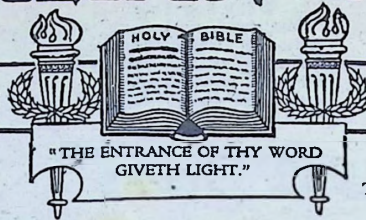


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78. Georgetown *Kinnas*

When Ilico Went to Church

ILICO, a distinguished contributor to "The British Weekly" and a principal of a denominational training college in Great Britain, writes about a visit to a church. He was on holidays, and he took his children to church to worship. He returned home depressed; not so much that he was not helped himself, but because there was little in the service to grip the attention of the children.

Ilico is not, to judge by his writings, an ungenerous critic; he is, on the other hand, a gracious and sympathetic soul. He is ever ready to make allowances for varying viewpoints. Yet, when he went to this service expecting help, he returned, with his family, disappointed. Was he expecting too much from the preacher and the congregation? What was it that he sought?

He was ready to overlook slight failings in the reading of the scriptures, in the general conduct of the service and in the verbal expression of the sermon. He did not expect trained singing from the members of the congregation. It was not with this side of the service that he was really disappointed. The address was orthodox, and the hymns were rich in thought. The truths about which the preacher preached, and the singers sang, were the vital truths that are exceedingly far-reaching in their implications, because upon them the fate of individuals, of nations, and of the universe is balanced. Now it was just at this point that the whole service failed. These truths were so presented by the preacher, and received by the congregation, that they might have been just commonplace remarks about the weather. Truths that must affect the destiny of the world were expressed unimpressively and as if they were not true. What Ilico desired of the preacher and of the congregation was a demonstration of an earnestness in preaching and in singing such as must reveal belief in the things to which they were giving expression. Desiring in the service a warmth that would set his spirit aglow, he found it so cold that it chilled his soul.

A Christian service ought to be an ex-

pression of faith in the living Saviour of the universe. A formal service ought to be carefully planned and be infused with the spiritual life of preacher and congregation. It ought to be so conducted that it conveys the conviction that preacher and congregation believe that only in Jesus Christ can men and nations be saved. If Christ is to us all we say he is, it ought to be easy to convey our faith in helpful and attractive services. This is a task to which preacher and congregation could give attention.

While poor preaching may affect good congregations, nevertheless sympathetic

Portraits of Christ

MANY attempts have been made to present a satisfactory portrait of Christ. Each century has its own conception of what may be his likeness. During the middle ages he was represented as a very handsome—almost feminine—person. Modern artists present him as a striking figure, but more masculine than that set out in earlier paintings. Among the very ancient portraits there is the famous one on the ceiling of the catacomb of Domitilla. "It represents the head of our Lord in profile, with a short chin, beard and moustache, and dark, longish hair. The brow is noble, the aquiline nose well proportioned. One shoulder is bare, the other covered by a toga." Although the catacomb of Domitilla is one of the earliest, and belongs, very likely, to the first century, that is no proof that the painting belongs to that period. Most authorities consider that this portrait is not older than the fourth century.

Augustine, the ancient Church Father, about A.D. 400, speaks against the practice of "inventing portraits of the Lord himself in the face of his flesh, each as different from the other as the opinions of their inventors." Among the early Christians there would exist a strong prejudice against making any "graven

audiences help to make good preaching. Helpful services require the mutual assistance of preacher and congregation. Consecrated and earnest preaching to a congregation eager to respond to truth in prayers, Bible reading and hymns, must impress even the casual visitor.

Therefore, as we plan the services and as we take part in them, let us think of the angels we may be entertaining unawares and of the sinners seeking help. It is for each individual to make a contribution to the spiritual fervor of the service and to reveal his belief in the truth of the eternal gospel. We hope that Ilico, or any stranger, would not be disappointed if he were to attend one of our services.

image" of the Lord. This was due to the Jewish influence which was grounded upon the commandments of Moses and also due to the fact that the Gnostic heretics painted imaginary portraits of the Lord. It is not likely, therefore, that a genuine portrait of our Lord has been handed down from the days of his flesh.

The New Testament is silent concerning the physical appearance of the Master. No mention is made of his height, of the color of his hair, of the shape of his nose, nor of the dimensions of his mouth. From the fact that Judas had to go to Jesus and kiss him to mark him out from the disciples, so that the soldiers might know whom to arrest, suggests that he did not differ in any striking manner from the disciples themselves.

The gospels are, however, four portraits; they do not picture the physical appearance, but they reveal a reflection of the spiritual image of his inner being. In them we see a portrait of his purity, humility, and holiness. They set out his wisdom, power and love. His kindness and sympathy for those who suffer are made manifest. Although we have no portrait of his face we have one of his heart. Since God does not merely look upon the outward appearance, but upon

the heart, it may be that the scriptures were designedly written to withhold the picture of the face so that our attention might be focussed upon his heart. Christianity, as we know, is not built upon outward forms, but upon the inner spirit. If our heart is right our face will take care of itself. If our spirit is right our religious forms and practices will be right.

Christ revealed to us a pure heart, and he desires us to transform our human heart

and make it pure, for only the pure in heart shall see God.

"Purer in heart, O God,
Help me to be;
That I thy holy face
One day may see.
Keep me from secret sin,
Reign thou my soul within;
Purer in heart, O God,
Help me to be."

The Door of 1942 Opens

AS we commence 1942 the vital phase of the second world war begins. All the great nations have arrayed themselves on one side or the other of a titanic conflict. Those nations who, on the whole, seek to respect the rights and decisions of the individual are united against dominating personalities who have subjected their nations to servile obedience and who disregard the claims of ordinary people. Opposition to Christian principles is strong in these nations and church life is restricted. Freedom to declare the truth of the gospel is also considerably limited. Authentic stories of extreme cruelty reach us from conquered countries in Europe.

We believe that those national powers which suppress the light of Christianity are forces of darkness and are a menace to the future of mankind. When political systems enable a few selfish and evil individuals to control the great machines of destruction, the future of ordinary men and women is in constant jeopardy. The world cannot be safe while it is possible for men to force their way to national leadership by dominating will-power and the blood-stained sword. The tyrant is anxious to destroy the spiritual ground in which respect for the individual flourishes. That is why Christianity is hindered in the despot's domain.

In those countries where people are free to make their own decisions and select freely their leaders, some outstanding men of Christian virtues have been entrusted with national leadership. The piety and godliness of General Chiang Kai-shek, President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill are obvious in their public utterances and in their participation in Christian worship. Where the ultimate authority lies with the people, the control of national resources in science, machine and

power is entrusted to righteous men who respect God and the rights of the common people. There Christianity is free to propagate and become a source of light and life for the people.

While Christianity has resisted tyrants in the past and has survived many persecutions, it would, for all that, be a setback to the Christian church if the tyrant's might became supreme again in world politics.

The outcome of this gigantic and bloody conflict is, therefore, a concern for every Christian. While our knowledge of the truth of the scriptures gives us confidence that the kingdom of God will finally triumph, it is in the ebb and flow of passing events that we are now concerned.

Taking a world sweep of what is occurring, we perceive that on most fronts the battle is going well for the democratic powers. Good reports come from Africa, Russia and the Atlantic. It is from the Pacific zone that we get news of reverses. Because it is nearer our shores, it causes alarm in Australia.

It ill becomes us, however, to behave hysterically, since we have had the excellent example of the people of Great Britain to encourage us. They not only warded off the invader and suffered intensely, but retrieved a desperate situation and threw a protective mantle about us that has remained strong until this present hour.

Signs of national repentance are obvious, and in this we perceive a new spiritual vigor. Thus we have grounds for believing that, while 1942 may bring dark days, it will be a period when men and women will reveal the noble virtues that have been lying dormant in the human soul. This in itself will be a victory of which none need be ashamed and for which we shall thank God.

Suggestions for the New Year

For those who have promised to support the work and worship of the church in every possible way.

D. Wakeley

BELIEVE that your church is the best church in the community, and let others know that you feel that way. If it isn't quite the best, determine to make it so in the near future. You can if you will, but others won't think highly of your church unless you do.

Lead the right kind of life seven days of the week. Christians and non-Christians expect this of you, and you expect it yourself, of yourself, and everybody else that makes a profession.

Make strangers and visitors feel welcome and "at home" in the services. Don't overdo it or intrude yourself upon folk who like to keep to themselves, but be interested in people, get to know who they are, and let them know that yours is a friendly church and that you are a friendly people. "Befriend and be friendly."

Don't substitute radio services for church attendance. The radio service may be all right for the aged and the sick, but healthy

Christians owe a duty to Christ, and the church they profess to support. Every member is needed on Sunday evening as well as Sunday morning if the church is to do its proper work of witness in the community. "Can the Lord depend on you?"

If you have the honor of being a Sunday school teacher be present with your class every Sunday. If it be absolutely impossible, arrange for a substitute or notify the superintendent in ample time for him to fill your place. Remember you are teaching for eternity. An irregular teacher soon loses the interest of the class.

If you are an officer or leader in the Endeavor, or some other auxiliary, be in your place regularly and punctually. You couldn't live without your head, and church organizations soon die without leadership.

Sunday is the Lord's Day. Keep it holy, and use it wholly for God. Don't rob God or use his day for improper purposes. Re-

member, this is one of the most effective ways of witnessing. Some treat Sunday more as a holiday than a holy day, but you can't be a happy, effective Christian that way, or build up a strong church either.

Support the minister, and the officers, and the church programme. Don't oppose things because your ideas were not adopted. No programme will please everybody, but try to work in, even if some details are not to your liking. Don't quit attending because of some fancied personal slight. To do so would be to "take your spite out" on Jesus, and you would be the greatest loser anyway. Get right into things—church, Sunday school or Bible class, Endeavor or other week-day auxiliary, and make your presence a blessing.

Don't become a "spiritual gypsy" or a but-terfly flitting from place to place wherever excitement attracts. Be a bee—a busy bee—and get to work! If your religion is wrong you ought to change it, but if you believe it is right, you ought to propagate it!

Don't be mean with your religion. The programme of the church is one of expansion, but the work is often hindered, and sometimes crippled, through lack of funds. If each gave the Lord his tenth, financial difficulties would be overcome and a wonderful work could be done in your community. There is something wrong when those who profess to have surrendered all to Christ spend much more on sweets, sports and amusements than they contribute to the church.

"Work and pray." Work in the church as though your soul's eternal welfare depended on it (and it does), but don't forget to pray. More things are wrought, and more difficulties overcome, by prayer than this world dreams of. Commence the new year, and each new day, with God! "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint!"

God bless you, and make you a blessing!

Philanthropy

A. B. McDiarmid, M.A.

THE popular connotation of this word serves its application for the Rockefellers, Carnegies, Nuffields, or in short, the plutocrats of the earth.

The New Testament makes its eloquent appeal against this perversion of such a significant word.

If we would see the true Christian meaning of this word we would refer to Titus, the third chapter and the fourth verse, in our Greek New Testament. There it stands in solitary splendor, "The philanthropy of Christ our Saviour towards men." It certainly cannot be construed to mean the amassing of a fortune and then lavishing it upon organisations of various kinds. If we insist upon our popular connotation, the distinction of being a philanthropist must be denied to Jesus, because he was so poor in terms of money. It must also be denied to Peter and John, because they had no silver or gold to give away; indeed, very few, if any, of the apostolic band could qualify on that basis.

The true meaning is discovered in the derivation of the word. It is a compound of two Greek words, *philos*, meaning love, and *anthropos*, meaning man. Thus a philanthropist in its richest sense is a "lover of men." It is therefore quite within the range of every Christian to become a philanthropist, by following his Master in loving service to his fellow man.

TOGETHER.

"If we can work together, you and I,
Then we need have no fear;
If we can breathe one prayer as days go by,
Then God will surely hear."

THE PREACHERS' PAGE

Principles of Union

E. L. Williams, M.A., discusses the ideals that should govern any movement toward Christian unity.

A Divided World

HISTORY and present vision bring before us a divided world. Of course such is explicable. Accident of birth sets us down in different races, nations and classes, so that we are immediately divided by different standards, interests, outlooks, aims and purposes.

A sick, divided and chaotic world can be united in humanity, fraternity, freedom and equality only by a vision of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man in which race, nationality and class are transcended, and by being gripped by the dominant purpose of the kingdom of God.

A Divided Church

Surmounting the dark picture of a divided world is the tragedy of a divided church. The instrument of the kingdom is without consistency and force in its call to a divided world to unite because it is itself without unity. Well may the world cry contemptuously, "Physician, heal thyself."

Our witness and life and the salvation of the world depend largely upon our unity, and are seriously jeopardised by our divided condition. Professing one Lord, one faith and one purpose, division is inexcusable and an absolute contradiction.

The Essential Unity of the Church

The church is essentially one, for it is the body of Christ (Eph. 1: 23; 1 Cor. 12: 13), and is composed of those who are in Christ and who abide in him as the branches in the vine (Gal. 3: 26, 27; Rom. 6: 3-8; John 15: 4, 5).

Logically there are no churches except as we speak of individual congregations as churches. Churches in any other sense are a contradiction to the conceptions of Christ and the New Testament writers. This essential unity of the church ought then to be expressed in its organisation and life.

The Roots of Division

The church of the early centuries was one, but the growth of human traditions and creedal statements gave rise to church and hierarchical authority, theological standards and corrupted doctrines and practices. Thus the seeds of division were sown. Many of the corrupt doctrines and practices were swept away by the Reformation, and the authority of the Bible and the right of private judgment were asserted. But in practice the reformed church did not fully escape the authority of tradition and theological creeds, nor did it escape the spirit of intolerance which continued to operate in driving intentional reformers within to form new sects as separatist revolutionaries without.

Perverse individualism, exercising the right of private judgment, and intolerance, expressing traditional authority and theology, worked hand in hand to multiply divisions on the grounds of doctrine, sacraments, ministry and government.

A Protest and a Plea

Early in the nineteenth century churches of Christ came into being as a protest against division and as a body of people pleading for unity and offering a programme to this end. They exist to-day to plead for and promote truth and unity in co-operation with all who are moved by a like ideal.

The Spirit of Unity

We believe that the starting point is a spirit of unity—a spirit of love, brotherhood, tolerance and liberty. In this spirit we recognise that all sincere followers of Christ are one in him, and because we are all Christians and essentially one in him we plead for our oneness in organisation, work and witness (Luke 9: 49, 50; John 13: 34; 17: 21).

A Universal Authority

Essential to any programme of unity is a universal authority, a standard acceptable to and accepted by all.

The early Christians, in addition to the Old Testament, made their appeal to the oral word of Christ and the apostles. This oral, authoritative tradition came to be written, and was finally canonised as the New Testament. If it be argued that the church existed and was the authority before the New Testament, we should point out that from the beginning the church appealed beyond itself; first to the Old Testament, then to Christ, and finally to the apostles of Christ. When the teaching of Christ and his interpreters was written and later canonised, there was no change in the authority itself. There was no new authority, but merely the old authority in a new form. The New Testament, as such, truly came after the church, but its essential and authoritative content existed before the church.

If the church ever did enjoy any final authority; on the day that it accepted the New Testament canon, it surrendered such and became subject to its constituted authority, just as contracting parties surrender their liberty and authority immediately they sign the contract by which they agree to be bound and guided.

We believe, then, that the only universally acceptable authority is the Bible, and the New Testament in particular, and that a united church can rise only on such as the universal authority.

A Universal Interpretation

But the New Testament requires interpretation, and the right of private judgment is a gift of the Reformation which we cannot ignore and dare not deny. How, then, can our universal authority remain intact? We are driven to discover some immediate authority; that is, an authoritative interpretation of the ultimate authority. Such we find in a universal interpretation, or the interpretation of what has been described as "the competent, qualified, spiritual scholarship of the church throughout the ages." Then, on whatever interpretation we have a universal mind, that shall be an essential in which unity is required, while on whatever interpretation there is no universal mind there shall be liberty.

Applying this principle to our Lord's institution of baptism and the breaking of bread, a united church can be built around the doctrine and practice of these only as they are universally interpreted on the explicit and positive record of the New Testament. The way to unity on this principle can be explicitly exemplified in the matter of baptism. All who practise this ordinance admit the explicit authority of the New Testament for the immersion of believers and most accept it as an initiatory rite and that, in some sense, it is a means of grace. It is when we go beyond the universal interpretation that we divide.

The same principle would apply in regard to the ministry and government of the church.

A Universal Creed

A universal creed as the living centre of unity is found in the living Christ of the New Testament and Christian experience. We would refuse to be divided by definitions in theological terms or by theories about Christ, and would accept no creedal interpretation or system of theology as the essential of faith. In Peter's confession of faith, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16), we find a divine, creedal statement, and this creed, interpreted in terms of absolute obedience to Christ's Lordship and trust in his Saviourhood and expressed in Christlike character, is the universal creed for a united church, and beyond which we would dwell in the unity of liberty.

Immediately we go beyond the universal interpretation of the universal authority and follow tradition and private interpretations, and as surely as we go beyond the universal interpretation of the ordinances and the ministry and the universal creed as set forth in the New Testament, we divide and destroy the ideal and essential unity of the church.

A picture of complete unity is given to us by Paul:

"There is one body and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephes. 4: 4-6).

For the realisation of this ideal we should pray, plead, plan and persevere.

Christian Union

A. N. Hinrichsen, M.A., B.S.Litt.

STANDING on New Testament ground, people known simply as churches of Christ cannot grant that as a people they are but another denomination, else would their separate existence not be justified. Their purpose of promoting union would be defeated; rather would the present evil of divisions be ironically aggravated. Our separation is not by choice but rather due to the compulsion of circumstances. The shallow contentment that says one church is as good as another is untenable in the light of the New Testament ideal of a united church. As a people we are a movement within the church of Christ (Matt. 16: 18), which certainly is no denomination. Paul unsparingly condemned the wearing of party names (1 Cor. 1: 10-13; 3: 1-7). The bait of a form of church union must not tempt us to sacrifice our unique plea.

Clericalism, with its titles and distinctive dress, and the divisions of Christians into "clergy" and "laity" (relies or symbols of sacerdotalism) can find no place in the New Testament church (Matt. 23: 8-10; 1 Peter 2: 5, 9). Cf. Richardson's "Memoirs" (I, 346; II, 650).

He who preaches Jesus must preach baptism (Acts 8: 35-39), the ordinance in apostolic days being promptly and simply administered, there being no probation nor catechumen classes (16: 33). Its design was to be proclaimed and accepted rather than explained and interpreted (Acts 22: 16). Re Rom. 10: 17 see Richardson, II, 361. Truth must be obeyed (Gal. 5: 7; 1 Pet. 1: 22), salvation by faith alone not being a doctrine of the primitive church. At every opportunity sinners must be urged to confess Christ as Lord ("the obedience of your confession unto the gospel of Christ," 2 Cor. 9: 13, R.V.). Dr. Scroggie says that the fulness of the Holy Spirit is the Lordship of Christ in the believer's life. In "A. Campbell and the Disciples" (p. 229), Dr. Kellem says, "From the very first, the Disciples have considered the conception of faith as personal rather than doctrinal, their noblest contribution to modern Christian thought." Let us never cease to preach that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God (Matt. 16: 16). Union in Christ is attainable.

Notes on Current Topics

Our Altered Lives

PROBABLY the conventional greeting, "A Happy New Year," will not be heard so frequently as usual this year. Australia faces an unprecedented situation, and a new spirit of seriousness has begun to grip our people. The extension of the war to the Pacific, with its dangers and possibilities, should give a jolt to the careless and pleasure-seeking. If newspaper reports are reliable, Hitler recently publicly rejoiced that God has honored him by placing in his hands the destiny of the world for the next thousand years. Christians rejoice that the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth and will continue to reign. But it certainly appears as if, with the extension of the war, the lives of all of us will be so drastically affected that they can never be the same again. Australia never has been so seriously threatened. It is a new experience for us to have blackouts and preparations for evacuation of women and children, and to see raid trenches and shelters being dug in our parks and provision being made of sand to extinguish incendiary bombs.

Demands upon our money, our time and our energy are being made for our country's good. Laws and regulations will curtail the liberties of individuals. All lovers of country and of freedom will cheerfully and willingly co-operate in our common task and be prepared to make the sacrifices necessary to bring us out of our present difficulties and perils. Christians, of course, will set a worthy example to others, and work and pray for the strengthening of our nation and the ultimate good of the world.

Idleness and Worry

CHRISTIANS should exercise a steady and strengthening influence on their fellows. May we all be able to keep calm and live helpfully. Some people are anxious and fearful, ready to believe the worst and to accept the wildest rumors. If we have use-

ful work to do, as we all should, let us go on doing it faithfully. A Sydney woman, recently returned from England, whither she went on an exchange from the Education Department, gave the following advice: "Stay put, and carry on with your job." "Looking back on those two years of war," she said, "it is amazing to remember how normally life went on even in the worst of the blitz. It was only the people who had nothing to do who worried."

A Pastoral Letter

A PASTORAL letter issued by Anglican arch-bishops and bishops of Australia has in it much that should appeal to every Christian. "Our life to-day," the bishops wrote, "must show a determination to give, to serve, to sacrifice just as really here in the shelter of these shores, as do those who adventure themselves for our sake overseas. We urge upon every man and woman in Australia to hold their lives and possessions to-day at the disposal of the nation, and voluntarily to make that offering of service which in the motherland and in our sister dominions has been made a matter of compulsion."

Again, a plea is made for the mobilisation of Christian opinion and influence so that the problems of the post-war world may find a Christian solution. "Only in such a solution is there any hope of a stable and enduring peace." The bishops declare their willingness to "join with our brethren in all the Christian denominations in the endeavor to create a really Christian public opinion." They deem it vitally important that such an endeavor should be made, for "only in the prevalence of the Christian viewpoint is there any hope of social and international justice and the establishment of a lasting peace."

A. R. Main

"Let the Peace of God Rule"

H. J. Patterson, M.A.

AT first thought that word of Paul's seems out of place. "There is no peace," you say. But to Christians, in spite of world chaos and trouble and tragedy, we can re-echo Paul's word, "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts" (Col. 3: 15). The figure used is that of the umpire or governor at the games. He presides, preserves order and arbitrates where such is called for. So the peace of God in our hearts is to the soul that which saves us from disorder, tumult and irregularity. The heart of man is liable to agitation and excitement, and we are likely to be thrown off our balance. Let the peace of God rule—keep calm.

What is This Peace of God?

Jesus has much to say about it. "These things have I spoken unto you that ye might have peace." "But in the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." When telling of his approaching death he said, "Let not your heart be troubled." "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John was one of the "sons of thunder," but he remembered these words of Jesus long years afterward, and had not the Master also said them in relation to the destruction of Jerusalem, "Be ye not troubled." "In your peace possess ye your souls."

Worry is sinful, and actually is a mistrust of or want of confidence in God. Jesus in his own experience had shown no panic.

"He set his face stedfastly to go to Jerusalem." He trusted God to the end and finished the atoning work of the cross with the words, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

The Secret

The early Christians seemed to possess it, and we need it to-day. There is more of reference to the peace of God in the epistles than in the gospels. In Phillipians 4: 7 Paul says, "The peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep (or garrison) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. As a castle or town is garrisoned by an army, so does the peace of God keep us in days of stress and danger. But the real secret is in verse 6. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." The consequence is "the peace of God shall keep."

We need for this danger filled new year, and in all the experiences of life, to keep calm, to have poise, to have the peace of God. You may think it is not easy, but Jesus said, "My peace I give unto you." No one knows what is ahead, but the Christian can trust. He shares the burden with the Prince of Peace and the Son of God. "Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yes, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isa. 41: 10).

Our Young People

C.E. Interests and Activities

W. W. Saunders

A MOTTO FOR 1942

"My Utmost for His Highest."

IN THE NEW YEAR.

THERE are only 24 hours in a day, only 30 days in a month, only 12 months in a year, only a few short years allotted to me in which to work out my own destiny, to build a character which will be mine for ever, to do my work in the world, to do some good to my fellow-men, to sweeten the tide of life as it flows past me, to think truly and kindly, and to find pleasure alike in duty and recreation.

"Let me fulfil this, and it will leave nothing over, no waste moments in this precious year."

GENERAL JOTTINGS

THE world president of C.E. (Dr. Daniel Poling) was in London during September, 1941. He met many leaders of British C.E. to whom he gave interesting information of the movement in the wide world. He extended greetings from the international convention in Atlantic City, attended by over 4000 delegates. The movement in Roumania, Czecho-slovakia, Poland and Hungary was reported as carrying on though inevitably confronted with tremendous difficulties. Of China, Dr. Poling said, the movement was stronger there than it had ever been. Two hundred new societies had been formed in occupied country, the Japanese authorities having even facilitated the activity therein of Mr. Alfred Chow, the national secretary.

National Convention.—South Australia has issued an invitation to the national union to hold a national convention in Adelaide in 1942. If the invitation is accepted a number of difficulties will have to be overcome. Readers are asked to pray that guidance be given to leaders of both the national and S.A. unions.

S.A. Committee.—Mr. A. Glastonbury, the 1941-42 president of our S.A. conference C.E. Committee, has placed the following aims before Endeavorers in that State: (1) A sustained average attendance; (2) Increased activity among juniors and intermediates; (3) More training in Christian citizenship; (4) Missionary objectives—overseas and home missions, Victorian College of the Bible, support of aboriginal girl in Colebrook Home, League of 500; (5) More interest in hospital visitation.

Launch Fund.—Our Endeavorers in all States were asked by the Federal F.M. Board to defray the cost of replacing the launch in the New Hebrides, "Endeavour II," with a more suitable and more seaworthy launch, to be called "Endeavour III." The Endeavorers accepted the commission, rose to the occasion and contributed over £385—more than £35 in excess of the £350 asked for.

New Junior Societies.—One of our newest churches in S.A. is in the Edwardstown West district. The cause has been marked by phenomenal success and growth, and this is being repeated in the junior society which was recently formed under the superintendency of Miss Phillips. This worker has had much experience amongst the Forestville intermediates which may, in part, account for the attendance of 40 at the new junior society. The Victor Harbour church once more has a junior society, Miss Beth Manning being the superintendent.

Christian Endeavor Torch.—That is the name of a new publication issued by the Margaret-st., Launceston, Y.P.S.C.E. The journal is typewritten, attractively set out, and contains readable C.E. information, and helps and articles on various topics.

The Home Circle New Zealand Plans Mission to Nation

J. C. F. Pittman

THIS NEW YEAR

THERE will be both a seedtime and a harvest
 In this new year, rains, roses and the dew.
 The days will go their charted way. Be happy!
 God only asks you to believe, be true.
 "Forgetting that which is behind forever,
 "I shall press on," long, long ago Paul said.
 There will be light upon the hills at morning—
 Let's march with him to that which is ahead!"

FAMILY WORSHIP

THE Christian family should be the normal and the closest bond between personal religion and public righteousness. The natural expansion of the Christian faith is through parent to child. Of all influences, those which surround child-life are the most enduring. It is true that a child does not inherit personal religion; that is to be sought personally of God; but it is of equal truth that a child does inherit an attitude to religion and an estimate of religion. One gain from family worship is that family life is hallowed by it; another, that where common prayer and reading of the scripture is the habit in the home, the Christian faith stakes out a claim in the coming generation. The worshipping family is of vital worth to the nation and the faith. It is a type and promise of the race to be."

IN GOD'S TIME

A YOUNG man once called upon Wendell Phillips, who entertained him until late in the night, telling of the old abolitionist days, and showing him relics of their struggle. As the young man rose to depart, he said to Mr. Phillips:

"Mr. Phillips, I think if I had lived in your time I would have been heroic, too."

Mr. Phillips, who had gone to the door with his caller, pointed to the public houses down the street, and his voice was keen, with indignation.

"Young man," he said, "you are living in my time, and God's time. Be assured that no man could have been heroic then who is not heroic now. Good night."

Vicar's Daughter.—"I'm sorry you don't like the vicar's sermons, William. What is the matter with them? Are they too long?"

William.—"Yes, miss. Your curate, 'e says, 'in conclusion,' and 'e do conclude. But 't vicar says, 'lastly,' and 'e do last."

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

- Jan. 5—Matthew 28: 16-20.
 " 6—Acts 2: 37-42.
 " 7—Romans 6: 1-11.
 " 8—Galatians 3: 23-29.
 " 9—Ephesians 5: 25-30.
 " 10—Titus 3: 1-7.
 " 11—Isaiah 40: 1-11; Matthew 3.

IT is frequently claimed that immersion is unimportant. Whilst many raise no argument against it, they do not "yield" themselves in obedience, and are not concerned whether others do so or not. Such surely forget three things. 1st. That for the first thirteen centuries after Christ immersion was well-nigh universally practised. 2nd. That "he who despises an ordinance of God despises the God of the ordinance." 3rd. That Jesus was immersed. Can the disciple be above his Master? Instead, "every one when he is perfected shall be as his master" (Luke 6: 40).

THE National Council of Churches, formed in July, 1941, set up a commission to consider the launching of a "National Campaign for Christian Order" in 1942. The plan adopted envisages a period of preparation among ministers in the early part of the year, followed by an intensive campaign of Christian witness during the spring. This will be a Dominion-wide simultaneous campaign. A full-time director has been appointed, and regional committees set up. Unless a national emergency forbids, it is intended to carry on this mission to the nation. This is a decisive hour. May the church be found equal to it!

Seasonal Greetings

Hands of Aotearoa reach across the Tasman in a warm gesture of goodwill and greeting at this season of the year, and the N.Z. brotherhood wishes for Australian churches a happy new year of service and progress.

Missionaries Home

After seven and a half years in Southern Rhodesia, Garfield and Grace Todd, missionaries supported by N.Z. churches, have just arrived home. They plan but a brief furlough. It threatens to be a busy one. It is certainly a well-earned one. These two workers have achieved outstanding successes in evangelistic, educational and other activities at Dadaya. Their record is written on African lives. The Government of Rhodesia considers no praise too high for their efficient and impressive labors. New Zealand delights to honor them.

Religious Broadcasting

Broadcasting in New Zealand is a State service. The National Broadcasting Service (director, Prof. James Shelley) provides for relay of services of the following bodies:—Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Congregational, Salvation Army and Brethren. The following statistics give some idea of the opportunity churches have of reaching people in

the Dominion over the air. From six national stations, Sunday morning and evening services to the number of 520 each year are relayed, a total of 628 hours. Fifteen-minute morning devotionals, six days of the week, are included in the programmes of five national stations, an aggregate time of 367 hours annually. Children's song services are broadcast from national stations every Sunday evening, an annual total of 156 hours. These are conducted by ministers of various churches, assisted by Sunday school choirs. Every Wednesday evening the 9 o'clock news-reel and commentary is followed by a five-minute national link-up prayer session, the different churches being represented. The weekly magazine feature, "With the Boys Overseas," broadcast on Sunday morning, closes with a brief prayer for men of the forces. At 9 p.m. daily the chimes of Big Ben summon listeners to one minute's silent prayer.

A Central Religious Advisory Committee, representing churches broadcasting, is located in Wellington, and, with the director, co-ordinates religious broadcasting in the Dominion. Churches of Christ are allocated 39 Sunday services for the year, these being shared by eight churches. The allocation of services is calculated on census returns of church membership.

"Orphaned Missions"

Over £100 was contributed by our churches to this appeal, for which £2300 has been raised throughout New Zealand to date.

Personal and General

There is a moving among our preachers. L. R. Usmar, who has resigned the general secretaryship, goes to Palmerston North. J. Crawford, after a happy ministry at Oamaru, succeeds A. W. Bell at Whangarei. G. R. Stirling closed his ministry at Palmerston North on Dec. 14 with 17 baptisms. He was welcomed to Wellington at a combined district youth rally at Lower Hutt on Dec. 21. Chaplain Wallace Harford is serving in Burnham military camp.—V. C. Stafford, Wellington.

That Matchless Life

A. W. Connor

CHRISTIANITY is based upon the fact of Christ; the Christian gospel is rooted in history. Because of this the selected New Testament readings for 1942 are of supreme value. They are contained in fifty readings from Matthew's gospel, spread over the whole year. What an opportunity this will give to preachers and congregations to master the great events in the life of our Lord, and relate these and his teachings to the events of this year of grace, and to relate his life to ours.

The "coming of the gospels," the written record of the life of Jesus, is a matter of great interest to all who wish for an intelligent faith. We know that Jesus wrote nothing that has come down to us. We also know that the good news was told by the first witnesses and passed from mouth to mouth. Research reveals that within 25 to 30 years various written records were in existence containing chiefly the "sayings" or "logia" of Jesus. Possibly the record of Mark is one of the earliest of those coming, if not from an apostle, yet from the apostolic circle. Most of the matter in that book is also found in the first gospel, as well as much from other sources. In the absence of other information, we may assume that Matthew followed the same careful method that Luke did as told us in the preface to his gospel.

The writer of our record, by uniform tradition from earliest times, was Levi, whose other name was Matthew. He was a tax collector in the service of the Roman Empire. Early

in the ministry of Jesus he obeyed the call and became a follower of the Christ. He remained loyal to the last, and had personal experience of those things of which he wrote. He gives the life of Jesus in broad outline, collects groups of the sayings of Jesus, such as the Sermon on the Mount. He selects many of the parables of Jesus, such as in chapter 13, and records many miracles. Like the other writers he gives major attention and space to the last few months of the life of Christ. By chapter 16, with its record of the confession made by Peter, we reach the watershed of the story. From thence onward it is the record of the "shadow of the cross" and its grim reality. Like all the gospels, it moves on in triumph to the resurrection and ascension. It closes on the high note of the great apostolic commission, with its superb claim of "all authority" and its golden promise that helps us to see that we are reading not of the Christ who was, but of him "who was, who is, and who is to come." Who, other than the Christ of the gospels, could say, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age?"

All our lives will be richer and our Christian service fuller if we use 1942 to know him better and understand his words more perfectly. So let Matthew, the erstwhile tax-gatherer, lead us in our study, as we behold God in action in the great, supreme miracle of the Incarnation. "In the fulness of time God sent forth his Son." We say when? how? why? Matthew will help us to give intelligent answer.

Here and There

We congratulate C. G. Taylor, the newly-appointed preacher for Hampton, Vic., upon his success in qualifying for the B.A. degree with honors at Melbourne University, and also J. W. Middleton, of Glenelg church, S.A., who has qualified for B.A. degree at Adelaide University.

We learn that Ira A. Paternoster, jun., started on Dec. 14 with the church at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, U.S.A. This is a large church of over 700 members and a Bible school of 450. He has done a good work with the Northside church in Cincinnati for the past few years, and has now gone to this important work near Cleveland and Akron, Ohio.

Melbourne Philharmonic Society presented Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah," on Christmas night. Miss Amelia Scarce again distinguished herself. As the soprano soloist Miss Scarce maintained a very high standard. A crowded audience appreciated her beautiful solos, and also the excellent singing and music of the other soloists, the choir and orchestra.

Mr. Curtin, the Prime Minister, referring to the joint allied nations' declaration, says: "A striking feature of the declaration is its assurance that the war is being waged in defence of religious freedom as well as of democratic ideals. The adherence of the Soviet to this declaration thus assumes a special significance and indicates abandonment of the anti-religion policy of the past."

This year we are reading together in our services the gospel of Matthew. We draw attention to A. W. Connor's introductory article on this great book of the New Testament. We desire to remind readers of Mr. Connor's book, "The Lord of Glory," which is made up of a series of studies in the life of Christ, and most of these are based on the gospel of Matthew. Orders may be forwarded to Austral Co. 2/-; posted 2/3.

Allen Brooke is conducting Sunday services at Ann-st., Brisbane, during January, and will resume his full-time ministry in February. On Jan. 4 there were encouraging meetings; 179 broke bread. C. S. Trudgian, superintendent Brisbane City Mission, and Mr. and Mrs. Dicker and Gloria, formerly of Mackay, were received into fellowship. There were two baptisms at evening service, when soloist was Mrs. C. Connell. The church has offered the free use of its buildings to brethren of the city Congregational church, whose premises have been taken over by the military authorities.

H. A. G. Clark, M.A., whilst out with a group of young people from Box Hill church, Vic., on Jan. 1, sprained his ankle and was unable to take services on Jan. 4. Mr. Crawshaw, of Mission to Lepers, and Mr. Roffey were speakers. During the holidays, Phi Beta Pi Club spent a few days in the hills, and the young men, with Mr. Clark in charge, went to Montrose. The wedding of Mr. Harold Steele and Miss Irma Scott took place in the chapel on Jan. 3. T. H. Scambler, B.A., officiating in place of Mr. Clark. The church tendered them a kitchen tea a fortnight ago. Mr. Steele and his wife will leave this State shortly to begin a ministry with the church at Cottesloe, W.A.

Despite wartime difficulties and regulations, the Victorian Young People's Department held a successful Train-for-Leadership Camp from Dec. 25 to Jan. 1 at Warragul. It believes difficulties are made to overcome, and advises that a further one is being held at Hall's Gap from Feb. 24 to Mar. 1. The Youth Committee of the North-Western District Conference is co-operating. While the camp is planned for young men and women in this part of the State, others are cordially invited. Those fortunate to have holidays at this period should not fail to attend. Information is available from the department office.

E. C. Hinrichsen, reporting on the Loftus Park mission, N.S.W., writes: "There were many problems, some lovely people inside the church, but some splendid people out of fellowship. Now they are all back working happily and harmoniously. The district is sparsely populated; no preacher in the field. This lack was compensated by the splendid work of A. L. Carter, A. Hinrichsen, J. A. Adams and S. Wilson, all of whom came from elsewhere to help. The new phase of the war, and Christmas holidays, acted as a deterrent. However, the mission surpassed our wildest expectations. There were 76 decisions, 66 confessions and 10 restorations, and an offering of £160. All of this when the mission was two weeks shorter than most missions. Only those on the spot can appreciate how great was the victory."

Successful Gambler Accepts Christ

E. C. Hinrichsen

V. MORRIS and I journeyed to Wagga for Sunday, Dec. 28, for the dedication of the enlarged church building. In every way our brethren have done a splendid job since the mission closed six weeks ago. The building is improved beyond recognition, both inside and outside.

Although it was holiday time and at least 20 of the members were away, including Mr. Stow, the preacher, the meetings were an inspiration. The enlarged building was filled for the morning service and crowded with extra seats at night, and eight adults made the confession. The treasurer said, "Our offering for the day is over £15." Prior to the mission the average was £5. Then he spoke about the money coming for the thankoffering. There are still six weeks in which the promises may be redeemed, but already over £560 is in hand.

Every conversion is a miracle, but on Sunday night there was a super-miracle. Amongst those who made the confession was a man and his wife. He had many obstacles to overcome. First his people are Roman Catholics, and, of course, he was brought up as a Roman Catholic. Then his people own the largest and most up-to-date hotel in the city of Wagga. He has been in charge of the bar at shows and many functions. Added to this he is a most successful gambler, and has racehorses. It is easier to save a man who is down and out than one who is up and out. Now this man is far from being down. He has been too successful. He and his wife began to attend the mission. He got interested in the gospel, though it was something very new to him. At the hotel he told everybody to go. He got friends to come from Albury—90 miles away. He went in his car 50 miles into the country to bring other friends. At last the mission closed, but he was still outside the kingdom, but very close to it. On Sunday night he stepped into it. He and his wife know exactly what is involved, and with a grit and determination known only to people of great character, they face the task of restitution with a smile. Some problems will be difficult. Some years ago, when a very successful gambler accepted Christ in the marquee, he felt he should not sell his two splendid racehorses, so he gave them away. We ask that many people offer a prayer for these two people who have taken such a brave stand. Our church people in Wagga will read this. Perhaps it would be as well if they did not pass this particular paper on to our friends.

It was a long trip, but the missionaries would go half way round the world for another such sight. "Somebody must have prayed."

Book Reviews

Christian Discipleship and Democracy, by Dr. Kurt Schechner.—This book of five excellent studies has been published by the A.S.C.M. for use at the annual conference of students at Mittagong, in January, 1942. Several characteristic New Testament words, such as law, knowledge and love, are discussed. Each word is studied in its relation to divine love (agape). The writer shows that law without love, knowledge without love, and faith without love, cannot be considered as complete in New Testament doctrine. Divine love (agape) is the ground for divine action, and upon it men must build their life. Without such love we cannot understand God's attitude toward man; and unless men become channels for that love they cannot be disciples of Christ. Dr. Schechner shows how divine love (agape) must be introduced into our democratic way of life; that is if democracy is to succeed. Liberty without love may become licence and freetrade without love drifts to self-interest. Business without love brings profiteering, strikes and unemployment. Democracy, when guided by love, is likely to inspire a satisfactory form of government and to establish a just economic system. It guards the liberties of all and the rights of the higher self. There is much that is very stimulating in this small book. Marked price, 1/-; posted, 1/1d.; pages, 48. Publishers, Australian Student Christian Movement Corporation, Melbourne.

New Testament Churches for To-day, by C. Urquhart, B.A., Principal, Perth Bible Institute.—This book contains much truth that is familiar to members of churches of Christ. The significant feature is that the study shows again that an unbiased approach to the scriptures reveals an order of church life and practice which the churches of the Restoration Movement have been presenting to the religious world for 130 years. We do not endorse all that the writer claims, but we appreciate the main theme. Price, 6d.; posted, 7d.; pages, 42.

The Doctor Asks? by Dr. D. S. MacColl.—Dr. MacColl always said something of value when addressing audiences. We appreciate the opportunity of being able to read some of his lectures and addresses now. A series of sermons presented under the title "The Doctor Asks?" sets out problems of life. Discussing heredity, the doctor does not take into consideration the effect of environment. Some modern psychologists would not agree with some of his statements. He is on good grounds, however, when he shows that we are able to overcome hereditary weaknesses by making decisions in harmony with God's will and by looking for the strength of divine grace. There are many arresting passages in the book, indicating a deep knowledge of God's Word and a keen insight into the nature of man. Publisher, S. John Bacon; price, 9d.; posted, 10d.; pages, 45.

The story of the N.S.W. Open Air Campaigners is told by W. R. Angus in *Truceless Warfare*. Accounts of the methods and successes in open-air work are discussed in this book. John G. Ridley, in the foreword, writes: "We feel this book will interest and inspire many, and we venture to think it will impel some to press out into the fields 'white already to harvest.'" A chapter on open air Sunday schools is full of interest. It sets out the opportunities awaiting those who are prepared to go out with good equipment to reach children not attending Bible schools. If the story encourages some to rise to the occasion presented by new conditions, it will be worth while. Price, cloth boards, 2/9; posted, 3/0d.; leather, 5/-, posted, 5/3.

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Orders for the above books may be forwarded to Austral Co.

News of the Churches

TASMANIA

Launceston (Margaret-st.).—F. T. Saunders commenced an interim ministry on Dec. 21 with splendid gatherings; 126 broke bread. At night special music and carols were sung by the choir and Mr. Saunders delivered a splendid address. A young lady confessed Christ and there were two baptisms. Attendance was 140. On Dec. 28 three were received into fellowship. Mr. Saunders' addresses were much appreciated. At a Christmas service organised by Young People's Department on Christmas night, a young lady was baptised. New year's eve was celebrated by a social gathering of young people, followed by a watchnight service. F. T. Saunders addressed both meetings on Jan. 4, and at gospel service two confessions were made, one by a lad from Bible class. Communicants for day, 119.

Devonport.—On Nov. 30 R. Wilson spoke in morning, F. Burttt at night. On Dec. 7 R. Stevens, from Launceston, was speaker. At night Sister Wescombe sang a solo. On Dec. 14 N. Cheil gave a farewell message in morning. At night H. Street was preacher. On Dec. 18 parents and Bible school teachers gave the school a Christmas tea and tree, and said farewell to Mr. and Mrs. N. Cheil before their departure to Melbourne. F. T. Burttt presented them with a cakestand on behalf of church. Mr. Cheil acted as secretary efficiently for past two years; Mrs. Cheil served in same capacity for Ladies' Mission Band. On Dec. 21 H. Street, spoke in morning and F. Burttt at night. On Dec. 28 F. Burttt spoke in morning. The church had a fellowship tea in honor of Misses Lucy and Vera Taylor, soon to be married. Both have been good workers, especially in Bible school. A presentation of a silver teapot was made to each on behalf of church. At night Mr. Burttt was speaker.

QUEENSLAND

Bundaberg.—Church and Bible school anniversary took place on Nov. 31 and Dec. 1 with all services well attended. Mr. Larsen has left for two months to go to camp at Gympie. Local brethren are carrying on most of the services. A kitchen tea was given recently in honor of the approaching marriage of Miss Phillis Lassig.

Kingaroy.—During morning service on Dec. 28 there were received into fellowship two young women, baptised on Dec. 21, when A. B. Clark preached. A service at 10 a.m. Christmas Day was appreciated. During December marriages were solemnised in the chapel of Miss Hazel Latcham to Pte. R. V. Stark, of militia forces, on 17th; of Miss Nell Grant to Mr. W. Evans on 27th; and of Miss Lou Boynton to Mr. E. J. W. Horne, of Mt. Mee.

Zillmere.—On Dec. 10, a Christmas tree was held for the children. On Dec. 14 Mr. Blake gave the exhortation and Mr. Davidson preached at night. A kitchen tea was given on Dec. 16 to Miss A. Standfast in honor of her approaching marriage. On behalf of Y.P. class J. Bruce presented her with a fruit bowl. She was treasurer of class. On Dec. 20 Mr. and Mrs. Voss gave a 21st birthday party in honor of their son Eric, due to leave on home defence. On Dec. 21 Miss A. Standfast (S.S. teacher) was presented with a jardiniere from school. Dec. 21, Mr. Haigh exhorted the church and Mr. Davidson gave the Christmas message at night. Miss Amy Standfast was married to L. Richards in the chapel on Dec. 27. R. L. Williams officiated.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Cottonville.—Mr. Manning has recovered sufficiently from ankle injury to resume visitation and other duties. Kinders were given a Christmas party on Dec. 13. A number of members have been ill.

Edwardstown West.—Mr. Pike is settling down in work of circuit, his messages being appreciated. Two boys immersed by Mr. Pike on Dec. 28 were received into fellowship on Jan. 4, making number on roll now 50. A. G. Brown's gospel message on Jan. 4 was illustrated by a chart.

Murray Bridge.—On Dec. 20 Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Vivian transferred to Port Lincoln church. Helpful addresses were given by N. G. Noble on Christmas morning and New Year's eve. On Jan. 4 Mrs. L. E. Walmsley and Mrs. M. Brand were received by letter from North Adelaide. Amongst visitors was Mrs. E. H. Randall, of Ballarat, Vic., who sang to a large audience. Mr. Noble spoke morning and evening.

Maylands.—Bible Class held a social on Dec. 17. On Dec. 21 Christmas messages were delivered by K. A. Jones. At night the choir rendered pieces from "Messiah." At Bible school, gift afternoon was observed, a fine assortment of groceries being received. On Christmas Day a combined service was held in Maylands Methodist church. Services on Dec. 28 were much better attended than in previous years.

Nailsworth.—On Dec. 13 a Christmas tree was held for kindergarten. In evening the Ladies' Guild held a social and invited officers and wives. Mrs. Shipway presented on behalf of the Guild and Gymnasium Club a cheque for £23 to church treasurer for building fund. Endeavor societies entertained members of Mile End Endeavor at a social to close their year's work. J. E. Shipway spoke on Jan. 4. All auxiliaries are in recess.

Hindmarsh.—On Dec. 16 a Christmas tree was arranged by kinder department. On Dec. 21 Christmas services were held, Wm. L. Ewers speaking. The church was grieved at news of the sudden death of Mr. Gurr, father of Norman and June Gurr. At night a choral service was held, the choir rendering carols, Miss Lorna Goodall and Miss Sylvia Moore helping with solos. An offering was received for Hindmarsh Town Mission Christmas cheer.

Aldgate Valley.—Kindergarten Christmas party was held on Dec. 17. Doreas sisters went into holiday recess after a year of work. Many parcels were sent to various institutions, beside a number of garments knitted for Red Cross. A farewell social was tendered to J. Shanks. Christmas services on Dec. 21 were well attended. Two splendid addresses were given by W.-G. Oram. The choir sang carols. Other visiting speakers have been Messrs. Anderson, J. T. Train, P. R. Baker, Mathews and S. Sheriff.

Cowandilla.—A Christmas tree for kinders and cradle roll on Dec. 13 was appreciated. At evening service on Dec. 21, anthems by choir and the story of Christmas formed the service led by Mr. Hollams. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell were recently received through faith and baptism. On Jan. 4 Mr. Hollams' morning address was much appreciated. He leaves shortly on a holiday and was presented with notes at conclusion of service on behalf of church by H. Fisher, elder. Among visitors at night were Mr. and Mrs. L. Milne and family, from Queensland.

Williamstown.—T. Edwards concluded with the church as relieving preacher on Dec. 7. A farewell evening was held and presentation of a morning hymnbook made on Dec. 6. His short ministry has been greatly appreciated. On Dec. 14 Mr. Talbot spoke at both services. A male quartette was rendered. Bible school Christmas tree and welcome social to Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett took place on Dec. 20. Mr. Bartlett commenced with the church on evening of Dec. 21. Items were rendered by choir. All departments of church and Bible school are in good heart.

Prospect.—Services on Dec. 28 were conducted by C. Schwab. Visitors were welcomed. At night Mrs. Robbins rendered a delightful solo. All auxiliaries are preparing for a great effort. The church keeps in touch with boys who are away, and inspiring letters are received from them. K.S.P. members held annual camp.

Tumby Bay.—The church was saddened by the death of Mrs. H. W. Nankivell on Dec. 17. The funeral service was conducted by H. G. Norris, just returned from military camp. The church extends sympathy to Mr. Nankivell and family. Baptismal services were conducted on Dec. 21 and 28. Bible school, C.E. and church services have been well attended recently.

Queenstown.—Christmas services were held on Dec. 21. Mr. Brooker spoke, and preached at night, when the choir sang several anthems. On Dec. 15 a Christmas social was held with the main school. Pictures were shown and supper was served. On Dec. 16 Father Christmas visited kindergarten department. Cradle roll babies also received a gift. Young people's meeting and intermediate C.E. combined on Dec. 17 for an enjoyable social. On Dec. 28 Mr. Brooker spoke in morning, gave a very interesting talk to the school, and preached at night, when the choir sang several anthems.

Semaphore.—On Dec. 14 a young lady was immersed. Father Christmas visited kindergarten department on Dec. 20. At annual meeting of church J. C. Stanley was elected life elder in recognition of long, faithful service. Ladies' Guild held a Christmas meeting for the old folk; unfortunately on her way home Miss Cosh suffered a fall and sustained a fracture, and is now in hospital. Nine by transfer and one by faith and baptism have been welcomed recently—Mr. and Mrs. Les. Weeks and family, Mr. and Mrs. Pearce, Mrs. Lutjens and Misses Joyce and Avis Lutjens. On Dec. 27 H. G. Bray—a foundation member—was called suddenly to higher service. The church sympathises with Mrs. Bray and family.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Kalgoorlie.—On Dec. 21 H. R. Fitch was speaker at night, when one young woman made her stand, and Mrs. Francis and Mrs. F. Stephenson sang a duet. During evening service on Dec. 28 two candidates were immersed. Both messages of the day were given by H. R. Fitch. Mrs. Maloney rendered a solo. Mrs. Thomas is very ill.

Maylands.—On Dec. 11 the Women's Guild held a concert, proceeds to help talent scheme. On morning of Dec. 14 F. Griffiths delivered a great message; at night T. Bamford was preacher. Good meetings for day. On Dec. 17 the Women's Guild conducted prayer meeting. The talent scheme money was received, and afterwards farewell was said to Mr. and Mrs. Kretschmier, who expect to go to Melbourne. Presentations were made on behalf of church and Women's Guild. On Dec. 21 Mr. Bamford spoke at both services.

Perth.—A successful Christmas tree was held by kindergarten on Dec. 16. On Dec. 17, after a helpful talk by J. Wiltshire, a social hour was spent. On morning of Dec. 21 greetings were read from C. B. White, on military service overseas. J. Wiltshire exhorted. At 7.30 the choir supplied Christmas music, a quartette and solo were rendered, and J. Wiltshire gave a stirring talk. At 9.15 he delivered a broadcast address. On morning of Dec. 28 T. Bamford, of Maylands, gave helpful new year's message. At gospel service R. Smith (Kalgoorlie) rendered a solo. J. Wiltshire gave an arresting address.

VICTORIA

Boort.—Bible school enjoyed a Christmas tree. Mr. Lanyon addressed the church and Mr. Stocks preached at night on Dec. 21. Mr. Retchford gave stirring addresses on Dec. 28.

Red Cliffs.—Children's tea and Christmas tree, followed by a short concert, took place on Dec. 22. E. Heffernan gave a Christmas message on Dec. 28, and W. Neville, of Irymple, was speaker on Jan. 4.

Sunshine.—I. Nixon spoke at both services on Jan. 4. Church annual business meeting was held on Dec. 16. Officers elected, Messrs. Cordy, Cox, Iloff, Petrie, Wright. Y.P.S.C.E. continues with good meetings.

Melbourne (Swanston-st.).—On Dec. 28 C. C. Dawson was morning speaker and Dr. Killmier in the evening. On Jan. 4 Chaplain Young preached morning and evening. The church appreciated help from these brethren.

Bentleigh.—During December the officers entertained Ladies' Guild at a social evening. The president of the guild presented the officers with £14. On Dec. 28 T. R. Morris was morning speaker, and C. B. Nance-Kivell preached at night.

Ormond.—C. L. Lang gave good addresses on Dec. 28, and has also given helpful talks at mid-week prayer meetings. On Jan. 4 there were some visitors, and Mr. Lang gave new year's messages. N. Booth's mother is very low in St. Vincent's Hospital.

Oakleigh.—The chapel was filled at morning service on Jan. 4, when S. Neighbour commenced his ministry. In the evening he conducted a baptismal service. At close of gospel address a young lady from Bible school responded to the invitation.

Brunswick.—Contributions for new Sunday school equipment had reached £20/15/- when the appeal closed on Dec. 28. The church received seasonal messages from many young men serving overseas. Mrs. Cornish has been transferred to Austin Hospital.

Yarrawonga.—Christmas tree was held for the kinders, also one at Mulwala combined with sale of work. Fine united services were held at Presbyterian church on Christmas Day and New Year's night. G. P. Pittman's addresses have been helpful and encouraging.

Ascot Vale.—Dec. 21 was Family Day. There were 105 at morning service, 80 at night. An offering of £14/10/- was taken. Clubs and auxiliaries went into recess for holidays. The teachers had a tea and made a presentation to Miss Kirby, who has gone to reside at Hampton.

Fairfield Park.—During December Mr. Sandells and Mr. Cartmel delivered helpful addresses. Mr. Cartmel continues with the church until arrival of Mr. Hillbrick in February. On Dec. 18 the kindergarten had a Christmas treat. There have been fair attendances during holiday period.

Chelsea.—In absence of Mr. Hunt on holidays, helpful addresses were delivered by Mr. Huntley, of Cheltenham, and Mr. Clarke, of Hampton, on Dec. 28, and by Mr. Geyer, of Gardiner, and Mr. Gerrand, of Hartwell, on Jan. 4. Mrs. Augustine is progressing favorably in Alfred Hospital.

Middle Park.—Kindergarten held annual treat on Dec. 20. Christmas services were held on Dec. 21. D. Stewart delivers helpful addresses. On Dec. 27 Miss L. Wines and Mr. A. Houghton were married. Mr. Houghton has enlisted in A.I.F. Ian Hall is still in Heidelberg Military Hospital, but is improving.

Warracknabeal.—Representatives of J.C.E. Society visited local hospital the afternoon before Christmas and made gifts to each patient. On morning of Jan. 4 J. Chivell, of Gilgandra, N.S.W., who is visiting his folk and helping with the harvest, cycled 30 miles to be present and gave a much appreciated address.

Denaby.—V. Quayle commenced his ministry with the church on Dec. 7. A Bible school was held on Dec. 20, prior to the school, with other church auxiliaries, going into recess. Christmas messages were given by Mr. Quayle on Dec. 21. Visitors were welcomed. Carols were sung at local hospital after gospel service.

Portland.—On Dec. 28 Mr. Robb spoke to church. An interesting address was given by A. Rivett on Jan. 4.

Warragul.—On Dec. 28 Y.P. Department campers were in full attendance. A total of 85 broke bread. C. J. Robinson, camp chaplain, spoke at morning service. At night A. A. Hughes, from Swanston-st., gave the address. Special singing was rendered by camp choir. A happy time of fellowship was enjoyed.

Preston.—Christmas services conducted on Dec. 21 had good attendances. At night the choir rendered appropriate anthems. C. J. Robinson was absent at Youth Department camp on Dec. 28. H. Turnham spoke in morning and F. V. Brown conducted gospel service. The help of these visiting brethren was much appreciated.

Mitcham.—Endeavor Society has been in recess during past three weeks. The church thanks visiting speakers who helped last year. On Jan. 4, at evening service, conducted by A. H. Pratt, a young married couple made the good confession. Morning services are well attended in spite of several young men being in camp and overseas.

Ringwood.—A. H. Pratt preached at united Christmas service in Presbyterian building to a good audience. On Jan. 3, at Eltham, he married his niece, Miss B. Cockroft, to Mr. Box, of Preston. Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Cockroft are helping the church financially. W. Gale on morning of Jan. 4 gave a new year's message. R. J. Sandells proclaimed the gospel. The church is united and happy.

Black Rock.—J.C.E. society held a successful social on Dec. 13. Kindergarten Christmas party on Dec. 18 was well attended. On Dec. 20 the Y.P.S.C.E. held a Christmas party. A presentation was made to Mr. Hardham for services rendered to the young people. Messages from Mr. McColl and Mr. Mathieson have been enjoyed. Meetings continue to be well attended. Special "Christmas gift" reached over £22.

Hamilton.—On Dec. 16 the C.E. Society held an enjoyable social. The Endeavorers have rendered valuable service. Mrs. Barrett is able to meet with the church after sickness. Appreciation for Christmas parcels and seasonal greetings have been received from A. W. Garland, T. Collis and T. H. Haddon, on service abroad. On Dec. 13 an enjoyable afternoon was spent by about 30 kinders and cradle roll children at Christmas party.

South Richmond.—Meetings over holidays were well maintained. On Dec. 21 three were received into fellowship, two by transfer and one by faith and baptism. Among visitors was Sister Murphy, from Perth, W.A. Mr. Cocks, from Camberwell, rendered two messages in song. The church has been saddened by the death of Mr. Fewster, an esteemed officer, also Sister Grierson. Sympathy is with Sister White in the loss of her mother.

Geelong.—K. A. Macnaughtan was speaker at all services on Dec. 21 and 28. At gospel service on 21st a brother made the good confession; he was baptised on 28th with another who confessed Christ at same service. Evening meetings are commencing a half hour earlier. There has been an excellent response to the appeal not to allow the earlier hour to hinder attendance. The study group, which meets on Sunday afternoons, is now under leadership of Mr. Rodda, who is conducting a course of studies in prophecy.

Bayswater.—Services on Dec. 21 consisted of Temple Day offering in morning, £19/7/- being given for church improvements. At night a Christmas service was held; Miss Finger was soloist and P. Jordan (of Boronia) led the singing of special musical service. R. Burns spoke at both meetings to good congregations. On Dec. 28 Mr. Burns, sen., had charge of all services for the day. Bible Class and Boys' Club combined in giving a Christmas tree social to S.S. young folk. Messages of a new year nature were delivered by R. Burns on Jan. 4. Several visitors were present.

Ballarat (Dawson-st.).—Christmas functions included Y.P.S.C.E. tea to elderly church members on Dec. 15, kinder and primary Christmas tree on Dec. 16, middle school Christmas treat on Dec. 18. Final prayer meeting for year, Dec. 17, was united service in chapel. W. W. Saunders was leader, assisted by A. N. Kemp (Methodist), and G. P. Campbell (Presbyterian) gave the address. Speakers at Dawson-st. recently have been E. Steele, T. Comer and W. Clack in morning and W. W. Saunders at night. At Doveton-st., T. Maxwell, W. Saunders and E. Steele have been morning speakers and T. Comer and J. A. Wilkie evening speakers. The former took the confession of a husband and wife on Dec. 28. Sunday school broadcast over 3BA on Dec. 28. Congregation was well represented at watchnight service at Lydiard-st. Methodist church on New Year's eve. Church regrets that G. Reed has been compelled by military call up to relinquish Mt. Clear S.S. superintendency. M. Bailey has agreed to fill the position for time being.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Wollongong.—Special study meetings have been held in the home of interested friends in West Wollongong, and the brother in whose home these meetings are held, together with a sister, confessed Christ on Dec. 20. A Christmas tree was provided for kindergarten on Dec. 19.

Loftus Park.—At a well-attended service on Christmas Day, five young people were baptised by L. Jones. On Dec. 28 large and inspiring services were held. Mr. Jones was speaker. A wonderful spirit of co-operation and enthusiasm is evident both in old and new members.

Rockdale.—On Dec. 21 B. G. Corlett, of Belmore, exhorted, and at night A. Hinrichsen preached to a good congregation. Kinders held a successful Christmas party. On Dec. 28 Mr. Hinrichsen spoke morning and evening to good congregations. Two lads from Bible school confessed Christ.

Georgetown.—On Dec. 17 the church members enjoyed a Christmas social. On Dec. 20 Father Christmas visited the children's gathering in the afternoon, and the Sunday school had a social evening. Christmas services were conducted by R. V. Amos on Dec. 21. Members of church went out carol singing on Dec. 24. On Christmas Day an evening service was conducted by Mr. Amos, who also spoke at both services on Dec. 28.

Taree.—A. G. Saunders spoke at both services on Dec. 28. Throughout the year he gave encouraging addresses, messages to the church being particularly helpful and instructive. R. W. Graham, associated with the church from boyhood, will enter College of the Bible, Glen Iris. Before his departure to Commonwealth Bank at Murrurundi at end of September, 1940, he had a prominent place in the work of Bible school and church.

Canley Vale.—A year of great blessing closed with Christmas celebrations. Kindergarten enjoyed a Christmas tree on Dec. 16, and on Dec. 20 the junior department had a party. Attendances at services have been well maintained. Gloria Hinrichsen was received into fellowship on Dec. 21, having been baptised at the Hinrichsen mission, Loftus Park. On Dec. 28 S. H. Wilson conducted both services. Two young men accepted Christ at night.

Paddington.—On morning of Dec. 28 R. J. Greenhalgh spoke; at night J. Dean preached. A large number of parcels were distributed among needy in district in Christmas week. C.E. and Girls' Club enjoyed reunions. Women's Fellowship had attendance of 50 at break-up. Two scholars from Bible school have confessed Christ. Greetings have been received from members abroad with A.I.F. At morning service on Jan. 4 Mr. Greenhalgh addressed the church. At gospel service two Bible scholars were immersed. Mr. Greenhalgh directed his address to youth.

Auburn.—During December the church annual business meeting and election of officers was held. E. Davis's report, and reports from auxiliaries, showed increased activity of the work. Dorcas report showed the big variety of work and the large amount of money raised. Services were well attended on Dec. 21, when Christmas hymns and special singing by choir were appreciated. A service on Christmas Day and a watchnight service on New Year's eve were well attended. E. Davis conducted all services.

Belmore.—Good attendances have been maintained; average at Lord's table, 150. Splendid services characterised day of special prayer, combined with Bible school anniversary, at which the scholars sang excellently. Addresses by E. Davis, B. G. Corlett, T. V. Weir and S. H. Wilson were of a high standard and resulted in three decisions. Annual meeting of Ladies' Aid and Mission Band was a day of fellowship and encouragement. The sisters are working hard for new building fund. Junior C.E. held a successful concert on Dec. 17. The offering of £3/5/- was passed on to Boys' Home, Pendle Hill. On Dec. 21 an excellent address was given by A. Hinrichsen.

Obituary

Mrs. M. A. Chivell

ON Dec. 9 the church at Long Plains, S.A., sustained loss through the home-call of Mrs. Mary Ann Chivell at the age of 78 years. She was received into membership by letter from Mallala church on Aug. 25, 1914, and was most faithful and earnest in her service for the Lord. She found great comfort in God's word, and always manifested a spirit of quiet patience and confidence in God her Saviour. We commend all sorrowing relatives to God's care and comfort.—A.O.S.B.

Mary Ann Goodrich

ON Christmas Day Mrs. Goodrich entered into rest, after an illness of some months, at the age of 75 years. She was baptised by the late H. D. Smith at Hindmarsh, S.A., 56 years ago, and has been a most loyal member of Robert-st. ever since. She was one of the silent yet most dependable workers, ministering to the sick and poor by visitation and through the Dorcas Society. She loved her Lord and his church. We commend the husband and family to God's loving comfort and care.—W.L.E.

Miss L. Vick

ON Dec. 3 Miss L. Vick, a faithful member of the Long Plains church, S.A., received the home-call at the age of 60 years. Received into membership by faith and baptism on Dec. 15, 1921, she remained always faithful to her Lord. She was greatly loved and respected for her kindly interest and practical help. Mercifully saved from a lot of painful suffering, she has gone to be with Christ which is far better.—A.O.S.B.

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"New Sacred Solos and Duets," H. Lillenas, 4/-.

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JANUARY 15.—Oakleigh church will tender a welcome to Mr. and Mrs. S. Neighbour in the chapel on Thursday, Jan. 15, at 8 o'clock.

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BIRTH.

BURNS (nee Minnie Wimpney).—On Jan. 1, at Mercy Hospital, East Melbourne, to Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Burns—a son (Ian Malcolm). Brother for Marjorie.

IN MEMORIAM.

BUCKINGHAM.—In loving memory of our dearly beloved eldest son, Edward Marcel (Ted), who passed away, result of accident, Jan. 11, 1933, aged 22 years 10 months. Late of Malakoff-st., St. Kilda.

He is not dead, the child of our affection,
But gone to that great school,
Where Christ himself doth rule.
—"Bangalore," 40 Emma-st., Caulfield, Vic.

PATERSON (nee Foster).—In loving memory of our dearly beloved and only daughter and sister Nessie, who fell asleep in Jesus Jan. 5, 1941. Our pal.

We'll know why clouds instead of sun
Were over many a cherished plan;
Why song has ceased when scarce begun,
'Tis there, some time, we'll understand.

—Inserted by her loving mother, father and brother Jack.

PATERSON.—In loving memory of my dear wife and our dear mother, Nessie, who passed away Jan. 5, 1941.

We shall see her one bright morning,
Waiting on the other side;
We shall see her sweet face beaming,
Not changed, but glorified.

—Inserted by her sorrowing husband, David, and children Neil and Jill.

PATERSON.—In loving memory of our daughter-in-law, Nessie, who passed away Jan. 5, 1941; loving sister-in-law of Nessie (Mrs. R. Luscombe), George and Allan (A.I.F. abroad).

Your sweetness and dearness will linger for ever,

As we treasure the memory of you.

—Inserted by Mr. and Mrs. D. Paterson, Preston.

PAYNE, Ellen.—We have not parted with our dear mother; we only said good-night on Jan. 11, 1939.

Till the dawn breaks,
And God's peace we share;
We leave you, dearest mother,
In his loving care.

—Annie, Elsie and Fred (son-in-law).

ADDRESSES.

F. Burt (secretary Devonport church, Tas.).
—15 Fenton-st., Devonport.

I. Nixon (preacher Sunshine church, Vic.).
—1 Servante-st., Sunshine, W.20.

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Enthusiasm of Island Nurses

OUR two nurses, Misses Clipstone and Wakely, give most encouraging and enthusiastic reports about the progress of the work:

"We are pleased to say that the work is going ahead splendidly. Abel Barney, the new Nduindui teacher, has the happy knack of getting others interested and working, with the result that church attendances are steadily improving, and there is a much better tone in the meetings. They have commenced "open" Sunday afternoon meetings, too, at alternate churches. These are usually well attended, the churches being packed out, and everyone seems keen to take part in the discussion period. Our Y.P.S.C.E. is flourishing. Our old schoolroom is filled to overflowing by enthusiastic Endeavorers. Next Sunday we hope to have the lime and cement floor in the new larger school house finished, so that we can hold the meetings there. We will need to have elastic walls on our verandah for the Friday night "sing sing" soon. Last week we had about one hundred folk crowded in. What they did with their legs I am sure I do not know. Anyway, their discomfort in no way interfered with their singing. It is a treat to listen to them. The school progresses satisfactorily. A very heartening thing about our medical work is the continued interest of the independent folk. A mother from Wallaha has actually asked if she can have her baby here shortly. We have been able to do a lot of personal work lately. We are all well and happy in the work here. Sister Wakely joins me in sending seasonal greetings."—Mary L. Clipstone.

PRAYER REQUEST FOR NURSES

THE minds of some people will be exercised because of our nurses on Aoba, and wondering about their present position. It must be remembered that the Islands are under Government control, and the Resident Commissioner at Vila is responsible, as far as it is possible, for the safety of all British subjects in the group. In addition to the Commissioner, there are district agents (also British), working under the Commissioner, who are responsible for their district. We can rely on these agents to watch the interests of all their nationals and give whatever advice may be needed for their protection. There is no way by which communication can be sent to them other than by boat, and these are few and far between. Whatever is done must be done by the local authorities. We at home can pray that God will take control, and keep them in safety in these dark days. The last mail from our workers was dated 18/11/41.

ANOTHER'S VIEWPOINT

DR. D. A. McGAVRAN, of the American Disciples' Mission, was guest speaker at our annual meetings in India. From an article to "World Call" on "A World Fellowship of Churches," we select the following:

"I have just spent a most enjoyable week with the Indian mission of the churches of Christ in Australia. It is a thriving, well-run mission with plenty of able, consecrated men and women in it from 'down under' the world, in that semi-continent Australia. Founded in 1905, the Australian Christian Mission now has a staff of twelve missionaries on the field, one couple loaned to the war and four on furlough—eighteen in all. There are four stations. The evangelistic work at Dhond and Baramati, the hospital at Dhond and the Criminal Tribes Settlement at Baramati, are all fine pieces of mission work. Three of the missionaries have been honored by the Government; and the president of the mission, Dr. Oldfield, is an active and influential member of the Christian Medical Association, and has done much to establish a co-operative drug purchasing unit which serves all India.

"The Australian Churches of Christ Mission stands to-day on the threshold of a great opportunity. They are surrounded by people who have declared that they are going to renounce Hinduism and adopt another religion. In the face of this opportunity, my Australian friends asked me to conduct a two-and-a-half-hour session each morning during their annual meeting, sharing with them my knowledge of how the church grows in India, and my experience in how such opportunities should be bought up. We had a rich time together, and our meetings concluded with a conviction that God had much in store for the church in that area. Great growth seemed imminent. The call of God to reap the harvest sounded in our ears. An invitation to come back next year and give them another series of addresses is one which I trust can be accepted.

"An item which adds much interest to a visit to the Australian mission is the Mary Thompson Bungalow which has recently been completed as a memorial to the first missionary to India from amongst the Australian Christians. Mary Thompson came to India back before the dawn of the twentieth century and worked all her life with the American mission. She lived at our pioneer station, Harda, and was beloved by generation after generation of missionaries. They came and went, but Miss Thompson carried on. It is a lovely thing that the churches of Christ in Australia have done in rearing a memorial to one who gave all her life to the proclamation of the gospel in the field of the American Disciples of Christ."

This department is conducted by A. Anderson, secretary of our Overseas Mission Board, 261 Magill-st., Tranmere, South Australia.

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Social Service

Notes and Comments

Will. H. Clay

The War and Social Questions

WE have previously referred to the increasing moral looseness of our time. We write, of course, of those things which are happening before our own eyes. In spite of the increase in the price of liquor, there does not appear to be any diminution of drinking; on the contrary, the younger generation increasingly seems to regard drinking as a proof of calibre and essential to hospitality. Many other folk are contributing to this fallacy. At a recent meeting of representatives of social questions committees, the disclosures were too shocking to put into print. Men, boys and girls brazenly take their places in hotel parlors and even at the bar. Drunkenness, with all the shame associated with it, is blatantly paraded in our public places, in our trams and buses, and not even police in many cases dare take any action. Blackout conditions do not tend to improve matters.

Six O'clock Closing of Drinking Shops

Encouraged by the increased patronage of the public, liquor interests are quick to seize upon the occasion to seek better and longer hours of trading. It is well known that the early hours 8 to 10 a.m. are not as profitable as the 8 to 10 p.m. period. Queensland, by a narrow majority, has decided to make the change to 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Again the Labor Party has settled the question. It is strange, yet true, that this party has consistently stood behind the liquor-trading interests in every State of the Commonwealth. Strange, because "labor" professes to advocate the cause of the worker, but never was the working man more openly betrayed. Other States must jealously guard against any attempt to deprive them of any favorable anti-liquor legislation now on the statute book.

The Christian and Politics

Is it not time that Christians organised against sin and sinning? Too long have we been prepared to accept what has been given us, often by unscrupulous politicians. We have been victims rather than beneficiaries. The position will be altered when we have learned that only Christian politicians can give us Christian politics.

Fete Festival in Victoria

The women of our churches, realising that the annual fete in aid of the Christian Guest Home could not succeed this year for obvious reasons, decided to raise an amount at least equal to that raised by the fete, by direct giving. This method was not dependent upon suitable weather and good transport facilities. Had these things counted, the effort could not have succeeded. Saturday, Dec. 13, saw the mercury at nearly 100 deg., while transport was almost unthinkable. The attendance was not large, but it was representative. Each church sent representatives, who brought their offerings as on Temple Day, and the total has now reached over £240. This sum exceeds the highest reached at a fete, and the expenses are comparatively light. Thanks to our splendid band of women. A complete statement is being sent to the churches.

Christmas Concert

The Christmas concert given by the Ladies' Choir of churches of Christ in Swanston-st. church on Monday, Dec. 15, the proceeds of which were devoted to the Christmas Cheer Fund of the Social Service Department, was a great success. Miss Pittman and the choir furnished most of the programme. The assisting artists were Mr. Cerbasi, a blind harpist; Mr. Wensor, a tenor; Miss Jenkins, elocutionist; and Miss Amella Scarce, a soprano of our own church who has already established an

Australian reputation. A well-filled building gave all well merited applause. Thanks are due to those who made it possible for almost the whole of the proceeds to be handed over to the fund. It is expected that the total will reach more than £25.

Christmas at the Christian Guest Home

Endeavorers once again gave the guests of the home a Christmas treat. A complimentary tea was tendered and a programme of Christmas songs given. Cheltenham juniors, under Mr. Bert Huntley, with the co-operation of Oakleigh C.E. Society, made a presentation to each of the guests. Other presents were also given, and all enjoyed the occasion to the full. Misses Rita Roberts and Winnie Lee were in charge of arrangements. Such occasions as these have a value far beyond that suggested by the gathering itself. May God bless all whose mission it is to bless others.

Open Forum

FOR "CHRISTIAN" READERS

[Correspondents are reminded that letters should not be more than 300 words in length, that names and not pseudonyms should be used, and that once a writer has had his say on a particular topic he should leave the way open for somebody else. We do not desire unsatisfactory crossfiring. The insertion of a letter does not imply editorial approval of its contents.—Ed.]

PROBLEMS ARISING FROM CHURCH MOVEMENTS

THE operative organisation of our church life has had one lamentable weakness, viz., the provision made for the maintenance of the ministry. This has resulted in considerable hardship, chiefly borne by the preachers. It is therefore not surprising to find some of these sufferers most active in seeking a solution to the problem. It would appear possible that the adoption of a standard denominational organisation, under the plea of a desirable step towards Christian union, would go far towards relieving the position as far as the preachers are concerned. However, the obvious sacrifice of matters which may be even more important should cause us to hesitate.

In reality there never was a time when Christians were more urgently called upon to perform their primordial function. How is this practicable? Only by a life—or death—challenge to God's people. Most of the churches have resources of power that are largely wasted under our present luxury standards of church life. Why should we keep preachers to wait upon us, and demand that they heap upon us the choicest delicacies of God's storehouse, while in so many places men and women are starving through lack of the Bread of Life? The churches are surely capable of maintaining their own work with the resources from within their own ranks, and the strong would have to help the weak. The preachers would then become the hands and feet of the brethren in a different sense, viz., to carry the glad tidings to those to whom it really is news.—H. L. Davie, South Australia.

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What Hopes for the New Year?

(Rom. 15: 13)

IN a parable, Nathanael Hawthorne pictures a meeting of the old and the new years, on Dec. 31, a while before midnight chimes. They talk of past events, of things that the old year bears away, and especially of the roses of hope, which the new year carries in her basket. The new year is undismayed at the old year's cynicism, and proceeds to strew her emblematic flowers on the doorsteps, knowing that some persons will gather them up and wear them, while others will trample them underfoot.

Surely we are realising again that our heavenly Father, as the God of hope, delights to kindle hope afresh in the hearts of his children. Are we not aware of numerous intimate expectations which are very tokens of God? Doubtless we are sharing, also, certain great new year hopes in common.—The hope that the rigors of life in 1942 will prove a salutary discipline.—The hope that we are to experience increasingly the integrating power of devotion, to duty and to God.—The hope that the coming year will bring to us God's mercy and deliverance. Let hope go arm in arm with faith and love throughout the whole year! "The God of hope fill you . . . that ye may abound in hope."—G. J. Andrews.

THOUGHT.

*"The daily round, the trivial task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask;
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God."*

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With which is incorporated the Aged and Infirm Evangelists' Trust.

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