus at 753 years from the foundation of Rome. We know that Herod the Great died in A.U.C. 750. As Herod was alive when Jesus was born, the nativity must have been at least three years before 1 A.D. Some scholars place the miracle of Bethlehem as early as 8 B.C.

We are no better off with the day than we are with the year, although there is a fairly early tradition supporting Dec. 25.

When the church did begin to search for the appropriate day to celebrate Christmas, many days were suggested: Dec. 25, Jan. 1, Jan. 6, March 21, March 29, April 24, April 25, May 16, May 17, Sept. 29. From the time of Chrysostom, Christendom has favored Dec. 25. Chrysostom said that Pope Julius (337-352 A.D.) made strict enquiries and fixed on Dec. 25 as the most likely date.

However, the reason for Dec. 25 being chosen was probably because it was the practice of the early church to give a Christian significance to established pagan festivals rather than to try to abolish them.

The great winter festival in pagan Rome was the Saturnalia. It had a lot of very unpleasant features, and the church did its best to clean it up. In the middle of the winter solstice celebrations there was the Day of the Birth of the Unconquered Son. This corresponded to Dec. 25 in our calendar. It could well be that the day was used instead to celebrate the Day of the Birth of the Eternal Son.

There is obviously a need for one particular day to mark the Incarnation. Dec. 25 is as good as any other. It certainly would not make Christianity any more significant if we knew the actual day and year. We should use every day to witness to the fact of the coming of Christ in our lives, but we share with the rest of the Christian world in making a special emphasis on Dec. 25.

The churches are not unanimous about Dec. 25. The Armenian church still celebrates Christmas Day on Jan. 6.

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NEW BUILDING OPENED: TRARALGON, VIC.

One hundred and seventy people attended the new building for the official opening and dedication on Saturday, Nov. 6, 1966.

Of modern design and construction, the wholly attractive building — designed by Architects, Drayton and Colman, is the first stage of an overall plan in a new housing area at the corner of Shakespear Street and Jones Court, in the eastern part of Traralgon.

Many people came from the Metropolitan area, and the local folk were greatly encouraged. Amongst those present were the President of Conference, Assistant Secretary of Conference, Secretary, Department of Home Missions, Chairman of Properties Corporation, a member of Federal Conference Executive, a member of Traralgon Ministers' Fraternal, and a representative of Traralgon City Council.

Groups and friends from other Churches gave their support. There were 35 from Bentleigh church, which is actively supporting the development in Traralgon. Morwell church was very well represented. This is the "Mother Church" to whom the Traralgon brethren are very grate-

ful for leadership and support. Warragul and other Churches were represented.

It was a happy gathering. This was reflected throughout the service, presided over by Brian Dowsett, minister at Morwell and Traralgon. Principal E. L. Williams challenged all those present with his address, and Miss Jean Milne delighted the gathering with her singing.

Greetings were brought to church by Conference President, F. J. Funston, from other local Churches by Rev. G. Ross, and from the City Council by Cr. H. W. Preston.

Thanks to a wide circle of friends were expressed by the secretary of Traralgon church, C. Rose.

Seventy visitors were entertained to tea by the Morwell church ladies.

Traralgon church has much to be grateful for. Its members are mindful of their responsibility, and, under the leadership of the minister, B. Dowsett, and assistant minister, E. Keating, they are looking forward to extending the work of the church and the Kingdom of God in this community.

DEBT ELIMINATED

(Ipswich, Qld.). Special 43rd church anniversary, with A. McK. Surtees as guest speaker, had the theme, "Walking With Our Wonderful Lord." The Thanksgiving Rally followed Temple Day, when the offering was £1,230, which eliminated the debt on the new building, a five-year programme of £16,310. C. Johnson was guest soloist. Other soloists were Mrs. M. Ludgater, Mrs. T. Smith, Mrs. G. Brooks, Miss Marilyn Bartley, A. Burnham and D. Risson. At the anniversary tea, greetings included A. Surtees, as State Conf. Pres., Ald. Finimore, the Mayor of the City, Mr. Ballinger, from Ministers' Fraternal. One decision at final meeting.

B.S. WORKERS' FRATERNAL

(N.S.W.). This Fraternal, commenced earlier in the year under the guidance of the Director of Christian Educ., Bruce Armstrong, is already proving an effective means of encouraging teachers to share in further training for service. The second Fraternal dinner will be held on Dec. 3, at 6.30 p.m., at Lane Cove church.

CROWDED PRAYER RALLY

(Melb.). Over 300 members from Melbourne churches crowded into the newly renovated Swanston Street chapel on Nov. 3 for a united Home Mission Prayer Rally. G. H. Gilmour, the Deputy Chairman of the Department, led the service. B. H. White, minister of Norlane, gave an encouraging report of developments, and D. H. Smith told of progress in the new work at Traralgon. The Doncaster choir assisted with music. Periods of meditation and silence and directed prayer were led by G. H. Gilmour and E. W. Heard, who also reported on Mitcham progress. E. W. Roffey outlined the prospect of the new work at Briar Hill to be opened on Dec. 5.

The service was climaxed by a sermon preached by G. K. M. Moyes on the significance of intercessory prayer.

DR. BOWES IN HOBART

(Tas.). The visit of Dr. Bowes, in October, was a great success. Before his coming, we suggested that his statements would challenge us with the things that concern. This has certainly been so. In public statement and private conversation he ably demonstrated that the Christian faith can be "down to earth." The average attendance at the lunch-hour services was 50-60, and at the two house meetings, 28 and 17.

FROM NORTH BEACH

(W.A.). The North Beach church is a small cause with a membership of only 15, meeting in the Kindergarten Hall. The church at Scarborough gives assistance and makes its church available for baptisms and marriages. . . . On Nov. 14 there was a special day, when the church had fellowship with the Rossmoyn, Riverton and Bently Girl Guide Company. Lieut. Grimson read the Old Test. lesson, and Lieut. Lawrence read the New Test. passage. . . . Recent speakers have been R. Davey, J. Timms, V. Williams, H. Moorhouse, D. Trotter, D. Curtis, C. Kinsman.

SIX ADDITIONS

(Boondall - Zillmere, Qld.). In two months, six have been received into membership through faith and baptism. One young man was the first to be won from amongst the lads contacted in milk-bars, etc. Alan Chalmers, Direc. of Social Service and Aged People's Homes, has relinquished his post as circuit secretary, due to increased brotherhood service, but he is remaining as treasurer. Ray Capell, already one of our deacons, has been elected circuit secretary. Jack Fraser, previously secretary of Padstow church, N.S.W., continues to serve as chairman of circuit diaconate. . . . Ron Holt, our minister, shortly commences his third year of ministry.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION APPOINTMENT

(Melb.). G. A. Whiting, B.A., M.R.E., Ed.D., is named as the new full-time member of the Federal Board of Christian Education. Serving at present with the Hartwell (Vic.) church, Dr. Whiting expects to be available to take up his new appointment in February, 1967. The Board has pleasure in this appointment.

Editorial staff and other members of the Board recently attended a one-day seminar in which various Federal Boards working on curriculum in Christian education were led by Dr. T. W. G. Miller, Senior Lecturer in Education, University of Sydney. His subject was "Sociological Factors in Learning."

Chairman of the Board, F. T. Morgan, was present at the executive meeting on Nov. 18, and in splendid health after his long-enforced absence from chaplaincy duties at Preston Technical School.

Plans are well advanced for the Board-sponsored "Consultation on Ministry to Youth in the Local Church." About 50 youth workers from all States and A.C.T. will be considering basic issues in youth work and ways of more effectively ministering to youth. The Consultation will be held at Camp Waterman, Vic., Jan. 5-10 next.

JOINS N.S.W. SOCIAL SERVICE

(Sydney). The N.S.W. Social Service Dept. announces that Eric T. Hart, now ministering at Bexley North, will share with the Director, Charles Cole, in the new challenge and increasing task connected with the Aged Folks' Homes and various other responsibilities of our churches in the field of social welfare. It is anticipated that Mr. Hart will conclude his work at Bexley North following the N.S.W. State Conference, early in April, 1966.

NEW MINISTER ANNOUNCED

(Mildura, Vic.). Dean Hamilton, now at Edwardstown church, S.A., has accepted an invitation and will commence his ministry here in 1967. . . . Combined church and Bible School anniversary services were an inspiration, with Kevin Harvey as guest speaker. . . . The two C.W.F. groups have decided to amalgamate, holding afternoon and evening meetings, and introducing a more comprehensive programme than that previously covered by either group.

National Diary

- NOVEMBER—
 28 — N.S.W. — Woolwich College Broadcast — 2CH, 8 a.m., on "The Sunshine Hour."
 28 — ALL STATES — Home Missions & Evangelism Annual Offering.
 30 — VIC. — Annual Dinner of C.M.S.
- DECEMBER—
 4 — VIC. — G.Y.F. Central 217.
 4 — VIC. — Explorer Final Rally.
 7 — VIC. — C.M.S. Christmas Fellowship Dinner.
 18 — VIC. — C.E. Christmas Treats.

N.S.W. BOYS' HOME —

Appeal for Christmas Accommodation.

An urgent appeal comes from Mrs. June Maxwell, Publicity Officer of the Boys' Home, "Dunmore House," Pendle Hill, for Christmas accommodation. Both Mr. Dalton, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Wylliams, the Matron, take their annual holidays during the Christmas vacation period. It is therefore necessary to be able to place all of the boys in homes during that time. Folk in N.S.W. who are able to accommodate a boy over the holiday period, or part thereof, are asked to contact Mr. Dalton or Matron Wylliams.

SPRING CONVENTION

(Bridgetown, W.A.). G. Carslake, Kalgoolie minister, here for the "Spring Convention," was guest speaker for the S.S. anniversary. At the evening meeting there was one decision. During following week there were good attendances. One highlight was an "At Home" for all women of Bridgetown. Mrs. Lake, from Perth, sang and spoke to 80 women. Mr. Carslake has attended meetings for Rotary and Alcoholics Anonymous. The film, "A World Encounter," was screened to 150 on Nov. 13.

CHRISTMAS CAMPS IN WEST

(W.A.) The Youth Camp at Waterman's Bay, and the Churches of Christ House Party, at Kalamunda, will commence on Monday, Dec. 27, and conclude on Monday, Jan. 3, 1966.

Application forms are available from local youth agents, or from the Youth and Christian Education Committee office, 142 Beaufort-st., Perth.

Applications close on Dec. 6 (Waterman's Bay), and Dec. 14 (Kalamunda). Don't miss out on this opportunity for enjoying Christian study, fellowship and fun!

KALAMUNDA CRUSADE

(W.A.). There were 11 primary decisions at the Crusade conducted by Don Tonkin. David McNielly led the singing, supported by Lee Donaldson at the Hammond organ. Fine soloists sang the gospel. The church has been revitalised and as faith in the future purchased a manse during the Crusade. The thank-offering of £160 was sufficient for all expenses. "Happy Hours" were led by Messrs. Tonkin, Croot and Smith, for an average attendance of 100 youngsters. . . . D. Croot is minister.

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VISITATION TEAMS

(Subiaco, W.A.). The membership was divided into teams, under the leadership of an elder and deacon, to try to draw members into the church from a new housing development at Daglish. A letter of introduction was first sent, followed by personal visitation. The first phase of the campaign has been completed — but results are not yet fully seen. . . . 23 officers and girls attended the Girls' Brigade Camp at Waterman's Bay. . . . The cantata, "The Parables," was sung by the choir on Nov. 7, and was greatly appreciated. . . . The church has set apart a group of young married couples who have formed the nucleus of a new church at Wembley Downs. Prayers for the new venture, and thanksgiving for services rendered by these young folk over the years, were given at communion service.

FREMANTLE CELEBRATES

(W.A.). Challenging addresses were given by Geo. Wood and F. Rees at the 73rd anniversary services on Nov. 7, with 168 present a.m., and 130 p.m. A special choir rendered items. Mrs. E. Mitchell, P. Jeffries (recently in hospital) and Fred Vanstan (Elder Emeritus) who was brought in a wheelchair, were present. . . . After considerable visitation and prayerful preparation, the young people led the gospel service on Oct. 31. Two young people responded to the invitation. An after-church fellowship was also arranged by the young people. It took the form of "coffee by candlelight" and the singing of Negro spirituals by 60 young persons.

"GO" FOR SOUTH CANBERRA

(Canberra, A.C.T.). A series of house parties in October gave members latest information on the development in South Canberra, and the church's financial responsibility in it. The architect, Dirk Bolt, presented plans for the church buildings, and they were accepted unanimously. As soon as the matter of the lease is finalised, building will commence. . . . The basketball club held a barbecue for young people at Murrumbidgee Sands. . . . A church social on Nov. 4 enabled new members to get to know older members. . . . The young people entertained the church at coffee bar on Nov. 7. . . . Paul Parker, of India, was our guest from Nov. 5-8. He addressed the church at both Sunday services, and the men's luncheon on Monday. . . . The film, "Jerusalem," was screened on Nov. 14.

MACKAY ON ITS OWN

(Qld.) After 26 years of support by the Home Missions Committee, the Mackay church rejoices that, at last, we are self-supporting. . . . At a quarterly congregational meeting last week, the congregation agreed to enrol in the Church and Life Movement. (Leadership training lectures have been conducted by Rev. Gordon Beatty). . . . The C.W.F. has conducted a series of successful functions, including morning tea, in support of Overseas Missions. . . . More than half of our membership attended a programme entitled "Youth Spectacular," organised and presented by the Qld. Temperance League, as part of the new "All Australian Campaign."

VIC. - TAS. CONFERENCE BUSINESS REMINDER

Victorian and Tasmanian church secretaries are reminded that the 1966 Conference will be held from March 27 to April 3. To meet the Constitutional requirements it will be necessary for Notice of Motions to be brought before Conference to be forwarded to the Conference Secretary at the Brotherhood Centre, 217 Lonsdale-st., Melbourne, C.1, not later than Sun., Feb. 13. All proposing to submit business for consideration of Conference are requested to note time limit.

YOUNG DRIVERS GRADUATE

(Melb.). The first party of young civilian drivers to graduate from the Victorian Police Driver Training course received a medallion and certificate at the Police Traffic Centre, Dawson-st., Brunswick, on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 8 p.m.

The course, sponsored jointly with the Anvar Insurance Co. Ltd., the Australian Road Safety Council and Victoria Police Dept., was the first ever held in Victoria.

All the 20 young people in the six weeks' course are youth leaders from social and church groups from all suburbs of Melbourne. They attended two lectures a week on the theory and operation of a motor vehicle, plus about ten hours of practical driver-training tuition.

The course has been under the supervision of the Officer-in-Charge of the Victoria Police Traffic Centre, Sgt. A. F. Mason, who was trained at the Hendon (London) Police Driver Training School.

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VICTORIA

WANDERERS RETURN

(Gardiner, Vic.). Mrs. Wylie, wife of the minister, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Fergus, have returned from a visit to Europe, subsequent to attending the World Convention at Puerto Rico. On Nov. 14 they spoke interestingly of their experiences. Miss Edna Vawser travelled from Baramati to act as their guide in Bombay. They saw the extremes of terrible poverty and great affluence. . . . The B.S. and church picnic was held at Toorourrong Reservoir. . . . 35 members visited the Will H. Clay Nursing Home to see the working of the bath hoist — our hospital project for this year. . . . The C.W.F. flower show on Oct. 30 raised £130 to furnish a lady student's room at the College of the Bible and for missionary parcels. Mrs. D. Heron was organiser and there were 200 entries. . . . Mrs. Grace Waterman has returned from New Guinea.

NO STRANGERS THERE

(Doncaster, Vic.). On Nov. 7, with an attendance of 170, the minister, J. G. Shaw, gave effect to the doctrine of "Christians in Fellowship" by welcoming many folk from other communions. An expression of goodwill was made and they were recognised as belonging to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. He asked the Doncaster members to join in this welcome to those coming to worship as Christians in Fellowship. . . . There were 200 present when the Boys' Explorer Club presented the theme "Outward Bound" in a play dealing with Paul's conversion and missionary journeys. There was one decision.

FIVE BAPTISMS

(Drumcondra, Vic.). Five young people have been baptized recently. During the illness of the minister, R. A. Banks, speakers have been R. Bust, J. Small, B. Tattersall, G. Battye and T. Ferguson. S. Russell Baker showed slides and reported on the 7th World Convention at Puerto Rico. . . . The Christmas break-up of the C.W.E.F. took the form of a demonstration of various textiles, also slides were shown by two members of a cruise to Fiji and other islands. . . . The G.L.B. held open night for presentation of awards, and shared in a camp at Ocean Grove. . . . The influence of the B.S. was evident when for two Sundays the church was packed for anniversary services. Speakers were B. White, A. W. Candy and R. A. Banks.

GROUP FELLOWSHIP

(Box Hill, Vic.). The Group Fellowship programme was successfully launched on Nov. 3, with 118 at dinner. After group discussion and worship, the session closed at 8 p.m. . . . Two S.S. scholars made decisions at the S.S. anniversary. . . . Recent speakers have been Malcolm Gray, student minister at Stawell, back "home" on Oct. 31, and Mr. Hunting, State Director of Jewish Evangelical Witness. . . . Boys' Sunday was celebrated with films and a lecture on road safety by Police officers. After tea the boys participated in the evening service. A S.S. girl made her decision.

MAKE ROOM FOR 60

(West Preston, Vic.). Each year the Endeavourers sponsor a visit from children of the Sutherland Homes. This year 60 children were entertained. The C.E. newspaper total for 1965 is now £200. . . . Rev. Frawley, Chaplain of Pentridge Gaol, was speaker at the monthly meeting of the Friendship Groups. . . . Two new bookmarks, gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Scaife, have been placed in the pulpit Bibles. . . . The B.S. picnic was held at Kinglake West. . . . The Preston C.W.F. took charge of our C.W.F. meeting on Oct. 20. . . . The Explorers held a family tea on Boys' Sunday, and afterwards took part in a special "Outward Bound" service.

HARTWELL. B.S. anniversary services, conducted on Nov. 7 and 14, had as guest speakers: J. W. Way, Dept. Christian Educ., D. Beasy, R. Muller, Major G. Rust, of the Salvation Army Bethesda Hospital, and Dr. Whiting. . . . Scholars also presented "A Boys' and Girls' Life of Christ." There was special singing under leadership of N. Monson. . . . Junior and senior cricket teams had victories in last matches. There was a club film night on Nov. 11. **MAIDSTONE.** Speakers at the B.S. anniversary were T. Ede, of Prahran, R. Averill and W. Smith. Mrs. Clancie distributed the kinder prizes. . . . Other activities included a car rally organised by the girls' basketball team on Oct. 29, and a jumble sale on Oct. 30. The church debt was reduced by £100. . . . There was also a talent quest, with 17 items. . . . Boys' Sunday was well supported.

RED HILL. The church is engaged in Friendship Month. At the half-yearly meeting the church decided to launch a Talent Programme over next 12 months. Visitation of fringe members will be undertaken. . . . T. Lake was speaker on Boys' Sunday. The boys had tea at the church. . . . The B.S. anniversary was held on Oct. 4.

LAYMEN'S SUNDAY

(Dandenong, Vic.). On Laymen's Sunday, the morning and evening services were entirely conducted by men of the church. . . . Recent speakers have been G. Gilmour, H. F. Gross and W. W. Saunders. . . . A combined Dandenong youth service was held in our sanctuary, and on Hospital Sunday the local division of St. John's Ambulance Brigade held a church parade. Miss Joyce Brown won the State Prize of the St. John's Ambulance Nursing Service. . . . A discussion on "God's Purpose for the Church" was held at 7 p.m. on Oct. 24. . . . Officers of C.W.F. (afternoon) elected Mrs. Win. Brough, pres.; Mrs. Warmbrunn, sec.; and Mrs. Jones, treas. The C.W.F. (evening) elected Mrs. Hazel Nicholas, pres.; Mrs. Joyce Coates, sec.; and Mrs. Thompson, treas. The fete on Oct. 19 raised £180. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bealand now live in Dandenong and are sharing with the church.

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OBITUARY

Mrs. Lance Brune.

Bertha Mary ("Molly") Brune died in Royal Adelaide Hospital after an operation on Nov. 8. Mrs. Brune was the daughter of the late A. M. and Mrs. Ludbrook. About 1920 she, with other members of the family, came to the Sunday School at Dulwich and was baptized at Grote-st., Adelaide, by Thomas Hagger. She became a teacher in the kindergarten at Dulwich, and married Lance Brune in December, 1934. For some time they lived at Blackwood, where she taught in the Sunday School, later moving to Waterfall Gully, the present home. Her life manifested an unselfish disposition. Her kindly and sympathetic interest in the misfortune of others was characteristic of her whole life. She was quiet and unassuming in her helpfulness. Mrs. Brune was intensely interested in our Overseas Missions; and returning from their trip to the World Convention at Edinburgh she, with her husband and daughter, who shared her interests, visited our Indian Mission fields and influenced many others with the added enthusiasm occasioned by that visit. She was for some time a member of the Women's Conference Overseas Mission Committee, and energetic in its work. Her health deteriorated rapidly since her return from Puerto Rico about a month ago. She entered hospital only a few days before her death. Her body was laid to rest in Centennial Park Cemetery after a service conducted by the writer. To her husband, Lance Brune, her daughter Linda; her brother, John Ludbrook and family; her sister, Miss Evelyn Ludbrook, the church at Dulwich joins with the S.A. brotherhood in assuring them of sincere sympathy and heartfelt prayers.—Stan. Neighbour.

Mrs. E. E. Bassard.

Mrs. Edith Emily Bassard died on Oct. 28, at the age of 74 years. Thus closed, quietly, a life distinguished by years of outstanding and faithful service within the churches. For many years she was associated with her husband in ministries in Boonah (Qld.), Horsham (Vic.), and in West Morton, Wynnum and Ann-st., Brisbane (all of Qld.) with which latter work she remained closely connected to the end of her life. She was a strong, resourceful and independent woman with a fine sense of humour and a rare gift for being grateful. What others are apt to take for granted was to her a daily miracle of grace, and a source of unending delight. Not even in the pain and weakness of her final illness did she lose for a moment her unflinching courtesy, kindness and concern for others. As a former President in our Dorcas Societies, her work is being recalled in many centres with genuine admiration and gratitude. We offer this tribute to a life that so richly exemplified the victory of faith. She is survived by six children: Naomi (Mrs. Hoens); Hope (Mrs. W. Berlin); Ruth (Mrs. Boyd); Horace; Joan (Mrs. Chalker, U.S.A.), and Graham to whom our sympathy is extended.—L. G. Read.

APPRECIATION

FREDERICK HORACE SIMPSON

The Swanston Street church has lost one of its most able and dedicated men, and the brotherhood in Victoria one of its keenest workers, in the recent sudden passing of Horace Simpson. A grandson of Henry Lyall, one of the founders of the church, he was brought by his parents, an infant in arms, 72 years ago. He responded to the gospel and was baptized and received into the city church by C. M. Gordon 56 years ago, and remained in active fellowship during this entire period.

He spent 36 years of unbroken service as a deacon and, after the late Robert Lyall, became the fourth secretary of the church, remaining in this position for 22 years until his decease. At the time of his death he was the senior trustee and officer of the church.

Horace Simpson's love for the church embraced the whole range of brotherhood activities. He was a director of the Austral Printing and Publishing Co., and his keen business mind was of immense value. He was a member of the Arrangements Committee for the next Federal Conference in Melbourne.

Perhaps his finest service, apart from the city church, was his work for Overseas Missions. A member of the Committee, he became the life-line for our missionaries in New Guinea and the New Hebrides, packing hundreds of parcels, despatching them and generally being on call for the missionaries' needs. His correspondence to overseas fields was enormous and unknown to most.

Geoffrey Walter Gordon.

The church at Coleraine-Casterton, Vic., has suffered the loss of a beloved member, Geoff. Gordon, who died on Oct. 7, at the age of 21. His home was at Casterton, where he was born in 1944. He had many friends both there and in other churches. He went to S.A. in 1958 to do a two-year course at Urrbrae Agricultural High School. It was during this period that he committed himself in faith to Jesus as Lord. His confession was at the Billy Graham Adelaide Crusade, and he was baptized at the Unley Church of Christ on Aug. 16, by C. H. J. Wright. During the past four and a half years his activities have been restricted by illness. He was in hospital several times, and spent the last five months in the Royal Melb. Hospital. Geoff. had a confident faith, for his cheerfulness, courage and endurance were an exam-

ple to all. We extend loving sympathy to the members of the family.—A. V. Page.

Though unaware of it, his crowning achievement was to be the planning and preparation of Swanston Street's Centenary Celebrations. He conceived and carried through the major part of the restoration and renovation project, and thus fulfilled a desire that had been upon his heart for years. In the providence of God he was permitted to see everything completed and in its place on the night before his death. Early in the morning of Oct. 19 he died.

Horace Simpson was a man of vision, enterprise and energy. He refused to get bogged down in the trivial and unimportant. He had an uncanny ability to get to the heart of a matter. What he saw became conviction and he pursued it with his whole being. He loved Christ and the church and brought all his dedicated talents to the Kingdom. Multitudes of things he did, people he helped and acts of kindness were unknown to most. His family follow in the same tradition of devotion to the cause of Christ.

To his sorrowing wife Amy, whose courage and example in this hour of grief have been most inspiring; to his daughters, Joan (Mrs. Walker), Barbara (Mrs. Fleming), sons-in-law Max and Brian, and to his devoted grandchildren, the sympathy and thanks of a church and grateful brotherhood are offered. The writer conducted the service in Swanston Street church and at Springvale, and the crowded church and hundreds of wreaths bore their note of thanksgiving to God for this noble life.—Dr. L. E. Jones.

Andrew McAllister.

On Oct. 19, Andrew McAllister died, quite suddenly. He had faithfully followed his Lord for over 50 years, first meeting with the Churches of Christ at St. Peters, then in a home at Marylands, later at Ashfield, and for the past 25 years at Marrickville. He was a Sunday School teacher, and men in the church speak of his influence on their lives, as boys in the school. In later years he has assisted the minister with special visitation. His happy Christian spirit and effect upon us all cannot be expressed in words. The cremation, following a service at the church, took place at Rookwood, both conducted by the minister, M. J. Bedwell.—D. J. Bedwell.

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DISCIPLESHIP

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Val. Metcalf, Doreen Forsyth, Roslyn Tonge, Helen Cannon, Subiaco, W.A.
Ian Hey, Ipswich, Qld.
Christopher Pohle, Janice Wilkes, Bundaberg, Qld.
John Hawtin, Mildura, Vic.
Peter Austin, Heather Eastwell Jennifer Eastwell, Warragul, Vic.
Jan Sice, Launceston, Tas.
Mrs. Lightbody, Alan Croft, Mrs. Kluge, Fremantle, W.A.
Cliff Evans, Barbara White, Kingsford, N.S.W.
Heather Larkin, Rosemary Lawson, Northcote, Vic.
Janet Caudle, Glenys Hunt, Edwardstown, S.A.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Darling, Helen Loveland, Bentleigh, Vic.

MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Atkinson, Elizabeth to Hawthorn, S.A.
Mr. and Mrs. G. Jackel, Wangaratta; Miss Clarice Burt, from W.A., to Lygon-st., Carlton, Vic.

Mrs. T. Sawyer, Jon Boot, T. Boyer, Portland, Vic.
Mrs. Pittaway, Balaklava to Croydon, S.A.
Alan Condron, Oakleigh to Springvale, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. C. Short, Moreland to Ivanhoe, Vic.
Ian Short, South Perth to Subiaco, W.A.
Mr. and Mrs. N. Marrett, Cottesloe; Mrs. M. Lowrie, Victoria Park to Fremantle, W.A.

MARRIAGES

Sandra Adams to Ray Berthelson, Dandenong, Vic.
Elizabeth Anne Austin to Graham Ladner, Koongarra Pk., S.A.
Beth Lawrie to Trevor Brimblecombe, Beverley, S.A.

DEATHS

G. Hazlett, Snr., Dandenong, Vic.
Mrs. Annie Lassig, Bundaberg, Q.
Andrew McAllister, Marrickville, N.S.W.
Mrs. R. Scott, Kingsford, N.S.W.
Mrs. Georgina Easton, Sunshine, V.

COMING EVENTS

BLACK ROCK (VIC.) HOME-COMING SERVICES, DECEMBER 5. 11 a.m.: F. J. Funston, Conference President. 5 p.m.: Fellowship Tea. 7 p.m.: T. Ede. All former members and friends are invited to return for the day. Please ring 98-7786 if able to attend Fellowship Tea.

NAILSWORTH (S.A.) MISSIONARY WEEKEND, Nov. 26, 7.45 p.m. Ross Gaskin will give an Illustrated Talk on his work in Ghana. Nov. 27, 7.45 p.m., Missionary Rally, with Film and Special Guest Speaker. Nov. 28, 8.30 p.m., Max Flavel will give an Illustrated Talk of M.A.F. in New Guinea. Missionary Displays.

STRATHMORE (Vic.) CHURCH ANNIVERSARY — Decision Day, Dec. 5. 11 a.m., Speaker, K. Harvey; 3 p.m., P.S.A. Speaker, Mr. Richards. 5 p.m., Fellowship Tea. 7 p.m., Speaker, A. J. Lloyd.

TO LET

FLAT. — McCrae, Vic., vacant Dec. 18 to Jan. 1 (cancellation), also from Jan. 22. Sewered, all conv., 1 minute beach, reasonable tariff. Phone 28-1871 (Melb.) after 5 p.m.

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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

BIRTHS

KERNICK (nee McClune) — To Ean and Betty on November 16, at Margaret Coles House, a son, Andrew John — both well.

LAWRIE (nee Smith) — To Glenise and Trevor, at Barmera, S.A., on November 3, a son — Gregory Ian.

PITT (Broad) — To Francis and Keith, on November 16, at Murray Bridge, S.A., a daughter — Raeleen Andrea. Premature.

SHERRIFF (Harmer) — Judy and Ivan thank God for the safe arrival of a daughter, Roslyn Dawn — at Wimmera Base Hospital, on Nov. 16. Both well.

ENGAGEMENTS

JOHNSON - POOLE — The engagement is announced with pleasure of Margaret Wendy, younger daughter of Mrs. J. Johnson, 59 Latham-st., East Bentleigh, and the late S. W. V. Johnson, to James Richard, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Poole, 23 Bowen-st., Oakleigh, Vic.

KIRSTEN - BANGSUND — Mr. and Mrs. A. Kirsten, Ferntree Gully (Vic.), announce with pleasure the engagement of their only daughter, Diane, to John, only son of Mrs. I. Bangsund, Northcote, and the late Mr. Leif Bangsund.

PEDLEY - ARCHER — Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Pedley, Palmerston North, New Zealand, have pleasure in announcing the engagement of their daughter, Debbie, to Graham Archer, Richmond, Vic. (Debbie's present address: 19 Gladstone-ave., Northcote, Vic.).

APPROACHING MARRIAGE

FOLLAN - MARLEY — The marriage of Robyn Janice, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vic. Follan, Toongabbie, N.S.W., to Brian George, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. George Marley, Bass Hill, N.S.W., will be solemnised at Church of Christ, Pendle Hill, N.S.W., at 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 4.

SMITH - MARR — The marriage of Pauline Frances, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Smith, Norlane, Vic., to David John, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Marr, Williamstown, S.A., will be solemnised at Norlane Church of Christ at 3.15 p.m. on November 27, 1965.

LYLE WILLIAMS

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DEATHS

MCCALLUM — On Nov. 20, Ruby Williamina, dearly loved wife of the late Percival Duncan, loved mother of Joy (Mrs. K. Flatman), Hayden (U.S.A.), Elsie Mae (Mrs. C. D. Ashton-Martin), fond mother-in-law of Keith and Clin, loving grandmother of Marilyn and John, John and Lynn.

MCCALLUM — Ruby Williamina, daughter of the late William and Minnie Hayden, loving sister of William (dec.), Elsie (Mrs. R. P. Clark) and Minnie (Mrs. R. K. Gerrard).

IN MEMORIAM

SCOTT-BROWN — Treasured memories of our loved one, Grace Eveline, who passed away Nov. 25, 1963. "Ever remembered."

—Herb. and Florence.

WATERS — In memory of my dear husband, Jack, father of Allan, Vin, Arthur and Geoffrey, called home Nov. 25, 1964. "God holds the key to all unknown."

—His loving wife, Emily.

DOCTOR FOR NEW GUINEA

A doctor is required to serve with the Churches of Christ in the Ramu River area in New Guinea.

Doctors are also needed to relieve our doctors in India and the New Hebrides during furlough.

The Federal Overseas Mission Board will welcome enquiries from doctors who feel the challenge to serve Christ in these areas.

Doctors serving on a temporary basis may do so as voluntary workers or by some other arrangements with the Overseas Board.

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Commissioner A. Gilchrist,
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YOUNG ADULT SUMMER CONFERENCE

The third Young Adults' Summer Conference will be held at Camp Waterman, Monbulk, Vic., from Dec. 27 - Jan. 3. The conference has been planned to meet the needs of those in the 18-30 age group.

The programme provides for a wide range of activities, both organised and informal, designed to develop a deeper appreciation of the application of the Christian faith to life. Y.A.S.C. is a unique opportunity for fellowship, good fun and serious enquiry into the fundamental issues which confront Christians and the church in our society.

Accommodation is limited. Young adults wishing to attend should contact the Victorian Dept. of Christian Educ. promptly. Leaders are: John Way, David Andrews and Ron Wilkes.—R. V. Longthorpe, Director.

ALL IN FOR HALL

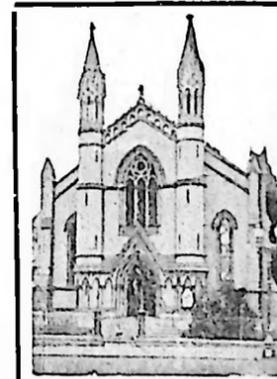
(Essendon, Vic.). Special efforts for the Hall Building Fund have included an Elderly Citizens' old-time concert, a concert presented by the C.M.F. with items by the Maryborough choir and other artists, and a car-wash conducted by the C.Y.F. . . . W. C. Compston was guest speaker at a youth service on Oct. 24 . . . The S.S. picnic was held at Warrandyte on Cup Day . . . S. Bannan, Chaplain to Essendon Tech. School, was guest speaker on Boys' Sunday at tea. Boys' Explorers took part in evening service . . . The C.W.F. has elected Mrs. R. Hemsley, pres., Mrs. F. Strack, sec., Mrs. A. Ferguson, treas., and Mrs. P. Lynch, vice-pres. . . . V. Quayle is minister.

FINAL Y.F.C. RALLY FOR 1965

The special Christmas Rally will be in the Melbourne Town Hall, on Sat., Dec. 4, at 7.45 p.m.

Special musical items will be provided by the newly-formed Melbourne Youth for Christ Choir. Ever popular guitarist, soloist and yodeller, Richie Gunston, will be returning to the Y.F.C. platform, having just returned from four weeks of youth meetings in New Zealand. Richie was the winner of Australia's Amateur Hour, was Victoria's yodelling champion, and at one time was the manager of a circus.

Also participating in the programme will be Dawn Goodfellow, Sydney's outstanding guitarist, who will be coming to Melbourne especially for this rally. Dawn has sung at some of the largest youth rallies in Sydney, and has appeared on radio in Victoria and N.S.W.



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

7 p.m. — NEW SERIES OF SERMONS — THE SECOND ADVENT.

Nov. 28 (No. 5) — "SIGNS OF THE TIMES."

Special guest speaker will be Dr. Paul White, well-known across Australia as the original Jungle Doctor. He is a well-known radio personality, is the author of numerous Jungle Doctor books, and has been featured on various television programmes. Dr. White is one of the most popular young people's speakers today, having worked in Tanganyika as a missionary doctor with a church missionary society.

The rally will be compered by Clive Stebbins, with Brian Willersdorf leading the singing, Len Wallace at the electronic organ, and Paul Kitchen at the piano.

There is no admission charge, and seat reservations for groups of 15 or more can be made by contacting the Melbourne Youth for Christ office, 747 Burke-rd., Camberwell, E.6, (82 - 1528).

NEW LEADERS AT BELMONT

(Vic.). After many years' service, J. Smail did not seek re-election as elder, and D. Marshman, did not seek re-election as treasurer. The church is most grateful for their service. The annual meeting appointed J. Barnes as elder and B. Bolduan as treasurer. Church membership stands at 125, 21 having been added in the last year. Attendances are 116 a.m., and 69 p.m. . . . A week of special meetings will be held, with Kevin Harvey . . . Members have been busy in friendship visitation and preparing for a contribution of the evangelistic programme next year. 31 girls attended Good Companions' camp on Oct. 22-24, with girls sharing in meeting on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. . . . Officers had tea with Boys' Explorers on Nov. 7, after which the boys helped with the service.

BRIAR HILL

OPENING OF NEW CHURCH BUILDING — SUNDAY, DEC. 5

LORRAINE DRIVE — off Sherbourne Rd.

3 p.m. — Official Opening. Preacher: D. H. Smith.

7 p.m. — Gospel Service. Preacher: A. A. Avery.

ALL WELCOME.

A light evening meal will be provided for all.

Inquiries to:

E. W. ROFFEY — 49-4155

or to

J. F. NANKIVELL — 439-9260

ACTIVE FOR C.E.

(Launceston, Tas.). Several church members are taking active part in arranging the National C.E. Convention for Launceston in May, 1966 . . . It has been decided to extend the Friendship Cultivation programme till March next in connection with the Year of Evangelism programme . . . So far this year, 12 B.S. scholars have made their decisions for Christ and have been baptized. . . . Intermediate C.E. Society held a Pet Show in connection with the Junior and Intermediate C.E. Rally, on Nov. 13, and raised £8.

"DESIGN FOR DEVELOPMENT"

The Vic.-Tas. Dept. of H.M. and Evangelism has copies of this booklet, written by B. J. Combridge, available to churches at a cost to cover despatch. Ministers, church officers, or members interested in obtaining any number of copies should contact D. H. Smith at the Brotherhood Centre.

The booklet describes church programming in the areas of stewardship and evangelism. In essence it is a guide to the local church to mobilise itself for more effective outreach. The booklet has the commendation of each State H.M. Dept.

FOR COLLEGE

(Doncaster, Vic.). At the final meeting for the year of the C.M.S., Geoff. Willcott told of his coming to Christ, and his subsequent call to the full-time ministry. Geoff. enters the College of the Bible next year. Keith Petty screened colored transparencies of the Orient. The slides and taped commentary gave an intimate look at the riches and poverty, and the religions and superstitions of our near-north neighbours . . . S. Russell Baker told the church of the World Convention at Puerto Rico . . . Four teenagers have made decisions, Scott and Gregory Shaw, Jane Wilson and Bruce Bertram . . . J. G. Shaw is minister.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

★ CHRISTMAS RALLY ★
Melbourne Town Hall,
Saturday, Dec. 4, 7.45 p.m.

Programme includes . . .
The Melbourne Y.F.C. Choir.
Sydney's Outstanding Guitarist,
Dawn Goodfellow.
Guitarist, Richie Gunston.

Also Special Speaker—
DR. PAUL WHITE, The Jungle
Doctor, one of Australia's
best known youth speakers.

Bring a Group of Young People
From Your Church.

ADMISSION IS FREE!

For group seat reservations contact
Melbourne Youth for Christ,
747 Burke-rd, Camberwell (82-1528).

C.W.F. RALLY AT CAVESIDE

(Tas.). On Nov. 10, 47 women from Launceston, Devonport, Invermay and Mole Creek met at the Caveside chapel. For most, it meant a drive of 50 miles. Cup of tea was provided by the six resident C.W.F. members, then Mrs. Taylor, of Devonport, led in devotions, which included a taped address by Mrs. McPherson. Echoes of the second Tasmanian Women's Camp were enjoyed . . . Mrs. Bruton, the State representative of the Federal Aborigines Board, brought highlights of the mission work in W.A. All were thrilled with the story and with the progress of the girls in residence at Fairhaven.

Mrs. S. Robertson, of Launceston, led the afternoon devotions, and there were many contributions to the Puerto Rico echoes. Progress being made at the Bicheno Camp Site was reported, and furnishing requirements were mentioned.

An especial pleasure was the presence of Sister Win. Walker, on furlough from India. Miss Walker brought greetings from the C.W.F. in India, and answered many enquiries from an interested group of Christian women. Some 20th century tunes to old hymns were introduced, and the singing of them was enjoyed by all.

Afternoon tea, farewell, and thanks said to a loyal, happy group of members who have come to appreciate this annual pilgrimage to one of the earliest Churches in Tasmania.

—Mrs. C. J. Robinson.

LADIES ENTERTAINED

(Warragul, Vic.). C.W.A.F. entertained aged ladies from Fairview Homes at birthday celebrations. Mrs. J. Fletcher was speaker . . . Junior girls, trained by Hugh McDonald, presented a play on Oct. 24 . . . On Oct. 31, Jack Austin spoke on impressions gained at Unity Camp, and minister spoke at united service in Anglican Church at night . . . Three senior scholars have been baptized and welcomed into membership . . . Detective Seymour spoke at Fathers' and Sons' tea on Nov. 7 . . . Church has voted against holding Planned Giving Campaign, which was recommended by

OBITUARY

P. J. Byard.

On Sept. 22, 1965, the church at Devonport, Tas., sustained a loss in the sudden death of P. J. Byard, in his 80th year. He joined the church at the age of 14, in the early days of the Mole Creek cause. He showed a deep sense of spiritual understanding, and preached the gospel wherever opportunity offered. He later entered into business as a baker, and moved among the churches both in Hobart and Launceston, acting as deacon and elder, and at all times maintaining a steady witness. He was an acceptable speaker and addressed congregations in all our Tasmanian churches, being privileged to baptize many into Christ. While still a young man, he served for some years with the Tas. H.M. Comm. He loved visiting sick and elderly people and it was while on his way to such a visit to a sick brother, that his home call came.—E. W. Taylor.

Board . . . A new driveway has been constructed at manse . . . C.W.E.F. have visited Box Hill and Morwell during recent weeks. Exterior of chapel has been improved by working party on Nov. 20. . . . T. V. Weir is minister.

YOURS FOR THE ASKING

Any Victorian congregation needing an organ, a pulpit Bible, or several ribbed glass electric light shades, should contact the Conference office. These articles have been made available by generous donors and may be secured at no cost save that of transport or cartage. Enquiries or applications should be directed to the Conference Secretary, Churches of Christ Centre, 217 Lonsdale-st., Melbourne, C.I. Phone 32-2446.

MISSIONS SUPPORTED

(Caulfield, Vic.). Home and Overseas Missions benefited by functions here. A concert by ladies on Nov. 12 raised money for the H.M. project . . . On Nov. 14, the Choral Society, led by Val Woff, sang at a P.S.A. The choir was entertained by the ladies at tea and later assisted in the evening service. The offering was for the New Guinea Hospital . . . The B.S. anniversary services proved inspirational . . . On Nov. 7, the C.M.S. held a tea to honour Father and Son day. The boys later helped in the evening service.

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Plans are being made to commence a full-time ministry in GLADSTONE. But meanwhile, is there, somewhere in the brotherhood —

- A retired preacher?
- A College Student seeking temporary service during a break in College training?
- A member whose work would make it possible to transfer to Gladstone?
- Anyone with a vision that calls him to take up the challenge in this place of developing opportunity?

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Rich rewards of the non-financial kind;
SUITABLE REMUNERATION
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If YOU are interested in such an opportunity for part-time work, please make immediate contact with

The Director, Home Missions Committee, Churches of Christ in Queensland, 426-428 Ann-st., Brisbane.

RHYME AND REASON

Importance of You

By Kelly O'Neill.

Every day we face our crises, Russia, China or high prices;
How to render to the Hottentots their dues.
But the most important factor in the world is that
ham actor
Who is standing there and filling your big shoes.

You're the one who does the living, meaning, sense and
purpose giving
To this universe which our Creator made.
Only you from time can borrow joy and knowledge, hope
and sorrow;
It is you for whom God's mighty plan was laid.

Freedom hasn't any meaning, if from it we are not
gleaming
That each one of all the masses of the earth
Must, in dignity and splendor, of himself a record render.
You must live, and that's the meaning of your birth.

—"The Christian."

OPEN FORUM

WOMEN IN CHURCH.

To the Editor,

A. Middleton, in "A.C." 28/10/65, claims there is no Scriptural warrant for forbidding women to take part in church services.

Paul, writing to Timothy instructing him what to teach in the church at Ephesus, stated that women were to learn in silence, they were not to teach or usurp authority over men, but were to be silent (1 Tim. 2: 11-12). The reason Paul gives for this decree being passed on women is an everlasting one. See 1 Tim. 2: 13-15; 2 Cor. 11: 2-3; Gen. 3: 1-6.

The Old Testament record reveals to us that God has never ever given permission to a woman to speak at meetings convened for religious worship or teaching.

The ancient Jews would never allow women to speak at religious meetings and modern Jews forbid women speaking in religious meetings.

There is no case that can be presented, or ignorantly manufactured from taking Scripture out of context to authorise the use of women speakers in church meetings that can have the approval of God.

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LUTHERAN UNION DOCUMENT

(Horsham, Vic.). A plan calling for Lutheran organic union in Australia was unanimously adopted by the 60,000-member United Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The smaller and more conservative of the two participating bodies, the 51,000-member Evangelical Lutheran Church of Aust. had earlier voted approval of the Document of Union.

Delegates at the UELCA's 15th triennial synodical convention also passed resolutions directing that "steps for complete amalgamation (of the two churches) be taken" and authorising their Church Council to appoint a Joint Union Committee to take over from a provisional committee which has been acting until now to work out union details. Meanwhile the delegates authorised the presidents of the two churches to join in declaring their recognition of unity by the mutual extension of altar and pulpit fellowship. This formal act is set for Nov. 28.—E.P.S.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHURCH IN SPAIN

(Madrid). The English language Baptist Church of Madrid has acquired a former residence near the Avenue of America, a major boulevard leading to the Barcelona Highway, which it plans to remodel and use as its house of worship. The congregation now occupies a rented apartment house.

This will be the first Baptist Church in the country to have a building, standing alone and detached from other buildings, clearly indicated as a church.

Earlier the congregation was the first Baptist Church in Spain allowed to have a sign on the front of its meeting place identifying it as a church.—E.P.S.

Even in the first century church when numerous women were endowed with supernatural gifts of the Spirit that enabled them to make prophetic utterances in every known foreign language, such women were forbidden from exercising such gifts in church gatherings.

Women must remain silent in church. Thus said the law, thus said Paul, thus said Christ.

—A. J. Eddy, Vic.

CHRIST AND THE O.T.

To the Editor,

In a letter published in the "A.C." Oct. 23, a writer stated that Christ made some parts of the O.T. "obsolete." The dictionary gives the meaning of "obsolete" as — "out of date," "disused."

Christ said of O.T. Scriptures, "they are they which testify of me" (John 5: 39); and at a later date Philip, preaching to the Ethiopian, did not hesitate to begin at the same O.T. Scripture, and "preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8: 35) as many also have done since.

One writer tells us, "The promise of a restorer of the human race given at

the fall of man is the starting point of sacred history, and the O.T. becomes a true introduction to the New, because it reveals the several steps whereby the divine wisdom provided for the fulfilment of the promise." "The history of the Jewish nation," the writer concludes, "becomes the key to the history of the world."

Of the difficulties and discrepancies, we do well to remember we learned, when eating fish, to leave the bones at the side of the plate; but we now know, that beyond our knowledge and understanding, there is a process whereby even the bones become edible. Discoveries in archaeology and science have confirmed, not discountenanced, the Word of God.

—E. Jeffery, Vic.

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7 p.m.: GOSPEL SERVICE.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9.30 a.m.

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front? The whole missionary strategy will be continually undergoing searching questions. As long as our own people are willing to learn, to use new methods if needed, to prune here or lengthen stakes there, then our work will move ahead with this amazing land.

Two items from our field are worthy of note here. The Correspondence Course being conducted by Miss Skuce reaches 6,000 people, from Malaya to South Africa. Lessons are sent, marked and contact maintained. This is an outreach from Baramati which could do with more publicity.

Then the Friendship Centres in Shri-gonda and Baramati have an impact. A small building right in the town where people may come and read and talk with counsellors is a real haven. And here is an opportunity for good literature.

OPEN FORUM

NO COMPROMISE.

To the Editor,
I am amazed at some of the ideas of the correspondents to the "A.C." on Christian Unity with the denominations. Some have referred to statements of Alexander Campbell as if Campbell was the founder of the Church of Christ.

The N.T. is the authority of the Church of Christ on all matters concerning the church. The N.T. church belongs to Christ. He said he would build it, and we read that the church was founded by the Holy Spirit and the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost.

In order to have Scriptural unity with other denominations they would have to become members of the N.T. Church of Christ. The Scriptural admission into that church is by faith, repentance, confession and immersion. When a person complies with those commands sincerely he receives the gift of the Holy Spirit, and is added to the Church of Christ (Acts 2: 47).

CHRISTMAS GIFT

THE FRANCIS GAY FRIENDSHIP BOOK, 1966

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THE AUSTRAL, 217 Lonsdale-st. Melbourne, Vic.

(continued from page 3)

In these Centres should be placed, not cast-off Sunday School prizes, but the best that available funds can buy. Christian magazines of quality, tracts of quality, books of quality ought to be available. The Communist is getting to the mind of a nation rapidly raising its literacy, and using excellent printed materials to do it. Itinerant evangelists, missionaries, book rooms and bazaar preachers should also have good material in their hands. The printed page is a field for Christian enterprise demanding quality.

In spite of the problems and discouragements of it all, the final assessment sends one looking at the faces of children in good Christian schools, of men out in the world of Indian affairs who have learned of Christ in the mission and its churches, and of women who are good mothers raising Christian families.

One writer mentioned compromise, and that there was no blue print for Christian unity. Compromise is foreign to the teaching of the N.T., and what is the N.T. but God's blue print?

—J. Pearce, W.A.

CHURCH OF THE WORLDLY.

To the Editor,

David Mansell, in "Things I would Like to Change," in Oct. 30 issue, states that church members like to have the very best in homes, furniture and furnishings, the latest model car, the most fashionable clothing, and the very newest gadgets and appliances.

Would this be a true picture of the average member of the Churches of Christ? If so, surely it's time we altered our name to "Churches of the Worldly."

The most sincere Christians I know often have shabby homes, and out of fashion clothes, because they find better use for their money than to spend it on self-indulgence.

One hears much about tithing these days. Whatever proportion of our income we give, it is inadequate unless it involves personal sacrifice.

To a pensioner, tithing would involve

C.W.F. URGENT C.W.F.
(Vic.) URGENT (Vic.)

So that your contributions can be included in the Annual Report, will you please forward them to reach the C.W.F. State Treasurer not later than Dec. 3 council meeting.

Mrs. E. L. GILLESPIE
23 Wild Cherry-rd., Carnegie, S.E.9, Vic.

Town and Country Groups Please Note.

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED

Wanted Urgently - Housekeeper, for elderly gent, in Sth. Aust. country town, 60 miles north of Adelaide; new home, all mod. convs., able to drive. For further particulars contact Mrs. R. Green-shields, Nantawarra, Sth. Aust.

a great deal of personal deprivation; to one on a large income it could be given and still not involve the giver in any personal sacrifice whatsoever.

With more than half the world hungry from birth to death, can we continue to call ourselves Christians if we continue to buy all these unnecessary luxuries, either for ourselves or our church buildings?

—Joyce Hooper.

MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN

(Gardenvale, Vic.) Mr. and Mrs. A. Gordon Bennett celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary on Nov. 20. Among the many messages of greeting on their 60 years of partnership there were congratulatory telegrams from Her Majesty the Queen; the Governor General of Australia, Lord Casey; the Prime Minister, Sir R. G. Menzies; the Premier, the Hon. H. Bolte; and the Minister for Transport. Mr. Bennett is in his sixth year as minister with the church, travelling from Seaford each Sunday. The members sent Mr. and Mrs. Bennett a specially made sheaf of choice flowers. . . . Mrs. C. S. Blamires passed away.

MRS. GARTH IS NINETY

(Reservoir, Vic.) Mrs. Emily Garth, a much loved member of this church, has celebrated her 90th birthday. To honour this occasion the Prayer Fellowship group met at the home of Mrs. E. Bishop.

BEN BUFFINTON DIES

One of the pioneers of the church in Canberra, A.C.T., Ben Buffinton, later moved to Traralgon, Vic., where he has been sharing with the new work there. On going to press it was learned that Mr. Buffinton died in the Traralgon Hospital on Nov. 22.

NEWS AND REPORTS

W.A.	- - - - -	10, 11
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Department of Social Service

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Moments of Worship



Thursday, Dec. 2. Acts 13: 1-3. These were prophets and teachers . . . (v. 1).

Five leaders of the Christian church at Antioch are mentioned by name. Barnabas first, Saul last. It is significant that this list points to the universal scope of the gospel. Barnabas was a Jew from Cyprus. Lucius came from Cyrene in North Africa. It is probable that Simeon also came from Africa as the word "Niger" means black. Maybe this was the very Simon who reluctantly carried the cross for Christ. Manaen represents the power of Christianity to reach to the highest ruling circles. These men were not simply adherents, they were prophets and teachers — the rabbis of the new Christian society.

Our God, as the church so early crossed the barriers of race and class, may we deny such barriers today. Amen.

Friday, Dec. 3. Acts 13: 4-12. . . . being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went . . . (v. 4).

It was while the church was worshipping that the Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Saul to a great "work." It is to be expected that times of worship will prove most receptive to the driving winds of the Spirit. This "work" is obviously of great importance. What was it? Not only missionary work, this had been going on continually. It was not simply admitting Gentiles, these had already been received. The "work" was a campaign to the whole world. The church was no longer to be restricted to the shadow of the synagogue.

Dear Lord, we know that your mission is not yet fulfilled, but we also know that your desire to win the world has not lessened. Amen.

Saturday, Dec. 4. Acts 13: 13-25. John left them and returned to Jerusalem (v. 13).

Different reasons have been suggested for the desertion of John Mark: that he was afraid to enter new lands, that he was scared of persecution, that he was homesick, that he resented the second place that Barnabas was willing to accept with Paul, that he was just young and lacked stickability. Paul regarded his defection as so serious that we must look for a serious reason, in the area of principle. The most likely is that Mark was not yet ready to accept the wide outreach of the gospel to include the whole world. Mark was probably still a Jew at heart and resented the universality of the gospel.

O Christ, we resent so easily the privileges offered to others, may we learn from you that all are our brothers. Amen.

Sunday, Dec. 5. Acts 13: 26-43. What God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled (vv. 32, 33).

In this only full length report of one of Paul's sermons, we can see how it deals with the same elements that were in Peter's sermon at Pentecost: God can be seen in history, the failure of people to recognise Christ as the fulfilment of God's promises, the all-convincing proof of the resurrection, and the free and full forgiveness for all. There is no truth in the old charge that Paul and Peter preached different gospels.

Heavenly Father, help us to know that we do not need a new gospel, but a present capacity for declaring the old faith. Amen.

Monday, Dec. 6. Acts 13: 44-52. The word of the Lord spread throughout the region, but the Jews . . . (vv. 49, 50).

Antioch was a common name for a city. This one was in Pisidia and is notable for its action in expelling Paul and Barnabas. "But the Jews . . ." The Jews were behind it, of course, hid-

ing behind women. The Jews persuaded some well-meaning but misguided women to go to work on their influential husbands, some of them magistrates and others in high office. These leaders of the city drove out the apostles.

Dear Lord, we notice that the disciples were filled with joy even though they were persecuted. Help us to find joy even through oppression. Amen.

Tuesday, Dec. 7. Acts 14: 1-7. They remained for a long time, preaching boldly (v. 3).

The Gentiles joined the Jews at Iconium in persecuting the apostles. It required courage to be a Christian in those days. Paul and Barnabas narrowly escaped death when they discovered a lynching plot against them. Violence can still be the response of a disturbed conscience, as we can see in racial persecution in Africa and the United States today. It was not lack of courage that caused Paul and Barnabas to flee, it was prudence so that they could continue preaching the gospel.

Our Lord, we are grateful for the courage that knows when to stay and the wisdom that knows when to leave. Amen.

Wednesday, Dec. 8. Acts 14: 8-18. Gods have come down to us in the likeness of men! (v. 11).

From one extreme to the other! In Antioch and Iconium they were persecuted for blasphemy. At Lystra, the crowds wanted to worship them. Reverence hurt the apostles more than stones. There was no Jewish background here, and Paul and Barnabas cannot refer to the Jewish scriptures for help. Instead their argument moves from nature to God. It was with great difficulty that the crowds were prevented from offering sacrifices to them.

Our Father, help us to measure our lives by the life of Christ and not by men, whether they oppose us or flatter us. Amen.

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Justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us.

—Isaiah 59: 9.

Dreams are they? But ye cannot stay them.

Or thrust the dawn back for one hour!

Truth, Love, and Justice, if ye slay them,

Return with more than earthly power!

—Alfred Noyes.



I thank thee, Lord, for knowing me better than I know myself, and for letting me know myself better than others know me.

Make me, I pray thee, better than they suppose, and forgive me for what they do not know.

—Abu Bekr, father-in-law of Mohammed.



Books make gifts of a very special kind. They don't break, they don't wilt, they don't age. They are like the fairy tale cake which can be eaten but still doesn't diminish.



All that stops most of us from having a nervous breakdown these days is that we can't afford it.



The City of Happiness is located in the State of Mind.



If you make a speech when you are angry, it will probably be the best speech you will ever regret.



A backslider suddenly began attending church faithfully. The preacher was highly gratified and told him, "How wonderful to see you in services with your good wife."

"Well, parson," said the prodigal, "it's a matter of choice — I'd rather hear your sermons than hers."