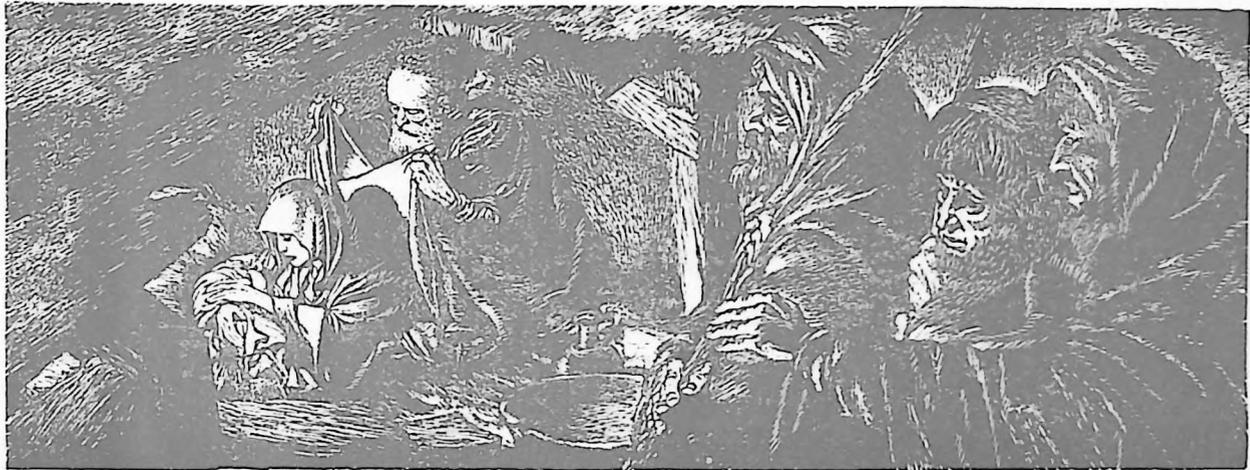


GOD'S INEXPRESSIBLE GIFT



*They marvelled at the graciousness of God
Who called them to the infant Saviour's side,
And, having nought of worth that they might bring,
They gave themselves to Him that blessed night!*

—Thelma Allinder.

GIVE
"THE CHRISTIAN"
THE GIFT
THAT LASTS

THE AUSTRALIAN
CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL WEEKLY OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST
Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a Newspaper.



Editorial

I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS

I believe in Santa Claus who fills heaven and earth with tinkling bells and Christmas carols, who brings happiness to boys and girls all the way from Alaska to Hobart Town, whose sunny smile rises in October and does not set until January, who reunites families and who reminds us that it is time to remember the friends we have neglected for a year. I believe in Santa Claus who costs most of us more than we can afford.

It doesn't much matter how the present big business of Santa Claus got started. It is quite certain that, if St. Nicholas came back to the cities of men, he would not recognise himself in the five-storey-high likenesses or in the multiplication of himself in a dozen stores in every town.

It is even doubtful if he would be allowed back into the business he started. The Trade Union of Fathers Christmas would not accept him as a member unless he put in for overtime rates and danger money. And he would almost certainly require the permission of the Australian Federation of Air Pilots before he got his reindeer off the ground.

However, the true Santa would not want to get involved in what goes on in his name. The secularisation and commercialisation of Christmas would both horrify and disgust him.

It has always been our conviction that the original Santa Claus was following the example of the Wise Men when he wandered around Myra making his gifts to the poor. The Wise men made their gifts to Jesus, and so did old Nicholas, who doubtless remembered the words of the Master that, in giving clothes, food and drink to the needy, he was in fact giving to Christ.

Before the Wise Men offered their gifts, they first made a pilgrimage to Christ and knelt before him. Before Santa Claus made his gifts to the poor, he also made a pilgrimage to Jesus.

This is something that we can all do. Each make his own pilgrimage to Christ. First find him, offer to him our lives, and then make gifts in his name. This is the one way to put Christ back into Christmas.

We cannot truly celebrate Christmas simply by exchanging gifts with each other. Pleasant though this is, and justifiable though it may be on other grounds, it is not making a true Christmas gift. "If you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others?"

What the world does to Christmas is its shame. What we do for Christ can make Christmas a new experience of redemptive love and sacrificial service.

I believe in Santa Claus, but I make my commitment to Christ.

HE CAME TO BETHLEHEM

*He came to Bethlehem that night,
But men were dulled by sin;
They could not see the heavenly light,
And none would take Him in.*

*He comes to our fair town today
To conquer sin and gloom;
He seeks a heart that will obey,
And one to give Him room.*

*May I be one to see the Christ
Through clutter, gifts and mirth,
And keep the annual, holy trust
With Him, the Hope of earth.*

—CARLTON C. BUCK.
"The Christian."

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December 10

FEDERAL CONFERENCE CONSIDERS . . .



The Reign of Our Redeeming Lord

BY GEO. SMITH

The one of whom we speak is not under question. Scripture sets before us Christ, the Messiah, as King. He must reign. The teaching of our Lord is embraced in the phrase "the Kingdom of God." He who was born to be King launched his public ministry with "the gospel of the Kingdom." In prayer, parable and proclamation he declared that the Administration, Authority and Admission to the Kingdom were invested in him.

Men, mothers, criminals, crowds, enemies and kings talked of his kingship. Following the resurrection, heralds of the king went everywhere declaring, "God hath made him both Lord and Christ." Lord of the dead and the living . . . to rule over the Gentiles . . . to reign till he hath put all his enemies under his feet . . . at the right hand of God above all rule and authority . . . given a name above every name, that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . ruler of the kings of the earth . . . King of the ages . . . King of kings . . . to reign for ever and ever.

We make three observations concerning the Reign of the Redeeming Lord.

Anchored in Events

The gospel is not philosophy nor phil-anthropy. It is not theory nor thesis. It is an event. Once and for all the Word has become flesh. The Kingdom of God has broken in. The gospel is God's invention, intervention and instrument. The universality and unanimity of the gospel is summarised in Paul's preaching . . .

"We preach Christ crucified" . . . speaking of a Redeeming Lord, involving a Cross, doing something for us.

"We preach Christ raised from the dead" . . . speaking of a Risen Lord, involving Resurrection, doing something in us.

"We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord" . . . speaking of a reigning Lord, involving Ascension, doing something over us.

George Smith is Director of the Christian Welfare Centre, Perth, W.A.

1966

But how is this gospel received by the world?

Some say it's Incredible. We cannot believe God intervened in history. 20th century naturalism has caused restlessness and discontent towards the faith. Are we discouraged at newspaper headlines which speak of,

"Computer Challenges Authority of Church"?

Can we think up fresh criticisms which have not already been levelled at the gospel? But why should the world point up the questions? The early church reversed this situation by presenting a dramatic, dynamic, demanding gospel which probed the mind, heart and conscience of men.

Some say it's Irrelevant. The question of relevance is important. How much of our preaching could stand the test of being preached before 50,000 football fans, or a concert audience, or 100,000 television viewers? Are the facts declared relevant to a blatantly non-Christian world? I sympathise with one down-and-out who interrupted a speaker with the comment, "Mister, why don't you speak a language us blokes can understand?"

Some say it's Superfluous. Man's dominion of earth, sea and sky has added to the spirit of self-sufficiency. More of self and less of thee. Our generation has failed to transfer many items from its Intercessory list to its Thanksgiving list. Vast areas of life are no longer connected with God.

It is our task to become specialists in the presentation of the Instrument of the Reign of the Redeeming Lord, the gospel which is anchored in Events, by making it Credible, Relevant and vitally necessary to all men.

Assured in Eternity

We stand in danger of losing the value of the Christian hope. The "here and now" of this world, with its events and possessions, are nothing compared with the "there and then" of the fulfilment of God's plans.

When will this be? It is not for us to know the times, nor the seasons, which the Father has put into his own power. To know that God is in control gives us courage and power to face the world. There will be a day when

all kinds of evil will be melted out by the fire of his love. There will be a day when there will be no tears, no death, no injustice, no wickedness, no discrimination, no fear. A day of goodness and of gladness, a day when we shall be as God meant us to be.

This day is assured by the personality, death and resurrection of Christ. This is the believer's hope. All other hopes, no matter how attractive, are vain. The backdrop of all life's stresses and strains is "the kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

We shall never see the greatness of our task in this life until we understand the greatness of our Lord. Salvado Dali conveys this message to us in his stark painting of Christ on the Cross, as seen from above. The figure of our Lord, arms outstretched, is in light. He holds back the darkness, showing victory of light over darkness. From the Cross there streams down light on the world. Below is the Sea of Galilee, the lake, the boats, the shore, fishermen mending their nets. It is the same old world going about its daily work oblivious of the victory in the sky.

From the Cross came the cry: "It is finished."

From the Throne will come the cry: "It is done."

Between the first and the final cry we are involved in living it out.

Active in Experience

Our involvement in this interim period is to make real his reign. Jesus is Lord. To the world this is a hidden truth. Indeed his reign is denied.

It is denied in the world. Many have never heard of him. This is so of over half the world's population. Others who have heard but have never had the gospel presented in such a way that they have been able to make a response in complete surrender.

It is denied in society. We are aware of current racial tensions between black and white in many areas of society where violent apart-hates have seeped into communities. Political fractures between East and West diminish nat-

(turn to page 6)

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



Let Us Look Beyond the Tinsel
This Christmas . . . and See Jesus Christ

By James L. Christensen

GOD'S INEXPRESSIBLE GIFT

"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift."
—2 Cor. 9: 15.

When Paul described Christ as God's inexpressible gift, he was not polishing his style with impressive phraseology. The blessing of Christ was a gift from God, and to Paul it was beyond his ability to explain.

Where shall we find words, or poetry, or paintings, or music that can express the full limits of Jesus Christ? Not even Handel's "Messiah" with its stirring "Hallelujah Chorus" or Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" can bring out the full majesty of the Christ.

At this season when we are giving and receiving gifts, which is typical of the Christmas Spirit, let us not neglect declaring the worth to our lives of God's gift in Christ and receiving him anew into our inmost being. Why is Jesus Christ inexpressible?

I.

"God's Gift Is Inexpressible Because of the Love Which Prompted It.

Christmas does not centre in the goodness of man, but in the goodness of God. Christmas is not an exhibition of man's generosity, but of God's grace. Jesus Christ is given not because of man's deserving, but because of God's mercy. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son . . ." (John 3: 16).

The thought of Christ as God's gift pervades the entire New Testament: "He . . . spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all" (Romans 8: 32).

It was demonstrated in the incarnation, the self-humbling to which God was willing to go on our behalf. It is clearly seen in the crucifixion, the self-humiliation to which God was willing to go to claim us for his own. Such love is staggering and incredible to the human mind. Nevertheless, it is this incarnation of God that we celebrate this Christmas Day.

Something great happened in the incarnation, God had pity on men who were forever getting

into trouble. Our Heavenly Shepherd did everything possible to save men. As a last resort, he willed to "enflesh" himself, to "embody" his truth, to "incarnate" his spirit, in order to behave before men and communicate with them in a language we can understand.

Not all of God is in Jesus; but all of God that could be confined to a human being was in Jesus. It is enough for us to know God and his will.

If you think it would take great love for a man to put aside his human dignity, and endure the humiliation of living like a lamb, how much more was the love that prompted God to give himself in Jesus Christ!

Think of it — the Eternal One becoming younger than his creatures, as small as an infant; the omnipotent one is wrapped in swaddling cloths. He "emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2: 7, 8).

Like an artist coming into his own studio, surrounded by his own paintings, only to have the door slammed in his face, so "He came to his own, and his own received him not." What inexpressible love.

II.

Again God's Gift Is Inexpressible Because of the Value It Has Proved to Be.

However much you may cherish the other gifts which you have received at Christmas, or any time in life, they fade in value when compared to the worth of Jesus Christ. This is a gift for which you would not want to exchange any dividend, bonus or reward that could ever come your way this season. It is more to be coveted than a Congressional Award, the Nobel Prize, an Academy Award, Miss America, or any scholarship or recognition bestowed by man.

The gifts that grace your Christmas tree can all be measured in value — \$1, \$5, or \$100. But no economist, no mathematical calculation, no expert theologian can gauge the extent of Christ's

value to the history of the world, western civilisation, or the hearts of individuals. Reason falters, logic fails, orators stammer, and authors grope when confronted with such an evaluation. No master mind can divulge the deep mysteries concerning the incarnation.

We usually value most that which we need the greatest. Phillips Brooks, while writing a sermon for the Christmas season, penned a poem which has become a carol:

*"O little Town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark street shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight."*

One of the most suggestive metaphors concerning Jesus' contribution is his analogy as light. Isaiah prophesied, "The people who walked in darkness, have seen a great light . . . on them has light shined."

Today, we celebrate the fact that the light has come, for Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8: 12).

We take light so much for granted. Light is an aid to life. The necessary vitamins for healthy development are present in light; before it germs cannot endure. It cleanses, heals, and stimulates. Light is an exposer of dirt and filth; it is a guide through the darkness.

Spiritualise these concepts, and you can grasp the essential value of Jesus Christ. He is the golden beacon for mankind, the true North Star. Said Jesus, "He who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jesus is the illuminator and revealer. He ennobles our conception of God, our estimate of man, and our sense of values. He has shed light on the meaning of life, brought deliverance from the guilt and power of sin, and a new attitude towards trouble and suffering as instruments of God's grace.

It is impossible to tell with any accuracy the story of music or art or ethics or philosophy or religion and leave him out.

His coming brought a new spirit into the world, so decisive as to change the calendars to coincide with his coming. Behind every movement for the improvement of society, behind our belief in human rights and dignity, behind our hospital care and benevolent work, behind our concern for the aged, indigent, helpless and depraved, behind our business ethics and desire for righteousness, justice and peace — is the light of Jesus the Christ. Wherever that light has shone there is better living, more freedom, more respect for individuals, better schools, and a reverence for God.

III.

Finally, God's Gift Is Inexpressible Because of the Duration it Promises.

Other gifts you receive will decay, wear out, and perish. But Jesus Christ "is the same yesterday and today and for ever" (Heb. 13: 8).

*"Change and decay in all around I see
O thou, who changest not,
Abide with me."*

Augustus Caesar was the ruler of prestige and power when Jesus was born. He was the one before whom the people knelt in awe. He was on the central stage of the world. Today, only a few statues remain of his departed glory.

However, a helpless babe born in an obscure manger, crowded out of the Bethlehem inn, hunted by Herod, exiled to Egypt, has outlasted all the rulers of the world, and stands today "towering o'er the wrecks of time." Evil men nailed him to a cross, but he was raised to live in the midst of them. "Because I live, you will live also" (John 14: 19). "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16: 33). What inexpressible duration!

The offer of such a gift brings obligation. A gift has to be accepted. Having received Jesus Christ into one's heart, a response of gratitude which seeks a channel of service is obligatory.

Therefore, during this Christmas, let us look beyond the tinsel, the business boom, the parties, and the commercialised fanfares — to see Jesus Christ. Then wherever you are, in a sick room, crowded apartment, or spacious mansion, join the Apostle's refrain, "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift."

—"The Christian."

"What the World Needs More Of!"

Bertrand Russell, the well known philosopher, who for most of his life professed anything but Christianity, on his eightieth birthday, when asked what the world stood most in need of, very surprisingly said, "The root of the matter is a very simple and old fashioned thing; a thing so simple that I am almost ashamed to mention it, for fear of the derisive smile with which wise cynics will greet my words. The thing I mean — please forgive me for mentioning it — is LOVE, CHRISTIAN LOVE." (So said Rita Snowden in the introduction to one of her books.)

Is Russell's statement true? The Christian would willingly exclaim, "Undoubtedly so!" Yet why should it be true? Is it that somewhere or for some reason the message of Christian love has been lost or has been drained of its power?

When we read of the history of mankind, we may very easily recognise that what the world has always stood most in need of, is LOVE. In fact, it was for this very reason that God "gave his only Son."

God, in his immeasurable wisdom, saw that the world was so void of Love that he had to inject himself into the human scene in a spectacular way, in order that mankind might be reintroduced to LOVE.

"Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign."

"But," you say, "if this is so, how can Bertrand Russell claim that the world is still in need of LOVE?"

Surely, if God is Love, and God came into this world himself, then the world must have all the Love there is! But no! The world, true to form, crucified

Love, and has gone on eliminating Love at every opportunity.

In order that the influence of Love may spread more widely and more rapidly, Jesus, on his return to heaven, made it possible for his followers to carry on the work of Love. This was done by means of the Spirit of God — that is, the Spirit of Love — making his home within the life of every believer. As John states, "If we love, God is abiding in us." And if we do not love, we do not know God.

The statement of the learned philosopher is a sad commentary on the health of the world, and even to some extent on the health of the church. For to say that the world still needs Love so desperately seems to indicate that, almost 2,000 years after the coming of Love in human form, he has not been effectively introduced into human society.

Why is this? Could it be that the world continues blindly on its selfish, downward course? Could it be that the world has carefully considered its alternatives, and willfully chosen to reject the God who is Love? Or, what is most painful to the Christian, could it be that the way of Love has been but poorly presented?

How then, is the way of Love to be most effectively presented? First, we must realise and accept the fact that we could never ORDER or COMMAND a person to love, and leave it at that. Even God doesn't really do this, for when Jesus says, "Thou shalt love God . . . and your neighbour," he is declaring his recipe for successful living; and he still leaves it as a matter of personal choice. (Remember the choice of the rich young ruler?)

This means that any decision we may make to allow God to Love through us

must be entirely voluntary — our own choice! Then, having chosen, we must permit God to make some changes, and to effect some replacements. (Recall the parable of the evil spirit cast out, who returned with seven other spirits to reoccupy his old haunts, swept clean and left empty?)

We must be prepared to cease from all self-centred activity, and start to demonstrate Christian Love, by allowing God to operate through us.

Now what is this Christian Love?

Even Paul out of the wealth of his knowledge, experience and service could not define Love, and he refrains from attempting it. He has no words to say what Love is; he can only tell us what it does. We recognise Love when we see it in action. In just the same way, we cannot see what the wind is; we can only feel it, and see what it does. Is it because of this that the world is so starved for Love? Do people fail to see Love-in-action when they scrutinise the lives of those whom they expect to be champions of the cause of Love?

As Paul emphasises — Love expresses patience, kindness, unselfishness, modesty, hope, perseverance, goodness; to the exclusion of jealousy, grudges, conceit, rudeness.

I can never read this list, without being reminded of my woeful weakness and fragile faith — yet it likewise reminds me of my desperate dependence upon the God who is Love, and who has promised to give his Spirit to those who rely upon him.

If we may learn to avail ourselves of the power which God transmits, we would daily become more lively testimonies to the effect of Love in a life; and it would not be too long until we could turn and reply to Bertrand Russell — "Now, the world HAS all the Love it needs."

"Love ever gives,
Forgives, outlives;
And ever stands
With open hands;
And while it lives, it gives;
For this is Love's prerogative —
To give and give and give."

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

S.A. WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

A lighted Nativity scene, selected verses and Christmas hymns, gave a seasonal flavour to the December meeting at Grote St., presided over by Mrs. Lawton. Among the 149 present (119 delegates) were Miss Griswood, home from Carnarvon, and also Miss Maureen Rule and Miss Eileen Flynn, Aboriginal lasses from Western Australia.

Miss Hammond, in her devotions, reminded us that the early church "had rest and were edified" (Acts 9). With the next meeting not until February 2, business was long, but patience was repaid with the guest speaker, Keith D. Horne, who told us that although the story we have to tell as Christians will never change, we must be prepared to change our way of presentation in a fast changing world.

A lovely climax came when, after Miss Hammond farewellled Mrs. Lawton in word and prayer for her trip to America, as World President of Christian Women's Fellowship, the whole congregation joined together in repeating the Mizpah Benediction, "May the Lord watch between me and thee whilst we are absent one from the other."—Alma Eagle, asst. sec.

PREPARING FOR MISSION

(Naracoorte, S.A.). Church is in full preparation for J. K. Bond tent mission, Feb.-March, 1967. Mr. and Mrs. Benz have been released by the church at Gilgandra to lead in song and bring musical items. Good response to early morning prayer meetings and detailed preparation for counselling and follow-up using "Navigators" material. Prayer is being sought from Federal brotherhood. A steady stream of decisions for Christ continue each week . . . When E.P.C. Holland took services on Nov. 20, opportunity was taken to express sincere appreciation for leadership in H.M. work during the past 15 years . . . Successful C.W.F. meeting held in country at home of Mrs. I. Simons, with 26 ladies present. A panel answered questions submitted by members. Mrs. A. G. Leane led devotions . . . C.E. Union rally held Nov. 26, and young people attending came from Broughton, Horsham, Bordertown, Mt. Gambler and Frances.

GOOD FOUNDATIONS

(Mount Compass, S.A.). At first baptismal service in the newly renovated building, three girls were baptized. One is of the second generation, another is of the third, and the other is the third member of the fourth generation to be in membership with the church at Mt. Compass, and each of them is descended from families whose Church of Christ membership extends back into the early history of the churches in this State. . . . Max Davidson, B.Sc., Dip.Ed., and Mrs. Davidson, were farewellled prior to their departure to take a part time ministry at Yarrowonga, Vic.

THE SPEAKER SPEAKS

(Whyalla, S.A.). The 26th church anniversary services and Temple Day featured Mr. L. Riches, M.P., Speaker in the House of Representatives, as guest speaker at both services. At night, he used slides of his world tour and of religious art to illustrate his address . . . A deacons' dedication service was held for D. Lawrence (chairman), E. Bryant, D. Clutterbuck, J. Lawrie, M. Sumner (treas.), W. Tregloan (sec.) and W. Schmitz . . . B.S. and church combined in bringing groceries for Christmas parcels for needy families in district . . . C.W.F. held trading table and raised \$34; also British Paint demonstration was given . . . Four ladies attended Eyre Peninsula Women's Camp . . . Deepest sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. D. Hughes and family on the sudden death of Mr. Hughes' father of W.A., also to D. Hancock on passing of his brother.

INDUSTRIAL CHAPLAIN

(Cowardilla, S.A.). After many years' interest in Industrial Chaplaincy, and having attended the first training course for ministers, our minister was approached to take up part-time Chaplaincy with Clarke, Harrison Shoes, a factory employing 600. The church released Mr. Ots for at least four hours a week for the work in this factory. He spent eight hours the first day getting to know the people and was very well received. We see this as our church moving out into the community, and as an opportunity for our minister to relate the gospel to men and women in the hurly burly of the workaday world.

HALL FUND BENEFITS

(Berri, S.A.). An opportunity fair, conducted by C.W.F., realised \$236.36 for the Hall Fund . . . The church officers arranged a working bee for "repairs to manse" . . . There was a further decision on Nov. 27 . . . The Bible Society presented an interesting film recently. Volunteers installed a concrete cricket pitch on grounds of Berri Youth Camp at Lake Bonney, Barmera . . . Mr. and Mrs. Les. Haines were welcomed home after overseas trip.

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AWARDS TO CLOVELLY PARK

(S.A.). The Girls' Brigade and Cadets have a monthly church parade, with approximately 20 girls attending. Our Company won the Battalion Pennant again this year. Dianne Coventry was awarded a Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award at Government House . . . Alan Fletcher recently told the church of New Guinea mission work. The film, "Conversion Plus," was screened at a gospel service. The men led service, providing a quartette, and S. Page, Ray Martin and L. Rowe giving brief messages . . . E.P.C. Hollard preached his "farewell" sermon, before leaving to take up the ministry at Glenelg . . . The young people held a youth tea on Nov. 20 . . . The winner of the girls' section of the Temperance Alliance Quest, together with Mr. Pad-dick, were present to speak on Temperance Alliance work . . . The B.S. picnic was held at Longwood Camp site . . . Women's Fellowship activities have included a visit from the Red Cross Blood Bank, and a Mission to Lepers representative. The ladies visited the Methodist Fellowship.

Christmas . . .

As Christmas dawns upon us
May it bring to you a store
Of happiness far greater
Than you have known before.
May failures be forgotten
In the year that lies ahead,
Good health and cheer attend you
Whatever path you tread,
And when the New Year dawns again
With hearts still filled with cheer
May all the Christmas blessings
Continue through the year. —L.M.S.

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FATHERS, SONS, ETC.

(Melb.). The Victorian Branch of the Father and Son, Mother and Daughter Movement met for lunch at the "Victoria," on Nov. 29, and demonstrated how much food, fact and information can be taken in one hour without crowding.

The Dean of Melb. (The Very Rev. T. W. Thomas) was welcomed as the new State President, and he addressed the gathering on the subject of teenagers.

He pointed out that the teenager is quite vulnerable to various types of exploitation. "The English Schofield report of 1965, says 'Within our urban society has grown up the teenager mythology, built up by the press, the advertisers, and the special teenage pop-music magazines. This has created an image of how a teenager is supposed to behave. Here is an organised system of behaviour expectation and attitudes, and the young person acts out this role, largely learnt from the teenage group to which he belongs. Yet it is obvious that this teenage sub-culture has been created by the adult world, not by the young people themselves,'" Dean Thomas quoted from the report.

"Personally," he continued, "I have always been more than a little shocked

by the hypocrisy of a society which throws up its hands in horror at the behaviour of its teenagers.

"In point of fact, it has been itself largely responsible for that behaviour by permitting the exploitation of teenagers through deliberate fostering, for motives of gain, of the teenage mythology of which the Schofield report speaks."

The Dean was encouraged by an English authority who said recently, "Teenagers are beginning to revolt against the pressures brought to bear on them by a society which is titillating them and parading sexual appeals in advertisements, books and pictures."

The Victorian Director, Don Campbell, referred to the large number of life training programmes sponsored by schools and churches and that bookings had been made up to the middle of 1967 and beyond.

Churches of Christ were represented by Dr. W. A. Kemp, O.B.E., J.P., S.M., State Vice-President, who presided over the gathering, and F. M. Combridge, Asst. Sec. of the Social Service Dept., a newly appointed member of the Vic. Branch Council, moved a vote of thanks to the speaker.

• C.O.B.

THE SIXTIETH

The College of the Bible, Glen Iris, Vic., rounded off its Diamond Jubilee Year with moments of high inspiration on Nov. 18, when the Graduation and Ordination Service was held in Lygon Street chapel, in which a large congregation joined.

The Chairman of the Board of Management, F. P. Chipperfield, presided, and Principal E. L. Williams gave an interesting resume of the year's activities and presented diplomas to those who had completed their studies. Will Compston, on behalf of his fellow outgoing students, acknowledged the enriching experience of the years in College. A very helpful address was delivered by A. B. Withers.

H. J. Patterson conducted the Ordination Service, assisted by A. R. Lloyd,

E. L. Williams and W. J. Kennon. This service of commitment was deeply moving for both ordinands and those who shared in intercessory prayer for their spiritual well-being and service in the churches.—K. A. Jones.

C.E. LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

(Sydney). The Second National Summer School of Leadership organised by the National C.E. Union of Aust., will be held at "Naamaroo," Lane Cove, National Park, N.S.W., Jan. 9-16, 1967. A wide range of subjects will be dealt with. Registrations close on Dec. 21, with Mrs. J. Perry, Registrar, P.O. Box 33, Roselands, N.S.W.

HOLIDAY CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Christian Ethics, Christian Missions, Elementary Greek, Epistle to the Romans, Principles and Methods of Evangelism, Religious Education and Youth Leadership — these are the seven subjects available this year in the holiday period, December to February.

Any interested person may enrol, and will receive ten lessons published as printed booklets, with guide to further reading and a free booklet on study methods. These lessons are issued on a non-denominational basis by the Committee for External Studies of Moore Theological College, Sydney. An optional examination is held in February, and those who sit are eligible to undertake guided Practical Work. Candidates who pass in both the examination and Practical Work are awarded a subject Certificate in the subject passed.

The fees are \$3 per subject, and either one or two subjects may be taken.

Full details of the subjects offered may be obtained by writing to The Secretary for External Studies, Moore Theological College, Newtown, N.S.W. See advertisement on page 13.

BOYS IN ACTION

(Box Hill, Vic.). Boys' Sunday was celebrated with Lads and Dads tea, choir items, and an address on "Oh, Boy—What a Life." Box Hill is proud of its service among about 80 boys each week, under the leadership of "Chief" Ted. Gray . . . Mrs. Mottram recently welcomed from Dandenong church, and Mr. and Mrs. England, from England. . . B.S. picnic was held at North Bayswater . . . C.W.A.F. entertained nearly 50 at their break-up party, when Mr. and Mrs. Waghmode and Dinu were guests. Each received a gift from the Christmas tree, and jars of sweets were donated for Hospital Christmas Cheer. . . Shirley Langley, Senior Good Companions' Leader, farewelled prior to her teaching engagement in the Western Dist. . . Boys and men of our three cricket teams in full attendance, when the film "Barriers to Faith" was screened on Nov. 27 . . . Church saddened by the sudden passing of a stalwart member, Frank Clark.

• MUSIC

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IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

BY W. R. HIBBURT

IF WE QUIT LYING TO OURSELVES

As long as we live, we have to live with ourselves, and we do not want to live with a dishonest purpose. To think of honesty in terms of pounds, shillings and pence is an over simplification of honesty. Honesty with self is the supreme test. Shakespeare's familiar words leave no way of escape: "To thine ownself be true, and it follows as the night the day that thou canst not be false to any man."

John Ruskin addressed himself to the inner man, saying, "The essence of lying is deception, not in words; a lie may be told in silence, by equivocation, by the accent of a syllable, by a glance of the eyes, attaching a peculiar significance to a sentence; and all these kinds of lies are worse and baser by many degrees than a lie plainly worded."

God's Word warns that the heart of man is deceitfully wicked. Conscience disturbs us when we lie to ourselves. Victor Kropf, in his poem, "Myself," alerts our minds to the way of transparent honesty with self.

"I have to live with myself, and so
I want to be fit for myself to know,
I want to be able, as days go by,
Always to look myself in the eye.
I don't want to stand with the setting sun
And hate myself for the things I've done.
I don't want to keep on the closet shelf
A lot of secrets about myself,
And fool myself as I come and go,
Into thinking that nobody else will know
The kind of man I really am;
I don't want to dress up myself in sham.
I want to go out with my head erect.
I want to deserve all men's respect.
But here in this struggle for fame and pelf
I want to be able to like myself.
I don't want to look at myself and know
That I'm bluster and bluff and empty show.
I can never hide myself from me,
I see what others may never see;
I know what others may never know;
I never can fool myself, and so
Whatever happens I want to be
Self respecting and conscience free.

There is a great exposure by Jesus in the parable of the talents of the man who tries to bluff his way out of his responsibilities. "You rascal, you idle servant!" is Moffatt's graphic translation of Jesus' reply to the man who gave false reasons for hiding his talent.

A striking story is told of a rich man who wanted to help a poor carpenter and his family. He hired the carpenter to build a house on a hillside, and then went away on a long holiday. The carpenter said to himself, "My boss is away and I can use shoddy material and neglect the supporting work that doesn't show. The house will be weak, but nobody will know it." So he built a ramshackle house. When the rich man came back, the carpenter said, "Here is your house all built." "Thank you," said the rich man. "Here is the deed and the key. I am giving it to you." And the carpenter grieved that he had robbed himself.

It is a wise man who prays, "Endow me, O Lord, with the courage never to hide my errors by telling a lie to myself."

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QUESTING



WITH

A. E. WHITE

Is it possible for a person to change? My own bad habits seem to stay with me, and the faults of others don't appear to have lessened over the years. The naggers still nag, the gossips still gossip, and the boring are just as hard to listen to. Is change possible?

Yes, persons can change, but not easily. It is fair to say that some people do not change, although they try hard. There are still more who make no effort because they don't see the need.

It is possible for faults to be most obvious to others, but not recognised at all by those responsible for them. This is true of the examples you give. It is seldom that naggers are conscious of their nagging, the gossips are unaware of their dangerous chattering, and the boring think that they are interesting.

When folk do not realise that they have faults there is very little chance of change. That is why there is hope for you. You are at least aware that there are bad habits still with you.

To change needs conscious effort and watchfulness, and often it is a slow process. My first suggestion is that you ignore, where you can, the faults of others, and concentrate on your own.

1. Accept as fact that you can change. People have been changing all through the years. Christianity is a religion of change. Peter overcame the bad habits of swearing and lying. Paul overcame the faults of arrogance and cruelty. Wives have become gentle. Husbands have become human. Cannibals have changed their diet.

2. Make the effort. It will take a lot of effort. Everything worthwhile costs something, and a good change may be expensive. It is worth it, pay the price!

3. Be positive, not negative. Try to develop the good habit that is the opposite of the bad. In this way the cure is moving towards something, not simply away from something.

4. Don't let failures blunt your enthusiasm for change. Long established habits don't yield easily.

5. Practise the presence of those who have what you want. Especially seek the presence of Christ. He can help you in many ways, but possibly his greatest gifts will be an appreciation of your own personality and a genuine compassion for others. If you have a bad habit, it will hurt you or others—or both. Christ will help you to a healthy self-respect and a concern for your neighbour.

Those who seriously desire a change, and pay the price, usually achieve it.

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DINNER WITH 800 TAXGATHERERS

(Melb.). It must have been quite a night when 800 members of the Taxation Dept. (Vic. branch) met in the Myer dining room for a combined dinner. Previously, 500 had been to Mass at St. Francis', and 300 at Evensong at St. Paul's.

There had been sectional gatherings before. The Roman Catholics had met annually in large numbers in a similar manner. This time, at the suggestion of the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation, Mr. J. Canny, a joint organising committee had been set up. This included representatives from Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians and Churches of Christ.

The main speaker was Maurice Brown, Principal of the Aust. Staff Administrative College of Mt. Eliza. He began with the awesome thought that while the population of Australia is increasing by 2½ per cent a year, the Commonwealth

Public Service is increasing by five per cent. If this rate were maintained, everyone in the country would be in the Public Service by the year 2022.

In more serious vein, Mr. Brown said, "Our Christian profession ought to reach out and down into every corner of our lives, inspiring us to closer bonds of trust and understanding of one another. If anyone said: 'You Christians are not better than anyone else,' it should not disturb us. A Christian does not want to be better than anyone else, he wants only to be better than he is at present."

He hoped that by the grace of God we would all be inspired through the insight and leadership we had in Christ to do the best of which we were capable.

It is expected that this combined dinner would become an annual venture of the Taxation Department.

ABORIGINES CHRISTMAS TREE

(W.A.). As usual, this special event held at the Christian Centre (Perth) was very well attended by children and adults, and many hundreds of Christmas gifts for the children at Carnarvon and Norseman Native Missions were given. Several churches also contributed money to be used in purchasing gifts.

The winners in the Children's Elstedford again presented their items, and provided the major part of the programme.

ANNIVERSARY MISSION

(Toowoomba, Qld.). Anniversary mission, led by D. Nelson, concluded with six decisions by young people. Prayer cards were used by members during mission. Bible Class for young converts is being conducted by assist. minister, P. Jauncey. Book table, under charge of S. Dickfos, is attracting many members, supplies coming from Brisbane Depot, under management of Youth Director, A. Male. . . . Recent preachers have included D. Baker, Social Service Director, when staff of Mylo Home took part in evening service, Nov. 27. . . . Work at Crown St. continues to expand, with over 30 at some services. Margaret St. B.S. children are singing as choir in morning services, and special teacher-training course is being conducted by M. Muller. Five young people were baptized by P. Jauncey on Nov. 20, when H. Finger, Harlaxton, spoke on Biblical basis of this practice. Combined B.S. concert, proceeds for Margaret St. Hall Fund, well attended. . . . Church officers appreciate the work of C. Dunn in spending much time each Sunday with home communion and visitation work. Church roll is being revised and improved pending arrival of new minister in February, 1967. . . . Mrs. Pedler and Shirley have left on overseas trip, including tour with Dr. Jauncey's party to Holy Land. Beverley Grenfell has joined staff of Brisbane Hospital and church wishes her well in taking up this important avenue of ministry to others.

BELGRAVE HEIGHTS CONVENTION

(Vic.). The 49th Annual Convention will be held at Belgrave Heights from Dec. 24 to Jan. 2.

The speakers will be Rev. Geoffrey C. Bingham, a former missionary in Pakistan, now Principal-elect of Adelaide Bible Institute; Rev. J. Pritchard, of New Zealand, and Rev. John Reid, of N.S.W.

Meetings will be held each day at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. (On Dec. 28, 29 and 30, there will be no afternoon meetings).

Programmes and information about buses, accommodation, etc., may be obtained from the Convention Office, Keswick Book Depot, 217 Collins St., Melb. Phone 62-2777.

DEDICATION SERVICE

(Ascot Park, S.A.). On Nov. 27, L. C. Simpson conducted a parent dedication service for Mr. and Mrs. Dredge and Mr. and Mrs. Frost, and their infants, who promised to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. . . . A working bee was organised on Nov. 26 to repair roof of school hall.

W.A. YOUTH PROJECT EXCEEDS TARGET!

In Dec., 1965, the youth of W.A. decided to raise \$2,000 during 1966 to assist the work of the church at Carnarvon and Dhond Hospital, India. The money was to be used for the building of the baptistery and platform in the chapel at Carnarvon Christian Centre, and for new laboratory equipment, as a memorial to Dr. Lindsay Michael, at the Dhond Hospital.

Church Schools, Clubs, C.E. Societies, Youth Fellowships and Sporting Groups, contributed to the Project and on Nov. 25 it was announced to an audience of 700 people that the young people had given \$2,300 to the Project. A number of late contributions have been received

FIVE RESPOND

(Redcliffe, Qld.). On Nov. 13, Mr. Plint was speaker, and at conclusion of his message four adults and one child stepped forward. . . . On 23rd, some church members motored to Kedron to witness baptismal service of five candidates from Redcliffe. Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hilford and family are now residing in Redcliffe. . . . B.S. anniversary had Don Brady as guest speaker at afternoon and evening services. Attendances are being well maintained. . . . Mrs. Plint has been restored to health and is able to attend morning services.

WILL TODD IN HOSPITAL

(Eng.). After completing their ministry in Nambour, Qld., Mr. and Mrs. W. J. O. Todd returned to England in June, 1966. At the end of September, after speaking at a Youth for Christ Rally, Mr. Todd contracted a chill which turned to pneumonia and subsequent lung collapse. He was four weeks at home, but is now in hospital and is expected to be there until after Christmas. Mr. and Mrs. Todd would appreciate the prayers of the brotherhood in this time of trial. They send seasonal greetings to their many friends throughout Australia.

Their address is c/o 57 Seaton-rd., Felixstowe, Suffolk, England.

"PASTOR DOUG."

(Qld.). Mavis Clark's book, "Pastor Doug," enabled Barry Reid, of Townsville, to recognise Doug Nicholls when he stopped over at Townsville recently. Ron Sansome, minister at Rockhampton, in meeting a Department Director at the Rockhampton airport, also took the opportunity to share a few minutes with Doug. The Presbyterian Board of Missions in Australia have built a new church at the important Bauxite discovery at Weipa, 1,700 miles north of Brisbane, and Doug was guest speaker at the official opening on Nov. 27.

DR. JAUNCEY AND ALBION

(Qld.). Dr. Jauncey has requested that he be relieved of his duties as part-time minister when another minister is available. The church has decided to call a full-time minister. During the absence of Dr. Jauncey in the Middle East, services are being taken by student preachers, Ted Watson and Trevor Meares.

NEW LIFE AT SUNNYBANK

(Qld.). The new church building was opened in July this year, and since then some wise planning and much hard work has meant a "new face" for this congregation in the life of the community. The old chapel has been remodelled as a school hall, under the direction of Bob Malcolm. As a sequel to the Teaching Mission that was conducted, and the faithful witnessing of the church members under the leadership of Vic. Parker, 10 were baptized on Nov. 20. . . . On Dec. 11, six further baptisms are scheduled. Harvest Festivals have been held in both churches of the circuit — Sunnybank / Acacia Ridge, and the goods distributed to the "Hillcrest" and "Burdeu House" Aged People's Homes, and to the City Mission and O.P.A.L., an Aboriginal advancement organisation.

LYGON ST.'s 112th

(Vic.). The 112th church anniversary had Dr. J. H. Jauncey, from Kenmore Christian College, Brisbane, as guest speaker at three services. Average attendance of 350. . . . Slides of work of Miss Hazel Skuce were shown, following the gospel service on Nov. 13. . . . C.W.F. Christmas party, on Dec. 3, heard of Mrs. Dunn's successful year of service and viewed slides of her recent trip around Australia. . . . Richard Duckett has been accepted as a student at Kenmore Christian College for 1967. He and his wife Glenys will leave for Qld. early in the new year. . . . Several men and women have confessed their faith in Christ at recent gospel meetings and await baptism.

THE HOLLOW YEARS

(N.S.W.). WIN Channel 4, in Wollongong recently prepared a documentary TV film entitled the "Hollow Years," in which they explored the activities and interests of teenagers.

The local Police Supt., the Director of Commonwealth Employment Bureau, a typical family, the owner of a discotheque, and our minister, David Mansell, were all interviewed regarding their experience of modern teenagers.

Teenagers were also interviewed in the local discotheque, and the Church of Christ Youth Fellowship. The minister interviewed young people on behalf of the TV channel, asking for their impressions of the church and its influence upon their lives. Many young people gave testimony to the change in their lives through the influence of the church, and many of those interviewed had no Christian background.

The local TV channel has given wide coverage to the major activities of the church and all these have been featured on TV news or interview.

MISSION RESULTS

(Bunbury, W.A.). The recent mission conducted by J. K. Bond and W. Bowden resulted in 32 primary commitments. At least 25 new members have been added to the Bunbury church. The thankoffering of \$2026 more than covered expenses of the campaign. D. W. Tonkin is minister.

THIRD NATIONAL C.Y.F. CONVENTION

(W.A.). Perth, the host city for the National C.Y.F. Convention is keenly awaiting the arrival of the 250 Interstate delegates early in January.

Bible studies, led by Dr. K. Bowes, will be held on Jan. 6, at 2.30 p.m., and on Jan. 9, 10, 11 and 12, at 9.30 a.m. Elective Workshop Groups will be held from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Jan. 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Tours have been arranged for the afternoons of the Convention, and full-day tours on Jan. 7 and 13.

The Evening programmes will be as

DEATH OF DR. SNODGRASS

The death is reported of Dr. Ray Snodgrass in the U.S.A. Dr. Snodgrass conducted missions in Australia in 1952, following the World Convention. Ralph Pollock was song leader.

1000 HOMES VISITED

(Wollongong, N.S.W.). Over 1000 homes were visited by more than 50 visitors from church, and booklet, "Family in Focus" was left in each home. A number of new people have attended services and there have been many additions to the B.S. The Life Boys team, led by Rex Coomby, has grown steadily. An open night for parents was held. There are approximately 30 boys in Life Boys' Brigade and the Boys' Brigade also. . . . A temperance film, "Verdict 132" was screened to approximately 80 teenagers. . . . The annual meeting elected John Carlson as sec., J. McCloy as treas., and T. de Vries as B.S. supt.

POLICE LEAD WORSHIP

(Kedron, Qld.). Worship service on Nov. 13 was conducted by members of Police Christian Fellowship. Other visiting speakers were A. C. Male, on Nov. 20 and Rex Ellis on 27th. . . . The church is preparing for Teen Week in March, 1967, under the leadership of A. C. Male, Youth Director, and with Haydn Sargent as missionary. . . . Church cricket club has won all matches to date. . . . S.S. picnic and Christmas Tree were held at Petrie Picnic Reserve on Dec. 3.

MINISTER FOR ENGLAND

(Ormond, Vic.). R. C. McKenzie has been invited to go to England and return as Chaplain on a migrant ship. He will leave on Jan. 24, returning in April. . . . Recent guest speakers were David Mansell, of Wollongong, N.S.W., Hariba Waghmode and E. Morrison, of Perth, W.A. . . . 45 members of Elderly Citizens' Club were entertained at tea and afterwards at church. . . . C.M.F. held rally and tea, with 50 attending, with guest speaker, Perc. Thickens, with Ambassador's Quartette assisting, who also stayed and sang at evening service. . . . A good attendance at Fathers' and Sons' tea. Alan Rowe was guest speaker. . . . Mr. and Mrs. J. Thorpe are returning from Norseman Mission to take a course with the Child Evangelism Fellowship in N.S.W. early next year. . . .

follows:— Jan. 5, Informal Variety Night (Elective activities); Jan. 6, Welcome Dinner. Speaker: B. Stitt. Public Meeting. Speaker: C. H. J. Wright. Jan. 7, Youth Service and Supper. Speaker: G. Wood. Jan. 8, Local Gospel Services. Jan. 9, Drama. Perth by Night Tour. Jan. 10, International Night. Speaker: C. H. J. Wright. Jan. 11, Public Service of Worship. Speaker: C. H. J. Wright. Jan. 12, Aquatic Carnival at Yokine Pool.

A combined Communion Service at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 8, is anticipated as being a Convention highlight.

38th AT ROCKHAMPTON

(Qld.). The 38th anniversary of the churches in Rockhampton was celebrated Nov. 19-20. Kevin Jenner, from Mackay, was guest speaker. 120 attended a tea on the Sat. evening at the Nth. R'ton hall. Services on the Sunday were well attended and a challenging series of messages were given. . . . At a recent meeting of the combined boards, it was decided to receive 8 copies of the "Australian Christian" for distribution among the members for one year. . . . Ladies of the C.W.F. at Craig St. have been conducting a pre-school kindergarten on three mornings each week, and the \$12 received weekly has been a wonderful help in paying off the hall debt. A combined Evening C.W.F. held bi-monthly, has been well attended. The final one for this year took the form of a Christmas social.

MISSIONARIES VISIT

(Gilgandra, N.S.W.). Mr. and Mrs. H. Waghmode, A. Fletcher, R. S. A. McLean, visited the church on Nov. 10. . . . On Nov. 12, the Balladoran children entertained friends at S.S. anniversary. . . . The B.S. at Gilgandra celebrated its anniversary on Nov. 13. Prizes were presented to Cradle Roll members and the Kindergarten. At night service, Dianne Mudford received prize for being Dux of the school. Social evening was held for the school on Nov. 16. . . . C.W.F. held a luncheon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris, on Nov. 9. 30 women were present. The address by Mrs. B. Benz was much appreciated.

Ladies received \$84 from street cake stall. . . . Church has just purchased house adjacent to halls for future advancement. . . . C.E. held graduation services. . . . Combined churches have just produced a card showing location of churches and times of services, these to be distributed to all newcomers to district. . . . C.M.F. entertained ladies of church at a Christmas social evening, when all received a small Christmas gift. . . . Mr. Macaulay organised a musical afternoon to entertain inmates at Will H. Clay Hospital. Mr. Clay, Mr. Atkin and Mr. Combridge were in attendance. Brighton Salvation Army Corps and a men's quartette from Methodist Church providing programme. Ian Mullen, student assistant, was presented with a book token as he left for interim work with Swan Hill church.

END OF AN ERA

(Gardenvale, Vic.). In the afternoon of Nov. 27, a large gathering of past and present members and friends met for the closing service in the little chapel in Nepean Highway.

During morning service a note of sadness prevailed—the end of an era had been reached. Past members took part in presiding and reading, and all hymns and readings were dedicated to late members.

Services began at Gardenvale in 1922, and membership grew to 60 regular members, with a S.S. of over 80, and 15 teachers. Mainly due to the location of the church, it has always been small, but "out of little acorns grow big trees," and over the years many young College students have gained their preaching experience, young people have been trained in various forms of leadership and in presiding and reading. Two lady missionaries also went out from Gardenvale.

For the afternoon thanksgiving service, special visitors were: W. W. Saunders (representing Conf. Pres., A. Ross. Lloyd), Rowland P. Morris (representing Campbell Edwards Trust), past ministers, J. G. Shaw and H. A. Hunt, and S. Lunn, S.S. sec.

With changing times membership was depleted, and in recent years Ormond, Bambra Rd. and Brighton churches, and H. H. McKean and H. Annetts assisted in many ways. We could not have carried on the last two years without their help.

To A. Gordon Bennett, our last minister, mere words cannot express sufficient gratitude for the invaluable service he gave during the past seven difficult years, travelling from Seaford each Sunday.

During the afternoon Mr. Shaw and Mr. Hunt recalled memories of their preaching days with Gardenvale, and Stuart Lunn spoke of the many activities during his secretaryship of the S.S. As a mark of appreciation and thanks, an easy chair and cheque was presented by R. P. Morris to Mr. Bennett, and a floral arrangement and bedside table lamp to Mrs. Bennett, by Miss Ruby Gorler.

To Mrs. F. Tippett, organiste for over 26 years, and to Miss R. A. Gorler, who for 11 years has been treasurer and who also served as secretary and kindergarten supt, suitable personal gifts were presented. (Miss Gorler took over the secretaryship when Ern. Tippett died so suddenly, and it seemed impossible to carry on without a secretary.)

W. W. Saunders referred to what had been accomplished over the years at Gardenvale, and although the chapel at Gardenvale was closing, the work would still go on wherever its members worshipped.

CONF. THEME GOES NORTH

(Robinvale, Vic.). "Expand the Horizons of Love," said A. Ross. Lloyd, Vic-Tas. Conf. Pres., when he and Mrs. Lloyd visited us recently . . . On Boys' and Girls' Sunday, a Happy Hour was followed by tea. A tableau was presented by Mrs. C. Chislett on theme, "The Good Shepherd Cares for His Own" . . . Family fellowship led by Glen Chislett had a fruitful discussion on "The Relevance of the Church Today" . . . C.E. welcomed Mr. and Mrs. D. Scott, of Swan Hill. Mr. Scott's subject was "Guidance." A taped address by Haydn Sargent, at Fed. Conf., "Christ, the Lord," was presented . . . C.Y.F. highlight was a car-trial progressive supper.

ANNIVERSARY EVANGELISM

(Maidstone, Vic.). B.S. anniversary services on Oct. 23 and 30 were highlighted by five decisions for Christ. . . Some of the Explorers took part in the evening service on Boys' Sunday. Les Snow spoke to the boys at tea, and the film, "Pause to Consider" was screened later . . . At both evening services on Nov. 20 and 27, there were baptisms and four further decisions . . . The church presented a cheque to Alan Westaway and Miss Heather Savoury as a wedding gift. Alan and Heather will enter the New Tribes Missions' Training College in N.S.W. in the New Year.



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DECISION AT COLAC

(Vic.). On Nov. 13, a lad decided for Christ at Mr. Van Leen's last service. He closed his ministry at Colac on the 20th, and presentations were made to him . . . T. Fergusson, of B. and F. B. S., and M. Sellwood, gave the messages on Nov. 27 . . . The College offering closed at \$49.40 . . . Mr. Heyward, of Norlane, preached at both services on Nov. 20. The help of the Geelong brethren in taking services once a month is appreciated.

COMPANIONS AID FUND

(Bayswater, Vic.). Good Companions' street stall realised \$100 — a gift for Church Building Fund . . . Young man confessed Christ as his Saviour and was baptized. Daniel Hills was soloist on this occasion . . . Mrs. Prime was presented, by the president, Mrs. Davis, with a gift of books and flowers, at final evening C.W.F. meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Prime leave for S.A. in Feb. . . . Rev. W. Wilson, of Bayswater Methodist Church, occupied pulpit . . . Good Companions, and leaders, visited Botanical Gardens . . . C.Y.F. had basket tea prior to attending evening worship.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9.30 a.m.
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Information from the Secretary,
32-2447.

ANOTHER YEAR OF FAMINE

BY EDNA VAWSER.

We are very distressed that the Food Minister has declared another year of famine for India. Some States are very much worse off than Maharashtra. Orissa is in a bad way. We are told that already there are water restrictions at Ahmednagar. The water level is lower at this time of the year than this time last year. We have not had rains since the crops were planted, and unless rain falls within a day or so there is little likelihood of many of the crops maturing.

We have enough wheat to give to the widows for another week at Baramati. The giving started earlier at Shrigonda and finished earlier. Over 500 people at the door this morning and the crowd and noise is very trying. I look at the crowd and wonder who can be eliminated, but the condition of these people is pitiful. How we look at the skies and hope against hope! There have been a few clouds in the sky today, and the weather has not turned cold yet, and so there is still a little hope.

Do I sound pessimistic? I hope not, there is real hope in my heart, but when the World Church Service representative here, yesterday said that the position is worse than last year, my heart dropped. Is this a seven-year drought?

Do thank our Australian brotherhood for their generous giving. We cannot express our gratitude in words. The World Church Service representative came and saw the group here this morning, and he said that he had reported what was being done to the office in New Delhi. The men there were so glad that we have done this, especially as our programme could include Christian people especially, whereas their programme had to be a work programme

and many of the really poor people, such as widows, and the Christian people, could not benefit to any extent.

Our church men have been very good in helping with the distribution. The card system has been good. The people will be very sad next week when we gather up the cards and tell them that the distribution is over.

We know that the generous giving for famine relief has meant less money for other things, but still please do thank the folk for us. The wheat and the milk have been wonderful gifts. The milk is helping many.

THIRD FOOD SHIPMENT

The third shipment of food sent by the Australian Churches of Christ will arrive in Bombay on Dec. 15. This shipment is a further 80 tons of wheat, valued at \$7,220.79, including freight.

Receipts: Wheat for India -	\$29,551.32
Expenditure - - - - -	\$18,762.92
Balance - - - - -	\$10,788.40

Further shipments will be forwarded when requested by the Indian Conference. The Overseas Mission Board expresses sincere appreciation to all who have assisted, making possible these valuable shipments of food to needy people.

RAIN TOO LATE

Mrs. B. RYALL

It has just been announced that we are entering our fourth year of drought — but I'm so pleased to tell you that I am sitting here by the light of the hurricane lamp, with cool breezes blowing all around me, and rain is "pouring down" outside. It will be too late for the crops, but will provide fodder for the cattle and water for the wells.

CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

(Perth, W.A.). The W.A. Churches of Christ Choral Society, in conjunction with the Perth Fortress Salvation Army Band, presented a well balanced concert on Nov. 18, in the Christian Centre. It was well attended and we appreciated the contribution of approx. 100 performers.

The combination of choir and Band in rendering "Sound Ye Trumpets" and "Crown Him with Many Crowns," was a thrilling experience. The cornet solo by R. Lane was a polished performance. Miss Barbara Johnston brought the "lighter" touch, in her usual style. The ladies of the choir sang "Climb Every Mountain," and held the audience in rapt attention.

The choir was conducted by Charles Nelson, Barry Mc Ness at the organ, and the Band leader was Allen Kyswood.

EARLY HARVEST

(Morawa, W.A.). November numbers at "Friendship Meeting" were record. Cake decoration demonstrated and competitions and devotions were in keeping with theme. Harvest Thanksgiving was held on Nov. 20, goods being forwarded to Social Service . . . I.C.E. travelled to Geraldton for a barbecue, open-air service and rally . . . At annual meeting, C.W.F. elected: pres., Mrs. G. Barr; sec., Mrs. C. Heier; treas., Mrs. R. Butler.

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PERSONAL

DISCIPLESHIP

Mark Dunn, Albion, Qld.

Brian Batley, Susanne Cooper, Marilyn Coyle, Brian Davies, Paul and Christine Davies, Robyn Hopner, Mrs. O'Gorman, Garth O'Gorman, Mrs. Stow, Maidstone, Vic.

Mrs. Beverley Ellemor, Brian Ellemor, Kath Clancy, Reg. Springall, Mrs. Joyce Springall, Redcliffe, Qld.

Dianne Jacobs, Glenda Peters, Robina Jacobs, Mt. Compass, S.A.

Ruth and Graham Davie, John and Jane Wardle, J. Bowden, J. Rush, Misses J. Gates, M. Waters, L. Hensley, Dianne Breandler, Lynette Richardson, Yvonne Simons, Denise and Jennifer Cocks, Angela Grosseibl, Meredith Clezy, Joy and Nita Davie, Janet Male, M. Stagg and D. Copping, P. Barnett, Trevor Barnett, Naracoorte, S.A.

Mrs. Don Boughton, John Daymond, Pat Frankish, Jan Battley, Bill James, Mandy White, Mrs. E. Edwards, Judith Shepperd, Sue Edwards, Ray Soncum, Andrew Daff, David Edwards, Cheltenham, Vic.

Audrey Farrar and Janice Welmes, Numurkah; Graeme Stone, Shepparton; Rachael Atkinson, Leslie McGee, Denise Charles, Linda Bamblett, Brenda Heyland, Nola Ferguson — Mooroopna, Vic.

Carolyn Hill, Janelle Muller, Sharon Sullivan, Glenys Smith, Jeffrey Deuble, Margaret-st., Toowoomba, Qld.

Phillip Salisbury, Rosemary Rafton, Russell Thomas, Owen Thomas, Andrew Brough, Rodger Brough, Ross Roberts, Anne Denchy, Watle Park, Vic.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

R. G. Dealy (secretary, Colonel Light Gardens church), 81 Kingston-ave., Colonel Light Gardens, S.A.

P. N. Ratray (secretary, Nambour church), Erbacher-rd., Nambour, Qld.

John Carlson (secretary, Wollongong Church of Christ), 10 Outlook drive, Figtree, Wollongong, N.S.W.

M. J. Hurren (treas. for Dept. of Christian Union), 20 Murray Drive, Burwood, E.13, Vic. Phone 28-4452 (Melb.).

E. Reveleigh (secretary, Dandenong church), 13 Rudduck-st., Dandenong, Vic. Phone 792-3196.

H. Hargreaves (retired minister), 2 Champion-st., Doncaster Central, Vic.

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Mrs. M. Jacqucs, Mrs. Nowell, Ormond, Vic.

MEMBERSHIP

Alan Hilford and Mrs. Juan Hilford, Annerley to Redcliffe, Qld.

Mrs. Mary Reynolds, Warragul to Shepparton, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Barrett, Naracoorte to Mt. Compass, S.A.

Mrs. Lade, Sunnybank; Barbara Moodie, Falkirk, Scotland; J. Visser, Ipswich; Robyn Easton, Mosman, N.S.W.; Miss H. Gordon, Chatswood, N.S.W.; G. Thomas, Chinchilla — to Annet-st., Brisbane, Qld.

MARRIAGES

Wendy Fisher to Dallas Steigenberger (formerly of Bendigo); Glenys Powell to John Berry; Patricia James to Jay Bacik, Albion, Qld.

Lorraine Yates to Derrick Jones, Cheltenham, Vic.

Joan Esson to Richard Johnston, Shepparton, Vic.

Coralie Clayton to Russell Osland, Preston, Vic.

Roslyn Barber to Warren Fern, Box Hill, Vic.

Shirley Bowden to Barry Crittle, Ormond, Vic.

DEATHS

Mrs. T. Cooper, Albion, Qld.

Frank Clark, Box Hill, Vic.

Mrs. K. Britter, Cheltenham, Vic.

Mrs. Duncan, Maidstone, Vic.

Ron Stevens, Kedron, Qld.

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COMING EVENTS — on page 18

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

BIRTHS

EDE (Potts). — To Julie and Tom, on Nov. 17, God's gift of a daughter—Vanessa Leanne. Sister for Angela.

LAWRIE (nee Telfer). — To Judith and Graham, a son — Stephen Craig, born Nov. 30, 1966, at Keith, S.A.

ENGAGEMENT

FITZGERALD - HOLLARD. — Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Fitzgerald, Blackwood, S.A., have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their only daughter, Helen Ruth, to Roger Alan Charles, only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. C. Hollard, Melrose Park, S.A.

WRATHALL - HILL. — Mr. and Mrs. S. Wrathall, of 11 Kemp-st., Colac, Vic., have pleasure in announcing the engagement of Kaye, to Robert, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hill, 29 Errett-st., Horsham, Vic.

APPROACHING MARRIAGE

HARDING - DAVIES. — The marriage of Irene Rose, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Harding, of Beaumont, to Lincoln Ernest, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Davies, of Port Pirie, will be solemnised at Dulwich Church of Christ, S.A., at 5 p.m., on Dec. 31, 1966, S. Neighbour officiating.

RUBY WEDDING

WITHERS - LOVELL. — Congratulations, Mum and Dad, on your 40th wedding anniversary, celebrated by W. Gale on Dec. 11, 1926, at Coburg Church of Christ, Vic. Love and best wishes from Les and Frances, Jean and Max, John and Jill.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

BERRY. — Congratulations, Mother and Dad, on your 50th wedding anniversary, Dec. 30. All friends are invited to share this occasion with them at their home on Dec. 31, between 2 - 8 p.m. Address: 28 Cresswell-cresc., Mitcham, Vic.

WHEATON - BROWN. — The family of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Wheaton thank God and rejoice with them on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. Their marriage was celebrated on Dec. 16, 1916, at the Church of Christ, Moreland, with the late Mr. Ewers officiating. Congratulations and love from all the family. Present address, "Homesdale," Miram, Vic.

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DEATHS

McDIARMID, Allan (U.S.A.). — On Tuesday, Nov. 29, 1966, youngest son of the late Daniel and Christina, loved brother of Will (dec.), Cleve (dec.), Jean (Mrs. Nelson), Mavis (Mrs. Hicks) and Ruth (Mrs. Johnston, Perth), Joy (Mrs. Thickens, U.S.A.), and Jack; brother-in-law of Alma, Sim and Percy. "We cherish the memory."

McDIARMID, Allan B. — Of 3913 Merced-st., Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A., dearly loved husband of Kitty (nee Pittman), and loved father of Patricia, Diane and Anita; dear brother-in-law of Dulcie and Clive Henshilwood, Hampton, Vic.

HUGHES; George Edward Claude. — On Nov. 25 (suddenly), at Corrigin, W.A., dearly loved husband of Jessie, loved father of Allan, Don, Dennis, Gwynith and Peter; fond father-in-law of Vera, June, Joy, Alex and Helen; loved grandfather of 12 grandchildren. (2 Timothy 4: 7-8).

APPRECIATION

Mr. F. E. BUCKINGHAM, 5 Mackay-st., Glenhuntingly, Vic. and Mrs. H. H. BOWDEN, 23 Lewin-st., Canberra, A.C.T., desire to sincerely thank all kind friends for letters, cards, floral tributes and personal expressions of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement. Will all friends please accept this as their personal expression of gratitude.

IN MEMORIAM

ANDERSON. — With thanksgiving for every remembrance of my dearly loved husband, Adiel, loving father of Loris, Heather and Douglas, who was called home Dec. 27, 1936.

—Olive Anderson and family, Moonee Ponds, Vic.

BATTY — Daisy, wife of Thomas Batty, passed away on Dec. 11, 1961. "Ever remembered."

BUCKLEY. — Loving memories of my beloved husband, Jack, died Dec. 14, 1965. "Remembered thro' the passing year." —Mabel.

LE PAGE. — In fond memory of my father, and our grandfather, Francis Thomas Le Page, who passed away at Cheltenham, on Dec. 12, 1927, also my grand-daughter Cheryl, who was called home on Dec. 23, 1960. "Some time we'll understand."

—Inserted by Everest and family.

LANGLEY. — Fond memories of David, loved youngest son of Rene and Harold, loving brother of John, Fay (Mrs. Hims-worth), Austin; brother-in-law of Lois, Elsie and George. Called home Dec. 24, 1965. "So dearly loved."

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WOMAN TO WOMAN EVANGELISM

(Preston, Vic.). Young Women's Evening Fellowship conducted Woman to Woman Evangelism services, commencing on Nov. 24 and concluding with special gospel service, Nov. 27. Speaker was Mrs. L. Clencie. Song leader and organiste, Mrs. J. St. Aubyn, pianiste, Mrs. D. Griffiths. Final service was preceded by basket tea . . . Christian Women's Fellowship concluded activities for year with a bus tour of the Dandenongs. Presentation was made to Mrs. Barnett at annual meeting in appreciation of her services.

EVANGELISM SUCCESS

(Cheltenham, Vic.). Nine specially selected and trained visitors comprised team to assist Planned Evangelism programme. Special dedication service was conducted for visiting team on Nov. 20. 55 attended loyalty dinner. 10 made decisions at special commitment services on Nov. 27. Others plan to do so at future services. Baptismal services have been held, and the climax to the programme will be a membership reception Sunday. Personalities interviewed from the pulpit have been Sister Susan Terry, on her work in Vietnam; Don Chipp, M.H.R., on "Being a Christian in Politics"; Miss Beverley Lewis, on her work for Christ in Hong Kong, and Ron Mullen on the formation of the "Campbell Singers." Visiting soloists during special services have been Miss Jean Milne and Robert Whittaker — The Campbell Singers presented items at evening service . . . 60 young people, in 12 cars, entered a car trial to Churchill National

C.E. FRIZZLE AND FRY

(Melb.). At least 200 Endeavourers and friends gathered at Fairfield Park on Nov. 26.

An excellent programme, compered by bright and breezy Frank Clarke (of P.K. fame), included musical items by the Bunnell Sisters, the Deepdene Methodist Male Trio, and a challenging color film, "Silent Witness."

A special "Focus" on the New Guinea '67 Work Party was presented when John Way, Dept. of Christian Educ., interviewed two members of the team—Robert Edgar, an electrical mechanic, of Springvale, and Ron Sutherland, a plumber, from Manifold Heights.

Park. \$14 was raised for Missionary Aid. . . . 150 Good Companions met in Christian Educ. Centre to present "Uncle Charlie" with hundreds of toys for his hospital visitation . . . A new football club was officially formed to play in "D" grade of the Eastern Suburban Protestant Churches' Assoc. . . . Missionary group were entertained in the lounge by Scots Glen Singers.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

(Toora, Vic.). Meetings continue to be held in the Toora Hall every fortnight. Midweek meetings for prayer and Bible study are held regularly. On Nov. 20, the church held its first anniversary service, when A. R. Pigdon (Bentleigh) was special speaker and 23 shared in the fellowship luncheon, which was held after the service. Earlier, Bentleigh C.E. Society paid a visit and conducted the entire meeting. Mrs. C. Barnett, from Swan Hill, and Mrs. Williams have shared in fellowship in recent months. Average attendance for first year of meetings is 13.

FAMILY SERVICE

(Blackburn, Vic.). A family service was held on Nov. 13, at 9.30 a.m., with parents of S.S. scholars worshipping together . . . During gospel service on 27th, A. Cant interviewed Rev. I. Tennant, Director of the newly opened Blackburn Family Life Centre . . . Calisthenics Club held its annual display at Box Hill Town Hall . . . Film night arranged by cricket club on 29th . . . Kinder Christmas Tree held on Dec. 3. . . . Sympathy of church expressed to Mrs. Keith Abernethy and Colin Campbell in their recent bereavements.

Musical backing for hymn and chorus singing was provided by Dr. R. Killmier on the piano accordion, whilst sound and amplification was under the direction of Kevin Gluyas.

The second segment of the evening was the barbecue, where 400 sausages and 200 chops were consumed in amazingly short time. Barbecue packs were sold, and the profits from same will go toward the Work Camp Appeal. Many commented that they had a "terrific" time. Visitors came from as far away as Wangaratta, Geelong and Tasmania—Les. Stewart.

The programme was arranged by the Vic.-Tas. Churches of Christ C.E. Com.

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

11 a.m.—WORSHIP - COMMUNION - PREACHING.

Dec. 11—"WHY DID CHRIST RISE?"

Dec. 18—"ACCORDING TO PLAN."

Dec. 25—"MIRACLE IN A MANGER" — Christmas Day Service.

7 p.m. — ADVENT ADDRESSES.

Dec. 11—"THE SHAPE OF GOD!"

Dec. 18—"LATE FINAL EXTRA!"

Dec. 25—"THE FOURTH WISE MAN!"

(Outline Study Notes provided).



THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

OBITUARY

Dr. Allan Burton McDiarmid.

In the early hours of Nov. 30, news was received of the passing to higher life of A. B. McDiarmid, after an illness of several months. He died in a hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A. From a Christian home in Western Australia, Allan entered the College of the Bible in 1930. As a student preacher he ministered to the church at Berwick. At the end of 1934 he decided to go to the United States for further training. While at Glen Iris he became engaged to Miss Kitty Pittman, daughter of D. E. Pittman, of Hampton, and in 1936 they were married in California by Dr. Jesse Kellems. Allan studied at Butler University, where he graduated M.A. He accepted a call to a church in Prince Edward Island. Later he went to South Wellington, New Zealand, and during the Second World War

acted as chaplain. After the war he came to Hampton, Vic., where he became a teacher on the staff of Haileybury College, and attended the church at Hampton. Toward the end of 1949 he decided to return to the United States, as his special interest was in the field of psychological studies. He went to California University, and while studying served the church at Haywood. In 1961, he was appointed to the staff of Drake University at Des Moines. He qualified for his doctorate. At Drake he was associated with Dr. Ron Graham, also trained first at Glen Iris, and Ron was a great help to Allan during his illness. Allan and the family had made many friends, and these were a great comfort during times of crisis. The widow and three daughters will treasure the memory of a kind husband and father, and their grief will be shared by many relatives and friends in Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Throughout his student and academic life A. B. McDiarmid ministered well to our churches.—R.T.P.

Agnes Thompson Blackhall.

A link in the history of our churches was severed with the death of Agnes Thompson Blackhall on Nov. 6, just prior to the commencement of the morning worship service. She was born in Scotland on Feb. 22, 1878. Her forebears were elders and members of the Presbyterian churches in Banff and Dumfries. She came to Australia on one of the last sailing ships to come here, the "Samuel Plimsol." After the sudden death of her father, she began attending the S.S. at the Church of Christ, Enmore, at the age of seven. This gave her an association with that church which extended for 81 years. At 15, she was baptized by Mr. Watt. In 1901, she was married to George Blackhall, with G. T. Walden the officiating minister. There was one child of the marriage, Marjorie (Mrs. Roy Stanhope). They adopted two orphaned nieces, Dorothy (Mrs. Alex. MacIntyre) and Marie (Mrs. Derek Alderson) both of whom Mrs. Blackhall loved dearly. The C.W.F. at Enmore met in the Blackhall home for 15 years. Although residing with her daughter (Mrs. Stanhope), since Mr. Blackhall's death six years ago, she remained a faithful member and supporter of the church at Enmore. In latter years she also enjoyed regular fellow-

ship with the Lane Cove congregation, of which her daughter is an active member. Mrs. Blackhall was one of those dear saints of God who always reflected a quiet radiance as a result of her faith in Christ. We commend the bereaved loved ones to the love and comfort of God.—R. B. Elbourne.

Elsie May Edwards.

On Nov. 10, Mrs. Edwards suffered a stroke in the evening and did not regain consciousness. She died on Nov. 15, at the age of 78 years. She was born at Berwick, Vic., in 1888, daughter of a minister, Duncan McAllister, and, at 13, was baptized in the Lygon St. church by Dr. James Johnstone. In 1909, she was married to Pastor Theo. Edwards, in the Geelong Church of Christ, where Mr. Edwards was minister. She gave wonderful support to her husband, to whom she was deeply devoted, in ministries in Victoria, Sth. Aust. and N.Z., and many remember her gracious service and warm friendship. One of the notable periods was the ministry at Glenelg during the depression years, when many young men found refuge and new hope through the ministry of her home. She was always a keen supporter of the work of the brotherhood, and served as President of the Women's

Auxiliary during the year her husband was President of S.A. Conf. Mrs. Edwards also took a keen interest in inter-church work and was a Life-President of the Women's United Church Assoc. On her husband's retirement from the full-time ministry in 1957, they were received into membership at Brighton Gardens, and conducted a number of interim ministries in the following years. To her husband, now in his 86th year, and her children, Theo. Edwards, Mrs. Hodges (Ruth), and Mrs. Mumme (Naomi), and the other members of this closely knit family, we extend deep sympathy. The services at the church and graveside were a moving tribute to her life.—C.H.J.W.

LYLE WILLIAMS.

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1916

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C.O.B. GRADUATION. Diploma and Certificates were awarded to A. C. Garnett (Pt. Pirie, S.A.), A. C. Crisp (Dandenong, Vic.), W. R. Hibbert (Auckland, N.Z.), and J. E. Webb (Balaklava, S.A.). W. F. Nankivell was Sports Champion, defeating H. Davie by one point.

OVERSEAS. Staff-Sgt. D. W. Beck, of Lygon St. church, writes from Salisbury Plain Camp, Eng.: "I came across three young men in this camp from the College of the Bible, Glen Iris. They are H. Crowden, J. Clarke and D. Wakeley."

POINT OF VIEW. "Tasmania is, perhaps, the fairest and most interesting island in the Southern Hemisphere."—W. J. Way. . . "Many visitors to theatres have watched with profound regret and dismay the steady decline in tone and morality of stage performances during the past few years."—Quoted from "The Argus." . . "Perhaps these Zepelin raids in London will do what the churches have failed to do in this great city, turn the people's thoughts and hearts to God."—Capt. Chap. G. P. Cuttriss.

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



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NOUGHTS AND CROSSES

To the Editor,

The kids were doing noughts and crosses instead of getting on with their homework. I was so replete from the work of art that my wife modestly calls dinner that I postponed the paternal peroration about getting on in life through hard study and sat silent with my thoughts. Somewhere from the recesses of the mind came a quote I remembered from Gilbert Chesterton that I can't state accurately, but went something like this: "All religions are either noughts or crosses." Suddenly it dawned on me what he meant. A nought is a circle, closed, comfortable and secure. A cross reaches right out to the ends of the earth. I know, of course, that Christianity is the religion of the cross, but I wonder at my own personal Christianity. I have to confess that I prefer the circle of soothing worship in a comfortable pew, with helpful spiritual messages that make me feel good and contented and secure inside. I get upset when the minister's sermons and the books lent me (unsolicited) by my mate from St. Chad's, insist that I should be taking up a cross and caring about rather nasty types of people, and fighting publicly for unpopular causes, and making it my business to talk to my friends about Jesus Christ.

I am sure that my minister must get as discouraged with me as you do with people who are too comfortable to be bothered reaching into their pockets for a subscription for the "A.C."

TERTIUS.

BROWNLOW MEDALLIST SPEAKS

(Chelsea, Vic.). 100 men and boys were at the Boys' Sunday tea catered for by the C.W.F. Ian Stewart, dual Brownlow Medallist, was speaker at the Intermediate session. At the p.m. service, the film, "Under His Wings," was screened by Cliff Offer . . . The tennis club conducted the evening service on Nov. 20, and brought Bible characters to life with a vivid tableau . . . C.W.F. street stall raised \$28.80. The ladies travelled by bus to Emerald Lake for an end of the year outing . . . Good Companions held a garden party at the home of Joan Pascoe . . . The church treasurer, T. Parker, announced an increase of 84 per cent in our gifts for local needs since the commencement of the Forward Move Giving Programme.

THE CHURCH WENT HOME

The departure of United States troops from France has led to the dissolution of virtually all English-language Baptist congregations, including the one in Paris, since they were established solely to serve armed forces personnel.—E.P.S.

THE CAMPBELL SINGERS

will be holding a

CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF CAROLS and MUSIC

at

SWANSTON-ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST

on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22,

in aid of the Save the Children Fund.

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Vacancies for Young People 15 Years or Over — also Family Groups.

Applications to C. Le Couteur, 132 Nepean Highway, Seaford, Vic. Phone Seaford 61-049.

MANSE OPENED

(Ann-st., Brisbane, Qld.). A new brick veneer house in Stafford Heights, purchased recently in readiness for coming of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, and family, at the end of Jan., was officially opened with a service of dedication conducted by L. G. Read, on Nov. 26. Turning of the key ceremony was performed by Ann Street's oldest member — Mrs. J. B. Ash — who, at 89 years of age, records 73 years' membership with Ann St. church since 1893. Greetings were brought from Conf. Pres., H. K. Burkhead. L. G. Read's ministry terminates on Dec. 25, and then he moves to take up the work at Launceston, Tas. . . . Church sorrows with C. F. Carpenter in the recent loss of his wife, upon returning from Fed. Conf., and with Mrs. P. A. Boyd and Dorothy in the sudden passing of their beloved husband and father on Nov. 19 . . . Almost 200 attended final 1966 after-church coffee pot programme.

TO LET

Three bedroom unfurn. home available for rental from January, 1967, for approx. 12 months, Melbourne western suburb. Applicants must be members of Churches of Christ. Reply in first instance to Editor, "Australian Christian."

Caravan — 4 berth, private, 1 min. beach, from Jan. 21, 1967. Phone, Tootgarook 52430 (Vic.).

Bed-Sitting Room, for Christian pensioner, or elderly lady. Mrs. M. A. Byard, 126 William-st., Devonport, Tasmania.

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Two Furn. Rooms — use of kitchen, etc. in house (Northcote district), close to shops and transport, suitable for working couple, Phone 48-1547 (Melb.) for further particulars.

COMING EVENTS

GLEN WAVERLEY (Vic.) CHURCH, Montclair-ave., Sunday, December 11, at 3 p.m. — OPENING OF NEW EDUCATIONAL UNIT. Former members and interested friends welcome.

Northcote Church - Vic.

Morning Service - CHRISTMAS DAY, Commences 9 a.m.

Tootgarook (Vic.) Church of Christ
DEC. 25 (Christmas Day)

Services as usual 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

ALBION CHURCH - QLD.

86 McLennan-st., Lutwyche, Brisbane.
Minister: Dr. J. H. Jauncey.

From Dec. 18 to Jan. 22 Sunday morning services commence at 9.30 a.m., except on Christmas Day, when the only morning service will commence at 7 a.m. Speaker: Dr. Jauncey. Evening services at 7.15. Visitors will be very welcome. Enquiries ring 57-6160.

COMING TO THE PENINSULA DURING THE HOLIDAYS?

Share in the Worship at the

Red Hill Church of Christ - Vic.

CHRISTMAS DAY — 9.30 a.m., Communion Service at Red Hill.
7 p.m., COMBINED SERVICE AT DROMANA.

Other Sundays — 11.15 a.m. Communion Service; 7 p.m. Gospel Service.

VISITORS TO SOUTH GIPPSLAND

CHURCH OF CHRIST

meets in Toora Hall fortnightly, from Dec. 18 at 11 a.m., God willing.

A. E. Stevens (Manifold Heights) will be speaking on Jan. 15 and 29.

A warm welcome is assured to all.

For times and details, contact

ERIC PAYNE,

Phone 1R, Boolarong South, Vic.

HOLIDAYING ON THE FAR SOUTH COAST OF N.S.W.?

Then you'll be looking for Somewhere to Worship —

Since the brotherhood has no church south of Wollongong and Canberra, the Bega Baptist Fellowship extends to you and your family, an invitation to meet with them — in the 2nd Bega Boy Scouts' Hall, Eden-st., Bega West.

Contact G. Glazier for directions — either at the Dept. of Main Roads Office (Bega 421), or at 5 Canning-st., (Bega 824). Mr. Glazier is formerly of Hornsby Church of Christ).

On Dec. 18, 1966 and on Jan. 22, 1967, the morning service will be replaced by an afternoon service (2.15) at Cobargo.

On these dates particularly, and on Christmas Day, it is suggested that visitors seek directions.

The usual services are: 11 a.m., and 7.30 p.m., with Sunday School at 9.45 a.m.

HANDS ACROSS THE TASMAN

N.Z. NEWS ROUND-UP

Ministerial Movements

Murray J. Savage, of Naenae, has accepted a call to Hartwell church, Vic., and crosses the Tasman early in 1967. Mr. Savage previously ministered at Perth City Church.

E. T. Williams has moved to Motueka from the Southland circuit of Gore-Mataura.

R. A. Blampied has accepted an extended term with the Bishopdale church.

E. W. Body, who moved to a Presbyterian circuit in Dunedin, "on supply," following the closure of the South Dunedin church, is to remain there for a further 12 months.

John Vickery is to serve the Methodist Church at Te Atatu, Auckland, which is part of the Henderson Circuit.

In both these cases the men retain their identity as ministers of the Associated Churches of Christ.

M. Wendelborn, Director of the Dept. of Christian Education, retires from that post in January, 1967, and anticipates moving into a parish ministry.

E. Cook concludes his ministry at Wellford and North Albertland early in 1967, when R. S. Marshall, of Matamata, transfers. I. Richer, of Greymouth, has accepted a call to Matamata.

From the Conferences and Assemblies

October and November are the two months when the Annual Assemblies and Conferences take place. The Congregational Union meetings were held in the Pacific Islanders' Congregational Church, Auckland. Churches of Christ met in Invercargill in the Wool Exchange building. Presbyterians held their Assembly gatherings in Wellington, and the Methodist Conference was at Pitt St. church, Auckland, which congregation celebrated its Centennial in October.

Highlights of the Invercargill Conference

o Conference approved a Dominion Activities Budget for all purposes of £12,700, with the unanimous approval of Treasurers from all Departments and Committees.

o Increasing costs of holding Conferences in distant locations resulted in the question of future venues and the matter of holding Conference every other year, with some other feature in the year between, was referred to the newly created Conference Council and General Executive for consideration and report to next Conference.

o As a first step in the re-shaping of the organisational pattern of brotherhood structure, a Conference Council was elected. This body becomes responsible for the guiding and leading of brotherhood work and development in the years ahead. T. Bamford, Keith Knapp, E. R. Prince, Lester Scott and J. W. Wood, plus the President and Vice-President of Conference, make up the Council for the next two years of service.

o The new President of Conference is Keith Andrews, minister of Oamaru church. The Vice-President is M. M. Sweetman, of the Onchunga congregation, Auckland. Mr. Sweetman is an active layman and has been Chairman of the H.M. Comm. for a number of years, as well as Chairman of the Christian Hospital Trust Board Inc. He is an engineer by profession.

o Following lengthy discussion on the remit that we hold a referendum in the churches regarding possible closure of the Bible College at Glen Leith, and the training of ministers overseas, the remit was lost.

o The Commission on The Ministry was asked to investigate and bring to next Conference recommendations concerning (a) placement of ministers in churches and districts according to that church's or district's needs; (b) a revision of the present scale of stipends and the way these may apply in various areas; (c) a scheme whereby payment to ministers may be unified and the means for the implementation of such a scheme, so as to apply to all ministers serving (our churches) and those who find they are without ministries.

o The H.M. Comm. announced that Gordon Stirling, of Canberra, A.C.T., Aust., would lead a Men's Retreat, to be held at Bethany Park, Nelson, in June, 1967. The Committee is also investigating the question of Sunday Night Services and the state of the churches.

o League of The Helping Hand income for 1967 would be made available to the North East Valley congregation for the provision of their newly erected manse. The League has just on 650 members who provide an annual gift of at least £1 for special projects.

o Dinner speakers included the Rev. E. S. Hoddinott, Senior Chaplain, Justice Dept.; E. R. Vickery and Mrs. J. Salisbury giving an "historical" point of view of early years in the churches, and M. Sweetman on behalf of The Christian Hospital Trust Board.

o Conference approved continuing negotiations on Union, and sent the Second Report of the Commission on Union down to the churches for study and report back to the Commission by mid-'67. The Second Report was issued only a few days before Conference commenced.

o The Overseas Mission Board announced that Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Ladbroke would be taking up a ministry with the Harvey Church, W.A., on their retirement from the Rhodesian field later this year. Mr. and Mrs. Scott also return to N.Z. early in December, but the Whaleys return to Rhodesia for a further term from early 1967. The question of our N.Z. churches supporting missionary activity in the Pacific area is also being looked at by the Board, as an alternative area of ministry and challenge.

o Four new students will be entering theological college in 1967, including Lewis Marshall, a third-generation Marshall to do so. His father is minister

at Matamata. In addition to Gary Sutcliffe and Vic. Young, both from Wanganui church, there will be a Samoan Island Congregationalist undertaking theological studies.

o Under the theme of "Christ Pre-Eminent in All Things," H. J. Voice, of Wellington City Church, led Conference in a gracious and helpful manner.

o Conference learned, with regret, the death of Russell G. Dick, President of Conference, Gisborne, 1949. Immediate Past Surveyor-General of N.Z., Mr. Dick, had been in retirement at Taupo since returning from Borneo, where he had worked for the United Nations Organisation on special projects for a few years.

o S. W. R. Heyward, of Annesbrook, preached the sermon at the communion service held in First Presbyterian Church, Principal G. D. Munro, of Dunedin, brought the Conference Sermon at the night service, when Presbyterians joined in the service.

—W. B. Burn.

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THE LAST WORD

The First Christmas.
The birth of Jesus took place.
—Matt. 1: 18.

Peter was a fisher boy
Helping with the haul;
Pilate was a shavetail
Leading troops in Gaul.
Judas was as innocent
As little child can be;
The wood that made the crucifix
Was still a growing tree;
Unminted was the silver
That made the traitor's pay
And none had yet commercialized
The spirit of the day.
—Keith Preston.



Joys are our wings, sorrows our spurs.
—Jean Paul Richter.



Animals are agreeable friends — they
ask no questions, pass no criticisms.
—George Eliot.



Two clouds were having afternoon tea.
Said one, "Shall I pour?"
—Margaret Bain.



Be kind to all dumb animals
And give small birds a crumb;
Be kind to human beings too.
They're sometimes pretty dumb.
—Rebecca McCann.



I like work. It fascinates me. I can
sit and look at it for hours.
—J. K. Jerome.



Tessie: "I hear that you've accepted
Jack's proposal. Did he happen to men-
tion that he had proposed to me?"
Jessie: "Well, not specifically. But he
did say that he'd done a lot of foolish
things before he met me."

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