

# Governor - General Presents Awards

(See page 6)



SERVING  
ALL OF THE  
CHURCHES  
IN ALL OF THE  
STATES

THE AUSTRALIAN

# CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL WEEKLY OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

## REUNION FOR LUTHERANS

At the town of Bethany, in northern South Australia, there was a division in the Lutheran church 119 years ago. Two Lutheran ministers had come from Europe to care for the colonists who shared their faith. They each gained a personal following.

Unfortunately, the two ministers did not get along well together. They also differed on matters of administration. To add to the tension, they had opposing views about the millennium. The result of these differences was a division in the church that lasted until last week-end.

Following a long period of negotiation, the two churches accepted a basis of reunion, and on Nov. 28 they celebrated the removal of the barriers. At the Adelaide Oval a crowd of more than 5,000 demonstrated their new oneness. Another 1,000 shared in a thanksgiving service at the Melbourne Town Hall.

Even at Bethany, the small town where the division began, there was a thrilling renewal of the fellowship of altar and pulpit. The new-found unity among the Lutherans has doubled their strength in Australia and they now number 180,000.

Whenever there is healing among sections of the Christian church it is a matter for rejoicing by us all. It is also a thing of shame that the reasons for division were so insignificant. Thousands of Lutherans were quite unaware of the things that separated them.

Not all of the divisions between churches can be healed as fully or as easily as this one. Some of the differences between the churches concern fundamental matters of doctrine. But most of our divisions would shame us into an immediate bridging action if we could be confronted with the one Lord, or if we could become aware of the One world that will never yield to a divided church. The success of the Lutherans in reconciliation should stimulate our own conversations with our separated brethren.

## SANCTIONS FOR RHODESIA

Very slowly the cumbersome international machinery for bringing the Rhodesian rebels to their senses is starting to move. Whether or not it will be effective may well depend upon the answers to three questions.

First, will sanctions be applied early enough? One leading Rhodesian has said that the slow application of sanctions could consolidate the Smith regime. Another report said that sanctions would not apply to goods already on their way to Rhodesia. If sanctions are applied too slowly, the Smith rebel government will gain invaluable time.

Second, will sanctions be effective? Since British and United Nations' restrictions were announced, Spain has placed an order for steel with Rhodesia worth £500,000. Presumably, South Africa, Spain and Portugal will provide outlets for other Rhodesian products, and these countries may also supply many of Rhodesia's needs. Self-interest makes a formidable barrier to effective sanctions. It was a refusal of nations to surrender vested interests that helped bring the League of Nations to ruin in the 1930's, and a similar threat exists today. The only way to make sanctions effective against Rhodesia is to apply them also against those countries which ignore the United Nations' call for action against the rebels.

Third, will the innocent suffer more than the guilty? The innocent are the black Rhodesians, the white Rhodesians opposed to the present illegal government, and Rhodesia's neighbours. The latter are politically independent but are tied to Rhodesia's destiny because of electric power and commercial outlets. The white minority group which so flagrantly ignored legal and moral responsibilities to grasp their power will not hesitate to use others as hostages to their considerable fortune.

It is this last question that will be of most concern to Christian people throughout the world and it is of first importance that the innocent receive all of the protection possible.

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## • LETTER TO TEENAGERS

# THE FIFTH FREEDOM

## THE FREEDOM NOT TO DRINK

Dear Teenager,

As you grow older you will be called upon to make many important decisions.

The most important thing you can do is to commit all your life to Christ. This commitment is the first of many decisions you must make. Each one is important. In each decision you accept or reject Christ's way.

One big question which will face you later in teenage is whether or not you will drink alcoholic beverages. You will discover, all too soon, that apart from drinks such as water, milk, Milo, coffee, tea and soft drinks, there are alcoholic drinks . . . which in many places, such as parties, weddings, clubs, work and sporting groups, will be pressed upon you. But I want to impress upon you that you also have a legal right not to drink.

### What is Alcohol?

Is it a FOOD? Perhaps you have seen the advt. which suggests "BEER IS BEST." In it a glass of beer is placed in the middle of luscious food, and fruit, suggesting its value far surpasses these things. In point of fact there is little protein value in alcohol . . . indeed, constant drinking throws the whole balance of diet out of line . . . ALCOHOL does not store up calorie energy in the body, nor is it capable of providing those vital vitamins required for tissue building.

Is it a MEDICINE? Today liquor is never prescribed as a medicine. It is positively forbidden in cases of influenza or pneumonia. It does not "cure" . . . nor has it any real value in healing. ALCOHOL is neither good food nor good medicine . . . IT IS A DRUG. Drugs can be divided into stimulants and depressants . . . some drugs act as a stimulant on the nervous system. ALCOHOL has the opposite effect . . . in that it has a depressing effect.

It could be ranked with ether and chloroform . . . in fact it has the ability to make the body insensible and cause stupor. In fact, both ether and chloroform are derived from grain alcohol. Alcohol passes from the mouth to the

stomach and goes directly into the blood, and then to the brain . . . passing through the brain every twenty-two seconds within minutes of consumption, and when it hits the brain causes stupor.

Imagine your brain as a complex control centre, directing all the functions of the body. As a person drinks, alcohol affects his brain in stages. The first functions to be affected are: reasoning — inhibitions — memory.

Next to be affected are:— eyesight (which becomes hazy and double vision occurs), speech (excessive talking, "thick" tongue), hearing.

Soon muscular controls are affected causing staggering and unconsciousness, which leaves only the automatic processes of breathing. We are told we are to love GOD with ALL OUR HEART . . . AND MIND . . . AND SOUL . . . AND STRENGTH. How can you love God with all your mind if the brain, which is the material instrument of the MIND has lost control through deliberate self-infliction by the drinking of ALCOHOL?

Then again, what do people mean when they speak of moderation? One person says, "There isn't any harm in a beer or two." The makers of alcoholic beverages like to advertise "That beer is best," "Drink for it's a way of life," or "Wine for gracious living," and liquor is for "men of distinction," but they would never think of telling the real facts:—

DO they tell that there are already over 300,000 alcoholics in Australia, with a further 200,000 moving up to take their positions, making in all one person in every 20 in our country who has moved from moderation to become a problem drinker?

DO our brewers and distillers tell us that vice and alcohol are partners, that immorality and crime go hand in hand with liquor?

DO they tell us, on their wayside hoardings, that of the seven to eight thousand Court convictions in Western Australia every year, 45 per cent are direct drunken and idle and disorderly charges, while over 75 per cent of all

BY GEORGE SMITH

Director of the Christian Welfare  
Centre, Perth.

charges are crimes committed under the influence of alcohol?

DO they portray, in their lovely drawings, that alcohol is a major highway killer, a home destroyer, an economic waster, a public enemy?

### Abstinence or Moderation?

Why abstinence rather than moderation? I wonder if you would take pleasure in keeping a dog in your house which only bit one or two in every five of your friends who came to visit you?

No, young people, the Christian programme requires really strong decisions — backed by intelligent reasons. If you claim your FREEDOM — NOT TO DRINK — it is because:

You know alcohol is a habit forming drug, and

You are determined to develop a strong personality without crutches, and

You have no desire to squander either time or money on non-productive and injurious drinks, and

You have seen its injurious effects on persons and families in community life.

Our community offers every inducement to encourage young people to be "social drinkers," but it has no power to determine who may become problem drinkers, and it has no scientific cure to help alcoholics. For these and many other reasons you will not be a part to encourage the liquor traffic, nor will you influence others by your example.

The drinking of alcoholic beverages is against Christian principles because:—it tears down personality; it harms the body; it dulls consciousness of God; it ruins my witness to others; it hinders a Christian social order.

When you are asked at a social function, "What's yours?", just say "No, thank you." If someone gets cynical or critical, just hold your patience. If necessary give a brief affirmative reason why not, but certainly there is no reason to be apologetic — your stand is for Christ and humanity. By making a decided choice to say "NO" to alcoholic beverages is one way of saying "YES" to a fuller Christian life.

PROFILE  
No. 50

# M. T. LAWRIE

S.A.'s Conference President.

If you know South Australia at all, then you will be sure to know the name of Lawrie. Here is a name that has been associated with the story of the brotherhood and the life and witness of our churches in almost every part of the State.

Although the name is held in high regard everywhere, there is no Lawrie who is better known, or more deeply loved and respected, than the one who is now the President of the South Australian Conference.

He is M. T. Lawrie, fondly known as Merv. to his brother preachers and many friends throughout the State.

Merv. Lawrie is a country man who was baptized at Owen (S.A.) in 1924, by John Turner, and it was from a farm in this community that he went to Glen Iris to train for the ministry in 1930. Lots of important things happened in College, and possibly the most important for our new President was the fact that he met his wife there, and on his graduation they married and returned to South Australia.

Gawler-Williamstown were in Circuit in those days, and for the newly-weds this was their first appointment. Other ministries followed at Wudinna, Tumby Bay and Kadina, and then after a ministry at Kaniya (Vic.) the Lawries returned for another seven years to Kadina.

In 1963, the man who was probably the best known country minister in the State came to his first city appointment at Beverley, and it is with this church he will be associated during the term of his Presidency.

The "College romance" has stood the test of the years and today four



sons (Graham, Trevor, John and Paul), and one daughter, Beth, are all active workers in the church. Two of his sons have followed their father into the ministry. Trevor is minister at Barmera - Moorook Circuit (S.A.), and Graham, on graduation this year will commence a ministry with the Mundalla - Wampony - Keith Circuit (S.A.).

Merv. Lawrie is a big man. You don't have to see him in a camp-sized bed at Ministers' Retreats to notice this. However, his bigness is more than physical. He has a heart as big as man's need, and a spirit as big as the job in hand.

Together Merv. and Mercy Lawrie have given themselves freely in the service of Jesus Christ, and their genuine interest and warm concern for people have endeared them to people right across the State.

This is why we feel his choice as President of Conference will be a popular one, and this man who has served his home State so well, will bring a depth of humility and dignity to his appointment that will grace the office of President.

All South Australians will join us in this column as we express our sincere good wishes to our new President of Conference. May God's best be his.

—K.D.H.

• OVERSEAS MISSIONS  
ACTIVITIES AT TUNG  
By BETTY ANDERSON

WOMEN'S GROUP.

We now meet on Thursdays from 11 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. This enables the women to go to the bush in the afternoon. An average of about 18 attend. We regret to say there is still very little interest in the devotions, although two or three are showing much more interest now.

It has been a thrill to have Bagi and Vanna leading the devotions at times. Several times they have taken the meeting when there has been a hold-up in the medical work, etc., but they have, at the close of the meeting, come back very upset because of the lack of interest shown by the other women.

FOLLOW-UP CLASSES.

These are held each Tuesday night for the Christians, and are conducted more informally. We have been dwelling on various aspects of the Christian life — just what a Christian really is, etc. We have been going slowly through the Sermon on the Mount, applying it to our lives and witnessing to others. This has encouraged interesting discussion, although there still seems to be marked shyness. Time has also been spent in training helpers, presidents, etc., for communion. All Christians attend.

STUDY GROUP.

Prayer meeting and Bible Study is held each Friday night. Throughout the year we have studied the Gospel of Luke. Again we would wish for more discussion, but we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to give understanding as they hear the Word. The women still are rather shy praying in front of the men. A new awareness of the meaning of prayer is obvious. There is also a new feeling of prayer truly being uttered from the heart — not mere words. This has shown us very clearly that the Holy Spirit has been truly working within.

DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

commenced last January following enquiries by several. Ten commenced — seven adults and three older school children. Six have dropped out — the main reason being stated that they felt they just weren't ready to become Christians, and some had a real fear of praying in public, or helping, etc. Even after explanations, they had no desire to return. Kulam, Soguni, Hosu and Sapa remain in the class, but owing to many things of which they are not yet sure, classes will continue for some time.

TUNG CHURCH.

It has been a thrill to see all of the Christians taking an active part in the work and worship of the church. It may not be long before one or two may be willing to speak in Pidgin at a service.

There have been many evidences of the Christians' witness in the village and elsewhere. We have also been interested sitting in our home on Saturdays hearing their witness to those of other villages who come to play football.

There have been disappointments, but we thank God that even through these heart-breaking times we have seen deeper faith and a new awareness of Christ as a result.

THE "CHRISTIAN" GOES  
TO . . .

## A Basketball Carnival

Girls in brightly colored uniforms, officials and spectators made up a total of approximately 900 people at Perry Lakes Stadium for the Churches of Christ Girls' Basketball Association's Lightning Carnival. But first a little background.

Churches of Christ in W.A. have Girls' and Men's Basketball Associations. There are 54 teams, divided into 8 grades in the Girls' Association, and 52 teams in 7 grades in the Men's Association. In both Associations enthusiasm and competition are keen.

Perry Lakes Stadium, in Floreat Park, built for the Commonwealth Games, has a splendid building devoted to basketball. The main court is a magnificent floor of polished wood; the other four floors are bitumen. The gallery seats over 1,000 people. The Men's Association plays all its matches in this building. The Girls' matches are played in various places, mostly in State School grounds.

We went along to the Girls' "Lightning Carnival" on a Saturday night. This year it was confined to the junior grades, but two senior teams played an exhibition match. The order of the evening was a complete round of matches for a "premiership." Each match was of 10 minutes' duration. The timetable was strict, and run with clocklike precision from 7.15 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. Matches were played on all courts simultaneously, the one time-siren controlling all. Immediately one set of matches was finished the teams for the next set came on to the courts. Umpires were waiting.

A few Saturdays later we attended the Men's Association's Exhibition night. On this occasion a full evening's programme was arranged, but not on a premiership basis as with the girls. The feature of this night was a match between a representative team from Churches of Christ and a team from the Mormon Fraternity. The latter were victors. The announcement of the names of the Mormon players referred to each as "Elder." The general organization of the programme was of the same high standard as that of the Girls' Carnival.

We link these two fixtures together for further comment. Total attendance was about the same on each night; possibly the Girls' night drew about 100 more than the Men's. As we mingled among the crowd, going from one match to another according to our reading of the programme, we met a large number of ministers and officers of our churches. Parents and grandparents of the players were present. Each team had its loudly vocal supporters, but there were many who were more neutral spectators. Friendliness and fraternity were "on tap," and everyone drank freely of this elixir of life.

They were nights of real sport, clean competition, but none the less keen, no gambling, no alcohol, no bad language, a positive witness that sport of the highest calibre can be had without the things that weaken character. When one realised that the great majority of the players and spectators were in their churches and Bible Schools the next day, worshipping God, learning to follow Christ, and serving him, the eyes were lifted from the dark shadows that are over the lives of so many young people today, and saw the sunlight play along the mountains of God.

We commend the Girls' Basketball Association for another outreach of goodwill. "Fairhaven," the Home for Aboriginal girls conducted by the Federal Aborigines Mission Board at Esperance, has a basketball team playing in the Esperance Association. Our Girls' Association sponsored a trip to Perth for the "Fairhaven" team during the school holidays, arranging accommodation, and organising a weekday match against a city team, and also a special "Lightning Carnival" among the senior teams for the express purpose of giving the "Fairhaven" girls an opportunity of playing.

During the winter months, basketball is big news amongst the young people of Churches of Christ in Western Australia, and although sometimes one wonders whether too much emphasis is placed upon it, it certainly provides an outlet for energy, and a means of real fellowship and fraternity among the young people of the churches.

• OVERSEAS MISSIONS  
FRIENDSHIP  
CENTRE  
SHIRSUPHAL, INDIA  
By RICHARD POWELL

On Oct. 17, nearly 30 from Baramati boarded the train for Shirsuphal to attend the opening of the Friendship Centre/Library there. On the same train there were also about 50 boys from the boarding returning to homes, parents, guardians or relatives for the Diwali holidays — which further added to the experiences of the journey!

During the early part of the afternoon we inspected what used to be the Mission School at Shirsuphal, but has now been handed over to the Government Educ. Dept. Then we went to see the land still owned there by the mission, where there used to be a house for mission teachers and workers. This is now in ruins.

The site is right beside the railway line on the Dhond end of the village in a good location. However, the place which has been rented for the Friendship Centre is right in the heart of the town and only about a hundred yards from the school, where Jonathan lives. He is the Christian teacher in charge (one of our mission lads). At present it is planned to open the Centre for an hour in the mornings, and an hour again in the evenings. The afternoon programme officially commenced at 4.30 p.m.

The Government doctor of the village chaired the meeting, in which all the teachers of the school (six, including one who is a Muslim) took part, together with village and Government officials and representatives of the Baramati church, and Hariba Waghmode representing the Conference.

The official opening was performed by the Village Patil, who cut the ribbon across the doorway. Cups of tea and light refreshments were afterwards served in the school. During this time, and afterwards, a Bhajan (praise session in music and song) was led by Parker (the driver of the Baramati mission vehicle) and some of the Boys' Home boys. This was brought to a very fitting close then as Hariba brought a simple, but direct and challenging gospel message.

Then, with Jonathan carrying the pressure lamp, we set out at about 8.30 for our twenty minute walk across the river bed, through a bit of scrub and a pad-dock, till we came to the railway station once more.



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## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### NEW CHURCH OPENING

(Whyalla, S.A.). The new church was opened on Nov. 13. W. Berry, chairman of Church Board, handed the key to Mrs. V. Stevenson, of Adelaide, oldest living foundation member, and she performed the opening ceremony. J. W. Lewis led the act of dedication, and M. T. Lawrie, State Conf. Pres., gave the address. 130 attended the Saturday evening meeting. Past members spoke and early photos were shown. The opening coincided with the 25th anniversary. 150 were present for fellowship tea. S. Matthews, first full-time preacher at Whyalla, was guest speaker in morning and J. W. Lewis at night. . . . There have been two decisions, one at last service in the old chapel and one at first service in the new building. These were baptized on Nov. 21. . . . C.W.F. held Christmas break-up at home of Mrs. T. Martin.

### CABIN BOYS' DEMONSTRATION

(S.A.). Cabin Boy Groups held their annual demonstration in the Flinders Park Hall on Oct. 30. 86 boys and officers, and over 200 parents and friends enthusiastically commented on the high standard of the programme. Fall-in, marching and games were competed for towards the Shield, which was won by Flinders Park. Flinders Park also won the Craft Display. The judge for the evening was C. Inverarity, and compere R. Middleton. A sound movie was produced and presented at devotions by R. Hoffman, Field Office for Cabin Boys. (Cabin Boys is a movement in S.A. for 6, 7, 8-year-olds, who then pass to Life Boys, and 11 years to Boys' Brigade).

### CHANGE AT UNGARRA

(S.A.). D. Holloway concludes his ministry with the church on Dec. 12, and Mr. and Mrs. Ricketts will be welcomed to the circuit in new year. In the meantime, the church will have a vacation student ministry. . . . A morning baptismal service was held on Nov. 21. . . . Several members attended opening of new chapel at Whyalla.

### WOMEN CELEBRATE

(Koongarra Park, S.A.). There were 110 women at the C.W.F. birthday meeting on Nov. 8. Representatives attended from local Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Lutheran, Methodist, as well as nearby Churches of Christ. . . . A recent luncheon raised £12/10/- for Overseas Mission project.

### STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME

(Koongarra Park, S.A.). A Stewardship Campaign commenced on Nov. 21, with addresses by A. Greaves, treasurer, and R. Brown, secretary, on "Time, Talents and Treasure." The objective for the year was given for local work and the outreach budget. . . . Minister and family will soon move into the new manse. . . . David Nancarrow has been welcomed back after completing his first year at the College at Glen Irls.

## GOVERNOR-GENERAL PRESENTS AWARDS

(See Cover Picture).

Seven young South Australians were presented to Lord Casey at Government House, Adelaide, on Oct. 28. These young people had achieved the distinction and honour of completing the final section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and were present at Government House to receive from the Governor General of Australia the Gold Award.

For these young people this was the climax, of course, that has made real demands on them and yet has given to them that rare satisfaction anyone receives on making some splendid and worthwhile achievement.

For boys it meant a 57-mile compass expedition in the rugged Flinders Ranges, public service with such groups as Emergency Fire Services, and leadership responsibility in a youth movement, cultural and creative activities calling for initiative and perseverance and the attainment of established standards in athletics and swimming.

For girls, it meant some of the above sections, plus hospital service with St. Johns Ambulance, or the R.S.P.C.A.,

floral art, or "What and when to wear it," and for three of the girls a 150-mile bike tour to Port Pirie.

The scheme is designed in three stages, bronze, silver and gold and can be completed in the years 14-19 years of age. It is not restricted to any particular group and, in fact, can be undertaken by any young people willing to apply themselves to the programme.

In our picture the three boys (left to right) are Bruce Hemer, Alan Chivell and Jim McLean, and they are the first members of the Boys' Brigade in Australia to receive the Gold Award. They belong to the Cowandilla church. The two girls on the extreme left and right of the picture are members of the Girls' Brigade. They are Maxine Clark and Heather Bywaters, and the other girls (centre) are members of the Land Rangers. Their ages range from 17 years (the boys) up to 21 years.

We congratulate these young people on their splendid achievement and commend this scheme to any youth leaders as a worthy part of their programme.

### TEMPLE DAY OFFERING

(Edwardstown, S.A.). A Temple Day tea in our new hall was followed by a film. The offering was £172. . . . The C.W.F. elected: pres., Mrs. Mayhew; sec., Mrs. Pederson. . . . Two young girls were baptized on Nov. 14. . . . Our choir has entered the competitions at Angaston.

**FULLARTON.** The Conf. Pres., M. T. Lawrie, spoke to the church on Oct. 31 in the interests of Home Missions. . . . John Mathieson led the singing at the B.S. anniversary. Guest speakers were R. Sidler, of Stirling, and W. J. Maxted, of Henley Beach. Teachers shared in a dedication service. . . . With two teams in the association, the young people are having a successful tennis season. . . . C.Y.F. joined in A.C.Y.F. at Elizabeth on Nov. 13. . . . The church has been actively supporting the "No Lottery" Campaign prior to referendum on Nov. 20. . . . M. D. Williams is minister.

**STRATHALBYN.** Recent speakers were S. Beck, representing Home Missions, and Fred Anderson, at a youth service, and Ron. Saunders, of Goolwa-Mt. Compass, who is Pres. of the Southern Dist. Conf. **PORT LINCOLN.** N. Hodgekiss, a past minister, was a guest speaker at the B.S. anniversary; another was Rev. Rodgers. . . . Ladies from Pt. Lincoln, Tumbay Bay and Mt. Hill met at Redcliffs camp for fellowship afternoon. Teenagers had successful camp at Redcliffs.

**BALAKLAVA.** Recent speakers have been R. Tippett, Pres. Nth. Dist. Conf.; Mr. Archbold, S.U.M.; Mr. and Mrs. Melbourne, Overseas Missions Fellowship; Cliff Jones and Reg. Shepherd, H.M. Comm.; Mr. Paddick, for Temp. Alliance, and Doug Goode, of Long Plains. . . . The C.W.F. held an impromptu debate. . . . Owen Clark, minister of Long Plains, spoke to men's tea and also a gospel service. . . . The church heard an inspiring tape-recording from Ray Roberts, of Norseman Mission. Church will take a special offering to assist the extensive visiting by Mr. Roberts and party.

### "QUESTION 7"

(S.A.). The feature film, "Question 7," was screened to more than 250 young people at the monthly A.C.Y.F. Rally sponsored by the Dept. of Christian Educ. The Elizabeth church became "host." A bus trip for about 100 young people, a singalong, the film, and coffee made up a programme that received a high rating. A.C.Y.F.'ers! The last 1965 programme will be held in the Arts Theatre on Dec. 11. Listed in the artists for this night are "The Travellers," "Sue Steff and Nick," and a host of supporting talent. Tickets are in churches now.

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## NEW SOUTH WALES

### CHATSWOOD MINISTER RESUMES

(N.S.W.). Following an attack of hepatitis incurred while on holidays at the end of August, the Chatswood - North Turramurra minister, C. G. Taylor, B.A., has now resumed limited duties, preaching one sermon a Sunday till the end of 1965. Valuable pulpit assistance continues to be given by Principal A. W. Stephenson, student minister Graham Warne, and guest speakers. Chatswood and North Turramurra churches have shared in recent successful family dinner and church picnic. . . . First decisions (two adults) have been registered for the new work at North Turramurra, G. Sloman preaching; baptismal service is planned for Dec. 5. . . . Chatswood B.S. anniversary was enjoyable feature on Nov. 21 and 28. . . . At guest night supper on 21st, Bibles were presented to two couples soon to be married. . . . G. Warne has commenced full-time vacation ministry with the circuit. C. G. Taylor conducted communion service for Chatswood-Willoughby ministers and wives on Nov. 30, marking the end of his year as Fraternal president.

### SPECIAL SERVICES

(Inverell, N.S.W.). Guest speaker at the S.S. anniversary was Barry Hinrichsen of Kenmore Christian College. He also presented prizes and cradle roll certificates. In addition to special singing by senior school, older scholars presented a dramatisation of Acts 16. . . . Geo. Johnson, of the B. & F. B. S., told the church of Bible Society work, on Oct. 24. . . . A Scripture Union rally was held daily at 5 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. There were good attendances of children at the varied programmes. . . . Maxwell Hall, the minister, has returned from conducting a mission at Mayfield, Newcastle.

### WOOLWICH STUDENTS

During the long vacation, some students will be assisting churches. K. Farmer will serve at Canley Heights; J. Bacik will continue on in a full-time capacity at Beverly Hills, and Miss Gail Thornton will assist at Norseman Aborigines Mission, W.A.

### HARVEST FOR "DUNMORE"

(Hornsby, N.S.W.). Annual Harvest Festival, under the auspices of the B.S., on Nov. 21, had the staff and boys of "Dunmore" House as guests of the Bible School for the day. Speakers were F. Stephenson and R. F. Bartholomew, sen. "Dunmore" boys shared in the gospel service. All articles brought for the Harvest Festival were presented to the Home by Mr. Glazier, B.S. supt., and accepted by Matron Williams. . . . Boys and leaders of the Boys' Brigade attended the 15th Northside Company Weekend Training Camp, Nov. 5-7.

## WOOLWICH GRADUATION SERVICE

The Graduation Service of the Woolwich Bible College, at Enmore on Nov. 19, proved to be a grand culmination of a splendid year in the life and work of the College.

The chairman of the College Board I. J. Torode, presided. Z. Mielens led in worship and Miss Dorothy Holstein read the Scriptures. Greetings and good wishes were brought on behalf of the Woolwich College Ex-Students' Association by H. T. L. Davies, who made a presentation to the Principal of a cheque to be used in College needs.

Musical items were provided by the Woolwich Quartette Party and the College Choir, under the direction of F. A. Elliott, with D. Sander as accompanist.

Principal A. W. Stephenson briefly outlined the more important features of the College year. During the year a high standard has been maintained, both in the theoretical training programme, in Biblical Studies and in Theology, and also in the practical disciplines especially designed to equip for the effective preaching and pastoral ministry — at home and abroad. Students have also participated in increasingly valuable extra-curricula studies — in Arts, at Sydney University, and also in specialised courses in Religious-Broadcasting Psychology, Pastoral Counselling, etc., and Tropical Medicine (for Missionary candidates).

The Principal presented Missionary Certificates to Miss Pamela Caulton, B.A., Dip.Ed., and Miss Dorothy Holstein, Diplomas to Russell Craig, Allan Gordon and Zidons Mielens, and the Honours Diploma to Franklyn Elliott, B.A. The Conference President, C. E. Bowser, delivered a Spiritual Charge to the outgoing students, and Dr. A. G. Elliott commended them to the leading and care of God in a prayer of dedication.

Challenging addresses were delivered by three of the graduates, Allan J. Gordon, Russell A. Craig, and Franklyn A. Elliott, whose messages were based on aspects of Paul's testimony to Christ in his Epistle to the Philippians.

The Opening Session of the Bible College at Woolwich for 1966 will be held on Wednesday, February 23, when a fine group of young men and women, coming from various churches throughout our Australian brotherhood, will be introduced as new students. The Public Gathering, when friends of the College will be invited to Woolwich to share in "Open Day," will be held on Saturday afternoon, March 5, 1966.

Inquiries regarding courses and enrolments for next year should be directed, as soon as possible, to The Principal, 57 The Point Road, Woolwich, N.S.W.

### N.S.W. BROADCASTS IN DEC.

Churches of Christ Broadcasts over 2CH, Sydney, in December are:

Sunday, Dec. 5, 7.15 p.m.: Church of Christ, Burwood. Preacher: F. L. Ewers, B.A.

Daily Devotional Sessions, 8.45 a.m.: Tues., Dec. 7: H. C. Wheat, Padstow; Friday, Dec. 17: B. Benz, Austral; Wed., Dec. 29: R. B. Ewers, Belmore.

A Churches of Christ session is also broadcast each Sunday evening on 2CH at 5.50 p.m.

### ABORIGINES FEATURED

(Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.). Aborigines' Missions were featured with visits by L. Park, who outlined the proposed new Christian Centre at Carnarvon, and Chris. Goode, of the U.A.M. at Gnowangerup, W.A. . . . Two High School boys made decisions on Nov. 21. . . . Three generations of families were represented in several cases when a family service was held. . . . Missionary parcels are being prepared by the B.S. and Women's Fellowships. Ladies made clothing for girls at "Fairhaven."

### MISSIONARIES IN SYDNEY

Mr. and Mrs. David Eagling and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Smith arrived from New Hebrides by plane on Nov. 22. Mr. Eagling, who, in addition to his work with the Banmatmat Bible College, is also Asst.-Commissioner for Boy Scouts in the New Hebrides, recently took a prominent part in the islands in connection with the official visit of the Chief Scout, Sir Charles McLean.

The Smiths left Sydney for Melbourne on Nov. 25, but the Eaglings will remain in N.S.W. and expect to move about among the churches.

### N.S.W. PRAYER LIST

We seek your prayerful support for the following aspects of brotherhood service and co-operation:

1. Home Mission fields in N.S.W. — particularly the work at West Liverpool and the developing plans for Orange.

2. Dept. of Christian Educ., the work of the Director, Bruce Armstrong, in planning for Christmas Camps — and extensions in the sphere of activities in the Book Room.

3. All ministers and churches as they plan for Christmas services.

4. Aborigines Missions — at Carnarvon, Norseman — and the on-going task at "Fairhaven," Esperance.

5. Social Service activities — especially the N.S.W. Dept. Homes at Pendle Hill, Hornsby and Croydon.

### OTHER N.S.W. CHURCH NEWS

**PENRITH.** Mr. and Mrs. Sedman have settled effectively into the work. There have been a number of decisions recently. Pre-gospel prayer meetings are increasing in attendance. Mr. Jardine, of the S.I.M., was a recent speaker. On Nov. 5, Mr. Sedman conducted a service at the Governor Phillip Hospital. . . . A special "Life at Its Best" afternoon for ladies was held on Nov. 17. Mr. Gilchrist, well-known Christian Radio personality, was the speaker. **EPPING.** Ray Ewers was guest speaker at the church anniversary on Oct. 24. At the morning service there was special recognition of I. Torode, sen., re-elected as elder, and four deacons. . . . C. M. Foster, Sudan United Mission, addressed the C.E. meeting and the church on Oct. 31. . . . There has been encouraging response to the C.W.F. welcome to newcomers to neighbouring home-units and flats. . . . N. S. D. Banks was speaker at C.W.F. (evening) on Nov. 22.

# STETHOSCOPE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

BY CHAS. H. DOW

Four major check-ups were conducted recently by 64 Christian patients, plus a number of children who subjected themselves to self-examination under the scrutiny of God through his Word, through each other and the affairs of the world of which we increasingly felt we were a real part.

Our major purpose was not to be clever, but rather to come to terms with the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Many of our membership in our churches have never had the opportunity to subject themselves to a more detailed examination than "I was at church last Sunday."

The whole venture was a simple attempt at exposing our membership to a deeper understanding of "What it means to be a Christian," and how we can better fulfil the implications of such a question in today's world with its new frontiers and its stark realism.

The programme was varied. Each night began with a "pot-luck" meal. People brought their casserole dishes and their desserts, which were then handled in cafeteria style. The Dept. of Christian Educ. was asked to come and share in the leadership because some of us felt that this was a much more significant piece of work than a mere local activity. It was an honest attempt to incorporate the "decision makers" in a learning experience at a face to face level. The four areas under examination were: a. Man's Predicament; b. God's Action; c. What is the Church? d. What does this mean in terms of action?

A variety of paths were plotted by Mr. Longthorp, and the resident minister. They included an audio-visual, dialogue between leaders, key-note statements and questions of the leaders. These introductions formed the basis so that meaning-

Mr. Dow is minister at Coburg, Vic.

ful discussions could follow. Local members acted as discussion leaders, when all members were urged to share their understandings.

Plenary sessions brought the discussions to a close, and the Vespers, led by Mrs. Morris, took the theme of the evening and added greatly to the inspirational impact of the sessions. A strict time-table was adhered to in good faith to the parents.

What were the results? I'm not sure, except to be able to say that by personal intimation and the evaluation sheets there is a real desire by all to pursue similar discovery sessions, for they met a deep-felt need. Many saw the need to be more incisive about what they really believed. Glib answers were not accepted because they were felt to be meaningless for the unchurched.

The experience revealed a serious lack of understanding of the Christian faith. It showed up all too clearly that we cannot expect preaching to be the main means of teaching, but that our worship services need to be strongly supplemented by some experience where we can learn in a climate which allows for both agreement and disagreement.

Fellowship increasingly became a fact and not merely an overworked word. Personalities were increasingly respected because we shared ourselves with each other. We bared our hearts so that we might understand and be understood. We disagreed in order to clarify and we confirmed each other in the great tasks that God has called us to do as part of his Body.

The Future. No longer can we maintain the status-quo for its own sake. Rather we felt the call to discover what God is saying to his whole Church, and we began to understand the call to be faithful in the midst of a pluralistic cul-

ture. We began to see the need to gather together in worship around the Table of Love in order that we might be scattered in the world which is God's creation.

What started out as Coburg's attempt at self-discovery, with the aid of the D.C.E., became an experiment which may be a useful means for others whereby we will be able to fulfil the task that God has laid upon the hearts and hands of his disciples.

Whatever short-comings this experience may have had, there are real values for any group who sets a similar course of action. The degree of success that was personally achieved was in proportion to the sensitivity of each person listening to God through his stethoscope as we placed the diaphragm for hearing upon God's Word, his world, and on the hearts of each other.

## OBITUARY

Mrs. Alice May Beer.

The church at Kyneton, Vic., has suffered a great loss in the sudden death of Mrs. Alice May Beer, on Nov. 3, after a stroke suffered two weeks previously. She had been connected with the church at Kyneton all her life. She grew up in the B.S. and joined the church in 1919, being baptized by the late Harold Saunders. In 1926, she married Clem Beer, and together they gave a faithful service to the church and the Lord Jesus Christ, working in all the activities of the church. Many student preachers from the College have enjoyed a welcome in their home at weekends and shared their hospitality. For many years Mrs. Beer was the collector for the church building fund, then newly erected, and was a tireless worker in the Ladies' Auxiliary. She, like her mother, the late Mrs. Crymble, was a keen gardener, and her lovely flowers cheered many a sick room and decorated the church building. Her remains were laid to rest in the Kyneton Cemetery, after a service conducted by Gordon Andrews. Many friends and relatives filled the chapel to capacity and paid their last respects. The heartfelt sympathy of the Kyneton members goes out to her sorrowing husband and son, Jack, and family in their great loss.—C.S.B.

Miss Edith Parsons.

On Nov. 3, at Royal Melb. Hospital, Miss Parsons died, after a trying time these last six months. She was born in Geelong 77 years ago, and since coming to the Coburg district was a faithful member of the local congregation, where she sought in her own quiet way to serve her Lord. For a number of years she had the responsibility of caring for her sister, Miss Alice, now in our Oakleigh Home for the Aged. Miss Parsons' sense of stewardship was large, and while she did not have much of this world's goods, she endeavoured to be faithful to her understanding that life was a trust from God. She faced death with a degree of realism that was indicative of her faith. Her quiet witness will remain in the memories of those who knew her best. To her family we extend our loving sympathy and thank God for the privilege of knowing someone who knew where she was going both in life and in death.—Charles H. Dow.

# "Not Much Good at Evangelism!"

By W. C. FAIRCLOUGH, W.A.

This is what a prominent man has said about our Australian ministers. He continued, "Australians have lost the ability to make sacrifices, and the expensive buildings the churches are erecting all over the place will indeed prove to be expensive coffins."

The warning . . . Expensive Coffins? These are hard words! Yet are they not likely to be true? The chief reason for the church's existence is evangelism at which, this man states, the ministers are not good. What is evangelism?

It means telling others that God has reconciled the world to himself in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that men need this reconciliation more than anything else in the world.

Churches Do Die . . . unless ordinary members can see the vision of the whole wide world for Jesus, because what Christ is and what he teaches only comes to life in a missionary situation, that is when it is being taken by you to someone else. The whole New Testament is missionary literature designed to surprise and change people's lives. It is not meant for the static worship of congregations content to do no more than exist within themselves.

Can We Go a Bit Further? The sacrifice necessary to right living in Christ is the sacrifice of ourselves. This is made when we declare ourselves to be Christ's witness to the new life he has purchased for us by the giving of himself to die upon a cross for the sin of the world. Our sacrifice is to witness to his.

Those who care that their neighbour should come to know Christ, care for the world. In being missionaries here they strengthen the hand of those whom God calls to places far away. They are also bound to them by giving, in prayer, and out of their earnings.

There need not be "expensive coffins." Let us look again thoughtfully and prayerfully at the Early Church as recorded in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

Try Christ's Good News On Your Friends. They may not all become Christians — but you will!

## 11th CONFERENCE OF DOCTORS AND CLERGY

(Vic.). The "Problem of Sexual Deviations" met in the healing and pastoral work of doctors and ministers was the subject for a conference between the two professions, held at Cheltenham, on Nov. 5 and 6.

Dr. R. E. Seal, M.A., M.R.A.C.P., Hon. Psychiatrist to St. Vincent's Hospital, and Dr. J. R. B. Ball, M.D., Consultant Psychiatrist to the Mental Hygiene Dept., spoke of the causes of Homosexuality and its personal and community ramifications, indicating the agonising problems posed for the sufferers.

A tape-recording was played of an interview between a psychiatrist and three male homosexuals in which the men showed their feelings of loneliness and hostility in being rejected by society and the church and understood by neither.

The big question centred around the attitude which the Church should take to these people, exploring the ways in which Christian people could the better understand and help them. Emphasis too was laid on prevention, by way of encouraging father-son and mother-daughter identification and all good family relationships.

Any who are interested in the area of medical clerical co-operation are invited to send their names to the secretary, the Rev. S. A. Goddard, Ormond College, Parkville, N.2, who will supply information about the next conference.

# QUESTING



WITH  
A. E. WHITE

Some of our members feel that our minister's wife does not assist him enough. Would you please say something about the role of the lady of the manse?

It works both ways, of course. Some ministers' wives are so helpful that I even heard it suggested that one minister was called so that the capacities of his wife would be available to the church!

I seem to remember being asked something like this before, but I am quite willing to air my rather strong views. At once I must say that I refuse to acknowledge the minister's wife as belonging to some vague order of the ministry, whether it is higher or lower than that of the minister himself.

The minister is called by the church, his wife is not. The minister and his wife are not to be inducted into a joint ministry. The minister is called by Christ, and represents the mission of the church in evangelism, pastoral care, teaching, and administration. His place is in no way shared officially by his wife.

The word "officially" is important, because it is obvious that a minister's wife should share his commitment to his Lord and the church. Indeed, a minister can scarcely succeed in his service unless his wife confirms in her own life the call he has received to the ministry. I know a business man who will not appoint a man to a responsible position in his firm until he has also interviewed the man's wife and received an assurance that she will wholeheartedly support her husband. The businessman knows that the candidate for office is not likely to be successful if there is no enthusiasm and encouragement at home. Because of his involvement with the ultimates in life, the minister is even more in need of the active support of his wife in commitment, prayer and encouragement.

The first requirement of a minister's wife is that she be a true partner to her husband — something that applies to every wife. If a minister's wife is competent to conduct the choir, preside at meetings, give addresses, teach or lead in discussion, play the organ, or visit the sick, then she should do these things because she is competent and not because she is the minister's wife.

If, on the other hand, and for any reason whatever, she feels inadequate for or disinclined to accept any one of these tasks, she need not be any less a minister's wife, or made to feel inferior in any way.

Ministers' wives are family partners and not ministerial colleagues.

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## BORDERTOWN "CHURCH AND LIFE"

(S.A.). The church was crowded for a "Church and Life Movement" meeting on Nov. 21 combined with Methodist and Congregational churches. Speaker was Maurice Coombs, Director of Christian Television Assoc. . . . Recent visitors have been M. T. Lawrie, Pres. of Conf. and Lin. Riches, Mayor of Port Augusta, and Speaker for the House of Assembly, and a former member of this church. Also Miss Sylvia Riches, from Colonel Light Gardens, and Mrs. Joy Wenham, from Brighton Gardens . . . The film, "To Each His Own," was screened on

## PRESIDENT AT REDCLIFFE

(Qld.). A. McK. Surtees, Qld. Conf. Pres., was recent preacher . . . There was a good response by parents and friends to the S.S. anniversary. Each scholar received a prize . . . At the final coffee hour for year, a lady gave a testimony and Mrs. Piint the message . . . The Women's Fellowship held a film and musical evening in the Brotherhood Centre, with proceeds for the Centre. Miss Betty Reeks, of Ipswich, led the Y.P. Fellowship in devotions, and gave piano accordion items. . . . Miss L. Little gave a S.S. flannel-graph talk on Nov. 21 . . . Mrs. Rankin underwent major surgery in Brisbane Hospital.

## SPEAKER FOR C.E. CONVENTION

(Launceston, Tas.). The Rev. J. Graham Miller, of New Zealand, has been appointed Principal of the Melbourne Bible Institute. Mr. Miller is one of the main speakers at the 31st National C.E. Convention to be held here May 13 to 21, 1966.

Alderman Clarrie G. Pryor will be the youngest Mayor Launceston has had, and he will be in office during the Convention. Alderman Pryor is Chairman of the Convention City Committee. He is a lay preacher in the Methodist Church.

Registrations for the Convention so far are: W.A., 29; S.A., —; Vic., 88; N.S.W., 37; Qld., 30; Tas., 8.

## EXTENSION OF MINISTRY

(Forestville, S.A.). N. Gavros has accepted the invitation of the church here to extend his present ministry a further two years until January, 1969.

## LOSSES TO CHURCH

(Devonport, Tas.). The sympathy of the church is offered to Mrs. P. Byard, Mrs. Jago, Mr. Lee and Mrs. Warmbrunn in the loss of loved ones . . . The theme of the S.S. anniversary was "Living Forever, This Book!" The choir provided a background for various plays and items. Two scholars dressed as an elderly couple were discussing "the old time religion." As the programme progressed various stories came alive out of the "Book" . . . The church family picnic was held at Merseylea on Nov. 1. A party of 20 came from Burnie Church of Christ Fellowship, conducted each month by E. W. Taylor, minister of Devonport . . . On Nov. 10, C.W.F. ladies joined Launceston and Caveside ladies at Caveside, where Miss Win. Walker spoke about her work in India.

Nov. 28 . . . The Men's and Women's Fellowships combined for Christmas "break-up." Supper was served under colored lights on the lawn. The gifts received will be forwarded to A. R. Jones for Social Service . . . The C.W.F. entertained ladies from Kaniva, Serviceton and Bordertown circuit. The programme included a mannequin parade of gowns from the turn of the century until now. Mrs. Oakes presided, and Mrs. Clarice Verco led devotions . . . D. R. Oakes is minister.

## RESULTS OF MISSION

(Maryborough - Baddow - Hervey Bay, Qld.). The tent mission at Baddow resulted in six decisions and many contacts made. Attendances averaged 93. Another mission is already being planned for Maryborough in April-May next, to be conducted by a visiting team of evangelist, singers and organist . . . The church book room, which is an agency for our Book Depot at Ann-st., Brisbane, made £55 sales of Christian Literature at the Baddow mission . . . There were four baptisms on Nov. 21 . . . Henry Waldock is in hospital after injuring hand with circular saw.

## S.A. YOUTH CAMP IN VIC.

(Naracoorte). The annual youth camp was held at Hall's Gap, in Vic. The minister, O. E. Stevens, was leader . . . Recent speakers have been Miss D. Hackett, from the Warburton Range Aboriginal Mission, and C. P. Hughes, representing the Mutual Fund . . . The church appreciates assistance by the League of 1000. Work has commenced on the new buildings estimated to cost £22,350 . . . The B.S. picnic was held on Nov. 13.

## FOUR ADDITIONS

(Albert Park, S.A.). Four young people have been received into fellowship . . . The new building, comprising kindergarten and two other classrooms, is under way . . . Each auxiliary provided an item for the successful family night on Nov. 27 . . . Seven deacons were elected at business meeting. W. Harris is secretary and Mrs. E. Fox is deaconess. . . . A young lady made her decision on Nov. 28 . . . A. E. Brown is minister.

## ALL-AGE EDUCATION

(Ivanhoe, Vic.). During first three weeks of All-Age Christian Education programme, average attendance has been 130. Evening meal, group discussions and fellowship have been greatly appreciated. . . . Paul R. Parker, returning home to India from World Convention, addressed the church on Nov. 14 . . . That evening S. Russell Baker showed slides of World Convention . . . Good Companions visited Parliament House as guests of local member, Vernon Christie, M.L.A. . . . On Nov. 20, there was screened, to a large audience a movie film produced by R. Dornig, featuring life and activities of church during recent rebuilding programme . . . Three re-consecrations and two decisions have encouraged church in recent weeks . . . June Gething is in hospital recovering from injuries sustained in motor accident.

## VIC. MINISTERS (and Wives)

The final meeting of the Fraternal will be at the Botanical Gardens, Melb., on Dec. 6. There will be a picnic lunch. Ministers and their wives are invited to meet at the Kiosk at 12 noon.

## PAUL PARKER IN ADELAIDE

(Grote-st.). Mr. Paul Parker, Indian representative to World Convention in Puerto Rico was guest speaker on Nov. 21. The C.W.F. held annual meeting and elected Pres., Mrs. Greenhalgh; sec., Mrs. De-Laine; treas., Mrs. Bottger . . . Mrs. Tabe has been appointed collector for the Living Link . . . Church extends Christian sympathy to Miss I. Wilton in the passing of her mother . . . A new approach to after-church meetings is proving successful.

## DEATH OF MRS. HIWALE

Word has been received from India that Mrs. S. P. Hiwale passed away at Dhond Hospital on Nov. 11. We commend Mr. Hiwale, and his family, to the Lord, and pray that they will receive comfort and strength in their sad loss.

## MINISTER TO ENTER HOSPITAL

(Doncaster, Vic.). J. G. Shaw is to enter Box Hill Hospital early in December for surgery . . . Five young people were welcomed into fellowship of the church on Nov. 28 . . . Mr. and Mrs. Hobby and their child, Michelle Laurel, shared with the church in a parent dedication service. Mrs. Hiscoe, and a young girl, Sarah Binks, confessed Jesus Christ as Saviour.

## RETURNED FROM NEW HEBRIDES

Mr. and Mrs. R. Combridge, who were due to return for furlough early in December, returned to Australia early in November, for medical reasons. Mrs. Combridge is at present in hospital in Victoria undergoing tests.

We would remember Mr. and Mrs. Combridge and their family at this time, and pray that they will find strength and comfort in the days that lie ahead.

## LEFT MT. EVELYN

(Vic.). After three years of valuable service to the church as a student minister, Jim Dow has left to give full-time service at Portland. At a crowded meeting presentations were made. Mr. Randall has commenced an interim ministry. . . . Mrs. Foote has returned from Puerto Rico . . . The church has been saddened by the death of Mrs. Knowles, a very faithful member. Sympathy is offered to her family.

## National Diary

DECEMBER—  
4 — VIC. — C.Y.F. Central 217.  
4 — VIC. — Explorer Final Rally.  
7 — VIC. — C.M.S. Christmas Fellowship Dinner.  
18 — VIC. — C.E. Christmas Treats.

## TEMPERANCE COMPETITION

(W.A.). A Temperance Competition was held throughout the churches in W.A., sponsored by the Social Service Committee. Local level prizes were supplied by C.W.F. groups, and the local winners were eligible for a State-wide competition.

The Essay section was based on talks given by George Smith over Radio Sunday School, entitled "Why I Vote for the Fifth Freedom — The Freedom Not to Drink." The Poster section was to be made up of newspaper cuttings covering the incidence of alcohol in road accidents, with the inclusion of a statement by the Commissioner of Police, "Drunkenness contributed to far more W.A. road accidents than were shown in statistics. The true figure would probably be about 50 per cent."

The response in the junior, intermediate and young people's sections was most encouraging, and the work proved to be of a very high standard. Many of the posters will be used by Mr. Smith in Temperance lectures as he travels throughout the State to the various churches. The winners of the Essay section will record a tape of their entry, which will be used over future Radio Sunday School programmes. The section winners were: Essay: 1st prize (£3/3/-) — Marylyn Holman 14 (yrs.), Bassendean church; 2nd prize (£2/2/-) — Helen Lillicrapp (17 yrs.), Scarborough church; Poster: 1st prize (£1/1/-) — Junior: Jillian MacDonald (10 yrs.), Applecross church. Intermediate: 1st prize (£1/1/-) — Denise Turner (12 yrs.), Applecross church. The prizes were presented at the Aborigines Christmas Tree function on Nov. 26.

## SPRING CONVENTION

(Bridgetown, W.A.). The Spring Convention ended on Nov. 21 with another confession of faith. All meetings were well attended. The film, "Shadow of the Boomerang," was shown. Thanksgivng was offered on Nov. 23 at the prayer meeting.

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## o C.O.B. NOTES

# A GOOD YEAR CLOSES

1. Following a very active period, the College closed its 59th year on Nov. 19. Some students who are sitting for public examinations will remain at College until Dec. 10.

2. Seldom in the College's history has there been a larger Exit group than this year, when 15 students completed their courses. Two of these, Margaret Luhrs, a nursing sister, and Alan Fletcher, a teacher, had undertaken a special one-year course to add further qualifications for missionary service.

3. Spheres of ministry for those who completed their courses are as follows: B. J. Adams goes to a teaching post at Horsham High School; I. E. Allsop, Riverdale-East Victoria Park, W.A.; J. Dow, Portland, Vic.; C. G. Dredge, Ascot Park, S.A.; A. S. Fletcher, New Guinea; W. J. S. Gaunson, Northam, W.A.; G. T. Lawrie, Keith-Bordertown Circuit, S.A.; R. W. Lawton, second minister in Canberra, A.C.T.; J. W. Lowrey, Dareton, N.S.W.; M. M. Luhrs, New Hebrides; D. J. Marr, Echuca, Vic.; J. E. Paver, Ararat, Vic.; C. A. Smith, Balaklava, S.A.; J. R. Wel-

den, Nth. Williamstown, Vic.; J. R. C. Wise, Queenstown, S.A.

The Graduation and Ordination Service was a very fine meeting, with Lygon Street chapel packed out, and quite a number of people unable to gain admission. The chairman of the Board of Management, F. P. Chipperfield, presided, and S. Russell Baker, Federal Conference President, delivered the address. Principal E. L. Williams presented the diplomas to those who had qualified.

The Ordination Service was conducted by S. R. Baker, with the assistance of several brethren. Hundreds of hearts beat as one as they shared, with deep feeling, in this service, as those being ordained made their vows of faith and commitment, and then kneeling, were set apart for Christian ministries, and prayer was offered on their behalf. Fittingly, the service was climaxed with the hymn,

"I lift my heart to thee, Saviour divine,  
For thou art all to me, and I am thine."

## YOUTH MEET

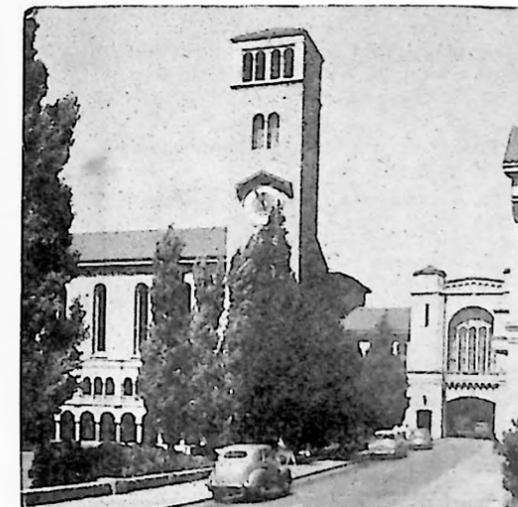
(W.A.). In spite of "exams" and the long weekend, the Youth-Meet programme, organised by a group of Youth Fellowship leaders, attracted a number of young people to the Christian Centre on Nov. 13.

Sid Gammon, organiser of the Methodist-sponsored Fifth National Christian Youth Convention, to be held in Perth, January 9-16, 1966, was the guest speaker, and he enthusiastically described what was being planned to take place at the Perry Lakes Stadium. He also stressed the urgent need that still existed for accommodation for interstate delegates during the Convention.

A "Miss Out of This World" contest was then conducted, and the eminent panel of judges unanimously voted "Miss" Chris Morris as the winner. C. G. Flood, minister of Dalkeith Road, challenged the young people to "keep moving" in the service of Jesus Christ.

## THREFOLD CELEBRATION

(Bundaberg, Qld.). Three events were celebrated by anniversary celebrations on Nov. 13 and 14. The commencement of meetings at The Elliott, in 1886, the forming of the present church at Bundaberg in 1923, and the opening of the Barolin Street chapel in 1926. Special speaker for the occasion was the Conf. Pres., A. McK. Surtees. The anniversary tea was fully catered for by the Christian Women's Fellowship. The birthday cake, made and donated by Mrs. M. Linderberg, was cut by one of the oldest members now in active fellowship, Mrs. C. Voss. Former members visiting for the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. C. Haaman (Pialba) and J. Adermann (Nambour) . . . Junior, Intermediate and Teens Depts. of the Bible Schools combined for annual demonstration and prizegiving on Oct. 22, and Barolin St. and Sims Rd. kindergartens combined in their programmes and prizegiving on Oct. 24.



University of W.A.

## PERTH

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C.Y.F.  
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JANUARY 5 - 12, 1967

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ing travel arrangements.

# Rights and Dangers of Private Judgment

No. 8

BY C. E. CURTIS (S.A.)

To deny the place of private judgment would imply that we have an infallible authority in the church or that Scripture needs no interpretation. The moment we read the Bible we must interpret it, and each person has the right, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to seek the living Word within the written word.

"It is to men and women in the context of their existence that the Word of God in the Bible speaks. The light which critical study can bring, the light which comes from the mind and experience of the church, these illumine the meaning of the Bible for those who would understand it, but it is for them that it speaks the divine Word of love and judgment" (Peake's Commentary).

There is a danger of finding in the Bible what one desires, or what one has been told he will find or must find. There is also a danger in taking personal experience and knowledge to mean personal authority to give judgment on any Biblical question. While recognising many dangers and personal limitations believers can give an authentic witness to the Truth they have seen and known.

A quotation from the Proposed Basis of Union of the Uniting Church of Australia might help us. "The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain all things necessary to salvation; they announce to us the name and pur-

pose of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and declare the mighty acts of God in reconciling the world through Jesus Christ, who alone, without qualification, can be called the Word of God. The church's message is controlled by the Word, spoken in Jesus Christ and mediated through Holy Scripture, which is the unique earthly instrument through which the church hears the Living Word, and the decisive measure by which her life on earth is tested and through which it is renewed . . . there resides in the church a power of teaching and setting forth the Faith."

The church must witness to the Word of God in Christ and what it teaches is an enlargement, and interpretation, and application of the Word of God in the Bible. This teaching of the church is drawn from the private judgment and personal experience, not of one person who might be mistaken, but from the combined knowledge and experience of a great company of believers, and presented by those most qualified to do so. This is not suggesting that the church is infallible, but it does emphasise the belief that just as the Holy Spirit guides individuals into ways of truth so he guides the believing community for the benefit of individuals.

We all need the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the contribution and correction of each other in all communions in our continued search for the truth in Jesus Christ.

## Christians of all Churches are cordially invited to the 48th Annual Belgrave Heights Convention

— An Australian "Keswick" or Victorious Life Gathering — to be held in the LARGE OPEN-SIDED AUDITORIUM on the Delightful Convention Grounds commencing DECEMBER 25, 1965, 7 p.m., through to JANUARY 3, 1966. Meetings daily 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

N.B. — No afternoon meetings three days only—Dec. 29, 30 and 31).

Chairman: A. E. Coombe.

Deputy Chairmen: L. E. Buck and J. H. McCracken, LLB.

### S P E A K E R S

J. W. SEARLE, B.A., B.D., former Principal of Melbourne Bible Institute. JOHN R. RENSHAW, M.A., B.D., Th.D., Dip.R.E., Minister of Belmont Methodist Circuit. J. OSWALD SANDERS, General Director, Overseas Missionary Fellowship (C.I.M.). J. GRAHAM MILLER, LL.B., B.D., Minister of Papakura Presbyterian Church, N.Z., New Principal of Melbourne Bible Institute. LANCE SHILTON, B.A., B.D., Th.L., Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Adelaide.

ALSO: Full C.S.S.M. Programme for Children, led by Ray Averill.

DAY VISITORS PLEASE NOTE: Good train and bus services. Also Special Buses from Melbourne on Dec. 27 and Jan. 1 & 3. (Bookings MUST be made by Dec. 23). Tea or boiling water provided, also Light Refreshments obtainable.

Programme and information about Buses, Accommodation, Caravan Sites, etc., obtainable from the Convention office—

c/o Keswick Book Depot, 317 Collins-st., Melbourne. Phone 62-2777.

## TREASURER FOR 37 YEARS

(Balwyn, Vic.). Final meeting of C.W.F. auxiliary paid tribute with presentations to Mrs. Sharpe, sen., who completed 37 years as treasurer, and Mrs. Stafford for 10 years as secretary . . . Stewardship and Finance Committee conducted morning service, with elder W. Smith as speaker . . . Modern Israel slides were shown by Mrs. Lodge at after-church fellowship . . . Exchange meeting of C.W.E.F. was conducted by "adopted" C.W.E.F. of York-st., Ballarat . . . Evening services throughout Dec., Jan. and Feb. will commence at 7.30 p.m.

## NORTHCOTE BAPTISMS

(Vic.). On Oct. 31 there were two baptisms, one a married woman and the other a senior scholar from the school. On Nov. 7, Linda Blackeby was received into the church. Two young people from the school made decisions. Being Boys' Sunday, a number of boys took part during the service . . . There were two baptisms on Nov. 14. Paul Parker, of India, was the speaker . . . The B.S. picnic held at Plenty, and a Father and Sons' tea were special events during the month.

## EXPLORER FINAL RALLY

Parents, leaders, boys, families are invited to attend the Final Rally for 1965, at Nicholas Hall, Lonsdale-st., Melb., on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7.45 p.m.

A cheque for £500 for Londua, New Hebrides, will be presented by the boys to the Overseas Mission Committee. —R.V.L.

## MISSIONARY PROJECTS

(Noble Park, Vic.). C.W.F. is continuing with its support of a doctor boy in New Guinea, and the B.S. is making good progress with their Indian boy project. A missionary weekend has been arranged for the early part of 1966 . . . Three B.S. scholars recently confessed Christ at gospel services, and several others made decisions at other meetings.

**BLACK ROCK.** C.Y.F., under leadership of D. Potter (C.O.B.) has been active and has enlisted new members. Has assisted with services on several occasions. B.S. anniversary speakers were Mrs. K. Clencie, L. Brooker, and the minister, P. Payne. Adult discussion on B.S. problems, led to some good suggestions . . . Explorers took part in Boys' Sunday services. Young lad accepted Christ as Saviour. **SUNSHINE.** The church anniversary and homecoming, on Nov. 14, crowded the chapel with 143 for worship, past members assisting. B. Alcorn's address a tremendous challenge. Jean Milne was soloiste. Thanksgiving offering £116. J. Weldon preached at gospel service, soloiste being Glenys Fordham. Day was saddened by death of Mrs. Easton. Sympathy felt with W. Easton, also Wiseman family on passing of loved one. Officers elected W. Bruce, chairman; L. Rowe, sec.; F. Gillespie, treas; R. Iliff, B.S. supt. J.C.E. entertained elderly folk in wonderful style. **COLAC.** On Nov. 14, our student minister for 1966, Adrian Van Leen, from the College of the Bible, took part in both services. At the evening service, our minister, I. Allsop, baptized a young lady. She was welcomed into fellowship on Nov. 21 . . . The building of the Youth Hall is progressing.



## VICTORIA

### DEDICATION OF WORK PARTY

(York-st., Ballarat, Vic.). A dedication service for the work party leaving for New Guinea was held on Oct. 24. After-church fellowship with sister churches, between 80 and 90 present. Latest report is that all arrived safely in New Guinea and that there are many needs to be met. Workers will be away approx. six weeks . . . L. Park, from W.A., on Oct. 31, told of the work and showed slides of our mission stations, Carnarvon and Norseman, also details of the new Fairhaven Hostel recently opened . . . Boys' Sunday, on Nov. 7, featured a basket tea. Mr. Eden, returned missionary from New Hebrides, was guest speaker . . . Ballarat Churches of Christ combined ladies' meeting was held at York-st. on Oct. 19. Guest speaker was Matron Davies, of Margaret Coles Hospital, Melb.

### C.Y.F. WASH CARS

(Berwick, Vic.). The C.Y.F. raised £8/5/- in recent car wash, proceeds of which will go to procuring a pew for Monbulk Camp site chapel . . . Mr. Holloway, local chemist, showed slides of Flinders Ranges to C.W.E.F. . . . For the S.S. anniversary, parents and friends were invited to attend afternoon class session, followed by tea, and 6.30 p.m. service, when children took part in pageant. Alan Fletcher was speaker . . . Annual business meeting was held on Nov. 13. . . Prayer meetings continue to be held in members' homes . . . On Nov. 14, there was a farewell and presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Ladner who leave for W.A., also to David Skewes (C.O.B.) who has been assisting minister.

### £760 FOR TEMPLE DAY

(Blackburn, Vic.). Temple Day offering on Oct. 31 was £760. J. Neal and F. Levett were guest soloists, and R. V. Amos was speaker at both services . . . 50 boys and fathers attended tea on Boys' Sunday, Nov. 7. Leaders and boys of Explorer Club took part in gospel service . . . C.M.F. "Variety Revue" presented an entertaining programme. . . C.W.E.F. held a social evening at the home of Mrs. D. Warmbrunn, and office-bearers for 1966 were elected.

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## EVANGELISM PLANNED

(Peel-st., Ballarat, Vic.). The church is embarking on a crusade of "Evangelism Through Friendship." K. Harvey is to bring points for discussion to the Board. Plans are in hand to share with A. Avery and D. Smith . . . Mrs. Fishwick has had a prolonged illness. Mrs. Joyce Davies has had two sessions in hospital . . . The Ladies' Fellowship has almost liquidated the debt on the Hammond organ . . . Daryl McLeod is rendering excellent service caring for the church grounds . . . On Nov. 21, Graeme Paulson and Marshall Venz from Tweed Heads, provided instrumental music, and Graeme spoke to the church. . . The Y.P. clubs united to receive a visit from Ararat Y.P.

## END OF BEGINNING

(Collingwood, Vic.). The final meeting of the first stage of "Crusade to Collingwood" was a combined rally on Nov. 20. A thankoffering of £50 was received. Artists were Max Harrison, of Sydney, and the Gold-Coast Vocal-instrumentalists. Bible teacher, Mal Leask, from Sydney, gave a series of talks over the previous fortnight based upon Noah and the Flood, the theme being "Let's Take a New Look at the Old Book!" . . . The church has been made firmer in faith through these series of meetings, and thoroughly prepared for the Open Air Crusade to be conducted by Doug. Willis in the Housing Commission Area, commencing on Nov. 21.

## C.W.F. RAISES £130

(Swan Hill, Vic.). C.W.F. ladies held successful fete on 12th, realising over £130 . . . Teeners' Club and C.E. combined for swim night at Lake Boga . . . A young man was welcomed into fellowship on Nov. 7 . . . Lewis Park (Aborigines Missions) visited church recently with an illustrated address on Carnarvon and Norseman, W.A. . . . Work continues in good heart during time without full-time ministry. Recent speakers have been G. J. Andrews (B. & F. B. S.), E. K. Robinson (Robinvale), F. M. Cambridge (Dept. Social Service) and J. Graham (Methodist).

## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME

(Vic.). The churches at Warracknabeal, Brim and Minyip entered an intensive Planned Giving Programme, with Kevin Harvey as Director, from Nov. 1-12. The first week was devoted to preparation, instruction, etc; the second week commenced with a family tea on Monday; visitation and counselling Tuesday to

Thursday, and concluding with the report by the Director. Each family has been challenged to think and pray about their service in giving and working in the light of the sacrifice of Christ. The goal was an increase of 80 per cent, and if the ratio of pledged giving of slightly more than £1 per member is maintained this will be achieved. There has also been deep spiritual experience which has enriched the whole church.

## OBITUARY

Mrs. W. Easton.

Mrs. Georgina Easton died suddenly on Nov. 14. She had been in hospital for treatment and was expected to go home in a day or two when the end came. She had been in membership with the church for about 48 years, most of the time at Raleigh-st., Footscray, Vic. She married Will Easton and they had 45 years together. Their home was a place where Christ was honored, and many enjoyed their friendly hospitality. In recent years they were in fellowship at Sunshine church. During her earlier years at Footscray, Mrs. Easton taught in the Bible School and, over many years, led with ability in the missionary group of the C.W.F., being active in other groups also as in all the work of the church. As a visitor to the sick and elderly her work was outstanding. Mrs. Easton was a regular delegate to the Women's Conference council meetings, and worked on the Temperance Committee. The chapel at Footscray was crowded for the funeral service and many beautiful floral tributes spoke of the deep appreciation of her many relatives and friends. Mr. Hodgekiss, of Sunshine, and the writer, conducted the service. The prayers of many friends will be with Mr. Easton and other members of the families concerned—A. E. Hurren.

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# PERSONAL

## DISCIPLESHIP

Jim Phillips, Peter Gavrós, Forestville, S.A.  
 Mrs. Mauren Parsons, Alan Schrader, Wayne Fishwick, Peel-st., Ballarat, Vic.  
 Mrs. M. Clutterbuck, Miss M. Stewart, Whyalla, S.A.  
 Jane Wilson, Scott and Gregory Shaw, Bruce Bertram, John Rogerson, Doncaster, Vic.  
 Alan and Rodney Barrot, Ronald Skermer, Noble Park, Vic.  
 Colleen Lawgall, Charles Lawgall, Bernie James, Selwyn Bryce, Maryborough - Baddow - Hervey Bay, Qld.  
 Heather and Steven Gray, Rhonda Brereton, Ungarra, S.A.  
 Russell Allison, Black Rock, Vic.  
 Peter and Barry Brown, Koongarra Park, S.A.

## MEMBERSHIP

Robert Benghamy, Pyramid Hill to Swan Hill, Vic.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Geoff. Tetlow, Shenton Park, W.A. to Ipswich, Qld.  
 Mr. and Mrs. T. Long, Pendle Hill; Dianne Webb, Canberra, to Marrickville, N.S.W.  
 Carol Rogers, Cheryl Saunders, West Preston, Vic.

## MARRIAGES

Margaret Graham to Les Clarke, Peel-st., Ballarat, Vic.  
 Pat Clough, Nailsworth, to Rob Taylor, Forestville, S.A.  
 Ann Veryard to David Williams, North Beach, W.A.

## DEATHS

Mrs. Knowles, Mt. Evelyn, Vic.  
 B. Buffinton, Traralgon, Vic.  
 Mrs. Amelia Maria Wilton, Grote-st., S.A.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

R. J. Cook (formerly - 41 John-st., Williamstown, Vic.), now - Church of Christ Manse, High-st., Berwick, Vic. (Phone, Berwick 467).

## COMING EVENTS

**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.

## CHURCHES OF CHRIST

### BELGRAVE HEIGHTS CHRISTMAS CAMP

open to all young people over 15.  
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Further information from Ron Muller, 80 Rostrevor-pde., Box Hill, 89-3294 (Melb.).

## 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.

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## BIRTHS

**McGREGOR (Jeeves)**. On Nov. 14, at "Nan-Org," Croydon, Vic., to Lillian and Wal, a daughter — Wendy Joy. Sister to Peter and Jeffrey. Both well.

**WARDLE (Chivell)**. — Mavis, Lance, and little Shane, are thrilled to announce the arrival of Sonia Mandy, at Hopetoun B.N.H., on Nov. 24.

**GOODMAN (nee Crabtree)**. — On Nov. 30, at Margaret Coles House, Melb., to Dorothy and Rupe, a son — Peter Lloyd. Both well.

## APPROACHING MARRIAGE

**TELFER - LAWRIE**. — Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Telfer, of Mundalla, S.A., have much pleasure in announcing the marriage of their eldest daughter, Judith Dawn, to Graham Thomas, second son of Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Lawrie, of Beverley, S.A., to be solemnised at the Mundalla Church of Christ on Dec. 4, at 2 p.m.

## IN MEMORIAM

**GIFFORD**. — In loving memory of our dear mother, and grandmother, Daphne, passed away Dec. 1, 1964. "Forever with the Lord."  
 —Inserted by her children and grandchildren.

**JENKIN**. — Treasured memories of Frederick Thomas, devoted husband of Alice, loving father of Lois Sutherland, passed away Dec. 4, 1964. "Peace! Come away."  
 —Sadly missed. Deeply mourned.

**PEET**. — In memory of Norman, loved husband of Ruby, father of Rae, Ray and family, and Mavis. Passed away Dec. 4, 1963. "Ever remembered."

## SITUATIONS VACANT

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# OBITUARY

## Mrs. Daisy Rosendale.

Mrs. Rosendale, a well known figure in Echuca, Vic., arrived with her husband and family in 1937, died on Oct. 6 after a short illness. Her life was of continual service to her family, her community and her church. As a citizen of Echuca she stood alongside her husband, as Mayoress of Echuca. To this position she brought charm and graciousness, both of which were integral to her outgoing personality. It was her foresight and interest which spearheaded the commencement of the Echuca Girls' Basketball Association. Her most valuable service to the community was that of Christian Education instructor within the two State Schools. For 20 years she taught the infant grades, which meant that every Protestant boy or girl received their Christian education from her. Her love for young people, especially children, was her outstanding work. She has served the Church of Christ in Echuca faithfully in many areas, as President of C.W.F., leader of girls' clubs, deaconess and kindergarten superintendent. The funeral service was conducted by B. L. Pryor, and a memorial address was given by F. J. Funston, the President of Churches of Christ in Vic. and Tas.—B. L. Pryor.

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## TEENAGERS BAPTIZED

(Doncaster, Vic.). Five teenagers were baptized on Nov. 21, and four young people made decisions. After the service, Murray McNicol (elder) farewelled student minister, Malcolm Gaskin, prior to leaving for Adelaide. Malcolm was thanked for his service with the young people and a presentation was made on behalf of the church. Malcolm Gaskin was the preacher in morning of Nov. 21.

## CHURCHES MEET

(Nth. Fitzroy, Vic.). The church boards of all denominations in the area met to see how the churches could work together . . . In friendship week, from Nov. 7 to 14, members visited and invited friends into their homes . . . The Y.P. were hosts to youth from Church of England, Baptist Church and Salvation Army, at an after-church fellowship on Nov. 21. The Y.P. were in camp at Marysville on Nov. 26-28.

## PRESTON Y.P. CELEBRATE

(Vic.). Miss Beverley Price and Noel Wolstencroft welcomed guests at the Premiere Ball of the Preston church Young People's Club, held on Nov. 1 at the Coburg Town Hall.

Among the 120 people attending were young people from North Essendon, Boronia, Ringwood, Malvern, Cheltenham, Coburg and Northcote churches. Notable people present were Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Longthorp, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Morgan, and Mr. and Mrs. S. W. McCredden. Members of the Officers' Board of the Preston church attended, accompanied by their wives.

Guests of honour were: Sgt. and Mrs. Mason. Mrs. Mason selected Berin Thompson as "belle" of the ball. Berin wore an Empire line evening gown of peacock green in shiny rayon. The gown had a scooped neck and a facing panel in the back. She wore a matching headband, and white gloves.

## FAMILY BAPTIZED

(Bentleigh, Vic.). A family was baptized on Nov. 7. In the morning, the minister, A. R. Pigdon, conducted a S.S. teachers' dedication service . . . Several car loads of members went to Traralgon to share in the opening of the new church there . . . On Nov. 14, J. O. Sanders, of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship addressed the church. R. Ratten led the choir in the Missionary Cantata.

## BOYS' SUNDAY SERVICES

Reports indicate that a great many churches in Vic. observed Boys' Sunday on Nov. 7. It was a time of rich inspiration; many boys made their decisions for Christ. These comments tell part of the story:—

"The service last night was a most inspiring one for young and old."

"We had 130 present at night — the chapel holds 120! A discussion followed the sermon. One boy made his decision."

"The church attendance was the largest for some time."

## FRIENDSHIP GESTURE

(Bayswater, Vic.). To extend the hand of friendship to ladies on the fringe of the church, the C.W.F. entertained 56 ladies and 25 children at a luncheon, followed by a short devotional and musical programme. Guest artists were Mrs. De Jong, Croydon; Mrs. F. Finger, Bayswater; and Mrs. R. Davis, Bayswater . . . The Good Companions' street stall raised £43.

## DECISIONS AT BOX HILL

(Vic.). A B.S. scholar made his decision for Christ on Nov. 21, when four young people were baptized . . . Ian Mullen, the second of our young men to recently receive the call to the ministry, commences training at the College of the Bible in 1966 . . . Group Fellowship continues with an average attendance of 100 . . . The C.W.F. break-up was held at the home of Mrs. Jeffery. Gifts were received for Christmas distribution to Mosgiel and Box Hill Hospitals.

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7 p.m. — ADVENT ADDRESSES.

Dec. 4 (No. 1) — "IT HAD TO HAPPEN!"

# CHRISTMAS JOY

By Mrs. R. STAFFORD, Harvey, Western Australia.

## MEDITATION.

Christmas reveals the power of God's love. It was God's love that broke into the world on that first Christmas day. That same love can break into your life this Christmas. Pray that it may break down every barrier — prejudice, or pride, or bitter feeling, or some secret sin. "Thy love unknown has broken every barrier down; now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come."

Hymn No. 877, "Love Came Down at Christmas."

## PRAYER.

Our dear Heavenly Father, we thank thee for the gift of thine only begotten Son, that through him we may have direct access to thy presence. As we draw near to the Christmas season, let us look up and see the Star, and as Christian women do all we can to keep the true meaning of Christmas before our families and friends. May we be deeply conscious of the tie of love that binds families together, and may we be filled with the peace of heart and mind which God intends us to have through the coming of his Son into this world. Amen.

## DEVOTIONS.

We move from one Christmas to another with such speed that the last year's echoes of "Merry Christmas" have hardly trembled into silence before life is again bedecked in festive robes and the commercial use of sacred hymns, texts and greetings jars the senses.

But amongst those who love the Lord, the message of ancient times will come

with the same power and hope and peace as at the first. The strength and hope and rest of the people of God is not in the might of conquering powers, not in the inheritance of a civilisation or racial standing, it is not in the coming of a season or of a festival, a feast or a fast, not in being a child of the age, but in the knowledge of the One who has brought life and immortality to us. Surrounded by the press of busy things, we have discovered that in quietness and confidence shall our strength be.

We come then to Christmas, and the world also comes, but with us there is that deeper meaning, that richer fellowship which changes the meaning of a "Merry Christmas" into a "Joyful Christmas," because our joy is full, and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, whose birthday we honour.

"Wise men and shepherds, a manger — a star,

Always at Christmas how vivid they are,  
Always at Christmas what meaning they hold,  
May they this Christmas bring blessings untold."

Christmas joy is not to be found in tinsel and glitter alone, nor in mere gift giving. Perhaps after we have sent our cards, decked our trees, wrapped our presents, sung our carols, and shared our feast, we shall have time for reflection.

The spirit of Christmas is truly that time when the real meaning of Christmas comes to us — it is when with thankful hearts we remember and praise our God for the blessing of that day when he so loved us he gave his only Son that we might have life.

Hymn No. 865, "Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love."

## MISSIONARY NEWS.

## MISSIONARY PRAYER.

## BUSINESS.

## ADDRESS.

Hymn No. 69, "As With Gladness."

## BENEDICTION.

## IMPORTANT!

For many years, the Women's Devotional Programmes have been published monthly in the "Australian Christian," and we are grateful for this service. With this issue, however, the series will cease, and we take this opportunity of thanking all those who have contributed through the years.

The publication of the Christian Women's Fellowship Handbook has made the printing of monthly devotional programmes unnecessary, and women are urged to give to the Handbook the same prayerful attention that they have given to the Devotional Programmes. Handbooks may be obtained from all State C.W.F. secretaries.

Regular features for women will appear twice monthly in the "Australian Christian," including "Christian Women Serving," and a column of "News for Women." Contributions of news items of particular interest, and opinions on important issues may be sent to me c/o this journal.

Beverly M. White.

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## "BELIEVERS" IN RUSSIA

(Moscow). A survey published by the Communist Party journal "Kommunist," of workers in an industrial town showed that 10 per cent are "religious believers."

The magazine regretted that some members of the intelligentsia — doctors, teachers, and engineers — have stopped regarding religion as an ideological opponent and indicated that questioning children at school about their families' religious practices has helped to direct the Communist Party's atheist propaganda.

The survey, in which participation was voluntary, was carried out among 13,000 families, or approximately half the inhabitants of the town of Shuya. Of those questioned, 10 per cent declared that they were believers, but the investigators found, after further questioning, that 8 per cent were waverers, and only 2 per cent were firmly convinced believers.—E.P.S.

## CHURCH SCHOOL COLOR BAN

(Capetown). An African, an Anglican church warden and school teacher who has been trying for several years to get one of his three children into a white church school, announced here he has given up "in despair" of all hope of succeeding.

J. S. Thomas, who has made three attempts to get one of his daughters accepted by the all-white Anglican Herschel School for Girls, to test the "sincerity" of the Anglican position that racial discrimination in church schools is indefensible, said he had abandoned plans to have his daughter, Rona, 9, enrolled there. Another daughter, 13-year-old Nora, was denied acceptance in the same school earlier this year on grounds that she failed the entrance examination.—E.P.S.

## USE CHRISTMAS GIFT FORM

SEE BACK PAGE.

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## OPEN FORUM

### ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

To the Editor,

I refer to the article with the above title in "A.C." of Nov. 27.

I have known bee-keepers to use perforated zinc sheets, cut into regular holes of even size to exclude all bees bigger than workers; no drones, no queens in the excluded compartment. No eggs, no new life there.

I have known political parties that lopped all tall poppies. No new leaders — no new life; at the best, stale maintenance.

The Scriptures give us the wisdom of God digestibly prepared. Three score years and ten are all too short for us to absorb fully the inexhaustible love and care that are stored there for our daily, yearly and lifetime enlightenment.

The churches with their creeds, seek mass production with its monotonous product. God has given a whole divine creed which needs no human additions or subtractions. Its appeal does not depend on natural gifts, age, color, size, sex; it is for all, and needs only that we be diligent seekers and doers, having loving contact with our fellows.

Encumbered with the shackles of a creed, how are we to respond to new light revealed in our seeking in the book of light, or in converse with another of another creed? God is truth and no man's say-so licenses us to turn the deaf ear to truth. Our creed becomes a second master and we cannot serve two masters.

### • RHODESIAN REPORT

#### CHRISTIAN RIGHT TO DISOBEY SMITH GOVERNMENT UPHELD BY RHODESIAN BISHOP

(Salisbury, Rhodesia). The senior Anglican bishop in Rhodesia, the Rt. Rev. Cecil Alderson, in an appeal from the pulpit of Salisbury Cathedral two days after Rhodesia's declaration of unilateral independence, condemned the government of Premier Ian Smith and declared that Christians had a right, and perhaps a duty to disobey its laws.

Addressing 500 worshippers at the morning service, Dr. Alderson, who is Bishop of Mashonaland, declared: "Naturally we do not expect to escape the penalties of disobedience, any more than the apostles escaped when they proclaimed the truth against the Jewish authorities' injunctions.

"It cannot be required of a Christian, as a moral duty, to obey laws unlawfully enacted, but clearly their authors will exact penalties for breach of law.

"I cannot think it would be right for a Christian to break laws clearly designed for the public good, such as traffic and health laws. Much greater difficulties arise from laws designed to subvert the displaced Constitution.

"Submission under protest may not be enough then. There is a Christian right and maybe a Christian duty, to disobey."

Speaking specifically of the unilateral declaration of independence, the Bishop added: "I believe none of the conditions

We desire creeds to satisfy our longings for "dummies" because we do not believe in the presence of the Holy Spirit. "God is our Shepherd and we shall not want."

—Harold T. Darwin, S.A.

(Ed. But see also "Do Creeds Serve Any Purpose?" in the same issue).

### TRIUMPHS OF GRACE.

To the Editor,

I refer to letters in "Open Forum" titled "Triumphs of Grace."

It is essential that the questions raised by Mr. Cant in his letter be answered truthfully by all in our churches today. There is an increasing tendency to treat Aborigines as something or some one different from human. The more they are treated as people, the more responsive they become to teaching.

I have known the men mentioned in the article "Triumphs of Grace" whilst serving as a Welfare Officer in their area for three years. There is no doubt that there are members in our churches today whose past lives prior to their acceptance of Christ, would have been no better than that of the Aborigines named in the article. During the past 20 years no new white members' past sins have been described so emotively with their name quoted, in church papers. Why?

Mr. Boys, in "A.C.", seems to have missed the point of Mr. Cant's letter. I am sure Mr. Cant rejoices in the fact of the Aborigines accepting Christ. The future is more important than the past.

I. S. Johnston, W.A.

### INTER-RACIAL CHURCH SERVICE

(Jackson, Miss.). Galloway Memorial Church, the largest Methodist Church in Mississippi, admitted Negroes for the first time after Bishop Gerald Kennedy, of Los Angeles, refused to speak to a segregated congregation.

Bishop Kennedy called the action of the 3,000-member church "an encouraging sign of a new kind of thinking in the church in the Deep South."

In 1964, ushers at the church turned away a Negro bishop and a white bishop. The incident involved Bishop Charles Golden, of Nashville, and Bishop James K. Mathews, of Boston.—E.P.S.

### DR. HENDRIK KRAEMER DIES

(Driebergen, Netherlands). Dr. Hendrik Kraemer, one of the great strategists and statesman of the missionary movement, and a pioneer leader of the ecumenical movement, died here on Nov. 11, at the age of 77.

Dr. Kraemer had been the first director of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, near Geneva, a post from which he retired in 1955. Since then he had been writing and living in retirement.

A scholar of Oriental languages and religions, he spent the early part of his ministry working in Java, where he translated the Bible and other Christian writings into indigenous languages. On the basis of this experience he wrote "The Christian Message in a Non-Christian World," a volume which has been called "the most widely praised missionary book of our time."—E.P.S.

### PEACE BUILDING

An editorial in "Renewal," a non-denominational Protestant monthly published by the Chicago City Missionary Society, proposed a one-year moratorium on church building throughout America. It suggested the money should be pooled in a fund for peace, to be administered by an interdenominational board.—E.P.S.

### NEW BIBLE LANGUAGE

A tremendous demand is reported for the new translation of the Bible in the Tiv language of northern Nigeria. Within three weeks 10,000 copies were sold and 15,000 more were ordered. Although there are only 12,000 church members, 105,000 people attend the church services. One recent service at Zaki Biam was attended by 4,000 people.—E.P.S.

### CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

In Osaka, Japan, nearly 2,600 persons responded to advertisements in the local newspaper offering Bible study correspondence courses.—E.P.S.

### LEPROSY DAY

The 13th annual observance of World Day for Leprosy Sufferers will be marked in the U.S.A. on Jan. 30, 1966.—E.P.S.

### NEWS AND REPORTS

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## Moments of Worship



Thursday, Dec. 9. Acts 14: 19-23. Supposing that he was dead (v. 20).

The pendulum swung again. The Jews were so relentless in their opposition to the gospel that some of them came from Antioch and Iconium to Lystra and stirred up the people to such violence that they stoned Paul and left him for dead. They dragged his body outside the city. Paul soon recovered. There is no suggestion that this was a miracle. Paul was not dead, but he came so close to suffering the same penalty he had once approved for Stephen. If this had happened, he would have joyfully received the privilege of suffering for his Lord.

Our Father, we know that the gospel came to us at great cost. May we be ready to pay our share. Amen.

Friday, Dec. 10. Acts 14: 24-28. He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles (v. 27).

A great amount of pioneer missionary work is compressed into a few verses. From Lystra the apostles went on to Derbe, where they appear to have won most of the town. Then they decided to retrace their steps. The new causes they had established needed strengthening. Despite the unpleasant experiences in some of the towns, they revisited Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia. Paul made it clear that persecutions would continue. They appointed elders in every church. Then they went on to Pamphilia, Perga, and Attalia. After being absent for about three years they returned joyfully at last to Antioch in Syria, the missionary base from which they had set out.

O God, we pray that we may be used to open doors of faith in our day. Amen.

Saturday, Dec. 11. Acts 15: 1-5. Charge them to keep the law of Moses (v. 5).

Up till now God had been looked upon as the privileged possession of the Jews. God had chosen them, and they acted as if they owned him. Down to Antioch, then, came some Jewish Christians who argued that the Gentile Christians should also keep the law of Moses. That is, they would have to become Jews as well as

Christians. Greatly disturbed by this, the Antioch church sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to take up this whole question with the apostles and elders.

Dear Lord, there are some answers that can be found only through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and we thank you for the freedom the Spirit brings. Amen.

Sunday, Dec. 12. Acts 15: 6-11. We shall be saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus (v. 11).

Paul and Barnabas found a strong ally in Peter. That influential leader had already had to overcome his own prejudices, and he knew beyond doubt that keeping the law could save no one. He said that the Gentiles should not be saddled with the burdens the Jews themselves could not carry. Jew and Gentile could together go straight to the grace of Christ to meet their needs.

O Christ, we know that we cannot earn your favour, but we do accept it as your free gift. Amen.

Monday, Dec. 13. Acts 15: 12-21. My judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles (v. 19).

The speaker is James, the brother of Jesus. Since the resurrection James had gradually gained a place of leadership at Jerusalem because of his goodness, his prayerfulness, and his strict observance of the Law. If he belonged to any party, he was closest to the very Hebrews who wanted to impose the Law on the Gentiles. On any count, then, his view was important. When he came out on the side of Paul and Barnabas, the issue was settled. Note, however, that James urged the Gentiles not to flaunt their freedom, but to use it to strengthen their bonds with the Jewish Christians.

Our God, we thank you for the wisdom which guided the early church. We, too, need your wisdom for our day. Amen.

Tuesday, Dec. 14. Acts 15: 22-29. The same things by word of mouth (v. 27).

To demonstrate their good will, the church at Jerusalem sent two of its leaders as official carriers of the views of the apostles and elders. Although Barnabas

and Paul were given a letter making the position quite clear, the presence of Judas and Silas would count for a great deal. They would make it impossible for any to accuse Paul and Barnabas of incorrectly reflecting the views of the church.

Eternal Father, we value the conciliatory spirit in the early church and pray that our problems will also be resolved without division. Amen.

Wednesday, Dec. 15. Acts 15: 30-41. There arose a sharp contention (v. 39).

The unity of the church at Antioch received a great set-back. Great doctrinal questions had been settled without division, but a personal issue broke a great partnership. After deciding to revisit the churches established on the missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take with them Mark, the one-time deserter. Paul refused, and the difference was so strong that the two men separated and never worked together again. We cannot say that Paul was wrong even when we say that Barnabas was right in giving Mark his confidence. This encouragement may well have saved Mark.

Dear Lord, we know that it is wrong to quarrel, but we rejoice that even our differences can be used for good. Amen.

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