

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

I PRAYED

*It was so dark along my little street—
Day's end had come without a lighted
lamp,
And I was lost as Israel's children were
When they had toiled dim years in
Egypt's camp.*



*I too, it seemed, had made bricks all the day
That other hands might build a monument;
My vessel held no oil to break the dusk
Of alien fields where I had pitched my tent.*



*Then suddenly I prayed—and there was light
That left me warm and strangely unafraid;
When I am frightened now I always think
Once it was dark and light came when I
prayed.*

Helen Welshimer from *The Great Salvation* by P. H. Welshimer.

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C. G. Taylor, B.A., Editor. A. R. Haskell, Manager.
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It was the Spirit that drove Christ into the wilderness, but as Dr. James Reid points out in the "British Weekly," he who now says "Go" has also said, "Lo, I am with you always . . ."

The commands and the promises of Christ are always linked together. His offer of power or peace depends on our obedience to his call. "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me," he says, "and ye shall find rest unto your souls." After their night of fruitless fishing he said to his disciples, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Christian living and service consist, as Paul insisted, in working out in daily life what God is working in us. The same note of command and promise linked together appears in Christ's final words to his disciples after the resurrection, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations; and, lo, I am with you always."

It is a common failing to rely on the promises without obeying the commands. Then we wonder why the promises that leap to our minds from the pages of the Bible are not always fulfilled. The monks of olden days used to tell how one of them was visited one day in his cell by Christ. But before he had time to take in the wonder of it he was called to some simple act of service. He went reluctantly, fearing that the vision would be lost; but when he returned he found Christ still there awaiting him. "Hadst thou stayed," he said, "I must have gone." The experience of fellowship with Christ in any real sense of the word comes when we are walking his road, going where he leads, facing the tasks he bids us do.

When Christ leads us into difficult country he is waiting there in the shadows to make some new disclosure of himself. The journey of life in his company will bring us time after time to a new frontier which will demand faith and effort to cross; but "when he putteth forth his own sheep he goeth before them," and the narrow way, as we may feel it to be, will lead us into green pastures and by still waters. "Go," he will say to us when we stand shrinking before the unknown road, "and, lo, I am with you always."

PRAYER

O God, make us sensitive to the needs of others and help us to pass on to them the gospel of Christ. Enable us to share thy purpose for the world in the assurance of thy continual strength and guidance. When our hearts are cold kindle in them afresh the fire of love to thee and to our fellowmen. If we be afraid to venture or slow to make sacrifices may thy love burn up within us all hesitation and all self-seeking, so that losing life for thy sake we may indeed find it.

THE VOGUE OF THE VAGUE

THE NEW BIRTH

We would like to believe that the day of the "vague" Christian had passed and that everyone who is called "Christian" will be able to speak with more certainty of their faith. The time is later than we think and because of the dangers that lie ahead the need for a knowledge of what we believe, and why, is urgent. To be just a formal Christian is not enough in the world of today. It never has been enough. Christ has always wanted followers who could speak with the same assurance as Paul when he said, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him . . ."

C. J. Dennis satirises formal religion when he tells in the *Glugs of Gosh*, of Sym the son of Joi who was sent to school,

*"Where the first thing taught is the Golden Rule,
'Do unto others,' the teacher said . . .
Then suddenly stopped and scratched his head.
'You may look up the rest in a book', said he,
'At present it doesn't occur to me;
But do it, whatever it happens to be!"*

How vague! But, unfortunately, how true concerning far too many "Christians" in sunny Australia. As illustrative of this let us note

THE GOLDEN RULE

A great many people live by it, so they say, and will tell you glibly that, "I never do anything to anybody that I don't want them to do to me." But, that is not the Golden Rule. It was the teaching of Confucius which is vastly different from our Lord's words in Luke 6: 31. Christ spake positively saying, "As ye would that men should do to you, de ye also to them likewise." Confucius didn't take into account the matter of doing good continually or advance as far as James who said, "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." The negative kind of life of "not doing anybody any harm" although seemingly commendable in a world where "man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn!" is not acting according to the laws of the kingdom of God.

This vague conception of just one word of Christ's teaching is indicative, unhappily, of Christianity in general. It is nothing new, and is given expression in Matthew Arnold's outcry:

*"Light half-believers in our casual creeds,
Who never deeply felt, nor clearly will'd,
Whose insight never has borne fruit in deeds,
Whose vague resolves never have been fulfil'd."*

There may be a recognition of God as creator but very little understanding of his relation to us as a loving, heavenly Father. Quoting C. J. Dennis again:

*"The Glugs gaze up at the heights above,
And feel vague promptings of wondrous love."*

But no earnest Christian would have any doubts as to his relationship to God. Nor would he be vague as to how he entered into that relationship. The new birth is not a mere figure of speech to the man who was once rebellious against God, and has been born again. To all who have openly accepted Christ as Saviour, died to the old life and risen from a watery grave in newness of life with him, the new birth should be a very real and joyous experience. Perhaps nurtured in the Bible school and with godly parents to guide us in the way of Christ, our experience was not just the same as one who had wasted years in riotous living. But the making of the great decision and entrance into the fuller life in Christ should be just as dear and precious. If there be any doubts, questionings, misgivings, we must take our New Testaments and read again such great passages as John 3, Romans 6, and most certainly the Book of Acts. Let there be no fearful apprehensions about our place in the church and our hold upon Christ. Let us make our election sure.

THE NEED TO KNOW

Time and again the Scriptures warn us of those things that would lead us away from God and cause us to become castaways. Robert Speer lived in another generation, but he spake needed words for his time and ours when he said, "We need to be recalled again and again from the shifting opinions of men, to the solid judgments of Jesus, from their uncertainty to his authority. To whom else shall we go? He has the words of eternal life." One thing many lack today is any great consideration of the scriptures, consequently these folk are without any great convictions. When a surveyor commences his work he must have a starting point. Our starting point must be the word of God and whatever experience we may have in our life with Christ *we know* because that word has been proved. And it is armed with this authority that we need to enter every home, and every heart right now. This is no time for vague wonderings, it is a time for positive and confident action. "Put on the whole armour of God," "quit you like men, be strong."

F. N. LEE, writing from the "Orcades" has something to say on

"Sunday Evening Services are a Thing of the Past"... Are They?

This expression was used in one of the main addresses at the recent Victorian Easter Conference, and similar sentiments have been expressed in other words by various speakers in recent years. While admitting that there is some justification for perhaps thinking that "Sunday evening services are a thing of the past," there is no need to accept this state of affairs as normal in our generation.

Any church that accepts this state as normal cannot claim to be a true New Testament church. The church in any generation must go out with the Gospel, adapting its methods and techniques to the conditions of the day, with the object of winning men and women to Christ.

The church today faces a very difficult task, because the people who need Christ are not aware of their need in spiritual things. The approach to the outsider therefore is a major job in public relations. The reason that "Sunday evening services are a thing of the past" in so many places, is because the church has lagged behind in using modern techniques to present the Gospel message.

No business house trusts to luck that the customers will be in the store in the morning to buy their needs. Modern advertising and display make the customers aware of their needs in material things. How often do we find the church conducting a campaign on a continuous basis to make the non-church-goer aware of his spiritual needs? We may spend a few shillings advertising an occasional special service, anniversary or mission, but generally speaking the church does very little to bring itself continuously before the people who need Christ, to make them aware of their needs, that only the church can supply.

A planned campaign using today's methods of public relations and many of the techniques of salesmanship used by the modern business house can just as effectively fill our churches with the people who need Christ, as it fills the stores with eager customers.

This is not guesswork or an idle claim. It has been proved over the past two and a half years at the Thornbury (Vic.) church. Commenced in September, 1952, during a period when the church was without a resident preacher, the Sunday evening service at an average of about 50, with hardly any non-members ever present has increased gradually over the period, till first, an average of 100 was reached and became the regular order. Then more rapidly

it built up last winter to an average of 150. This year, since a mission with Eric Hart of Toowoomba in February, the evening attendance has taken a further upward trend and in recent weeks the average is well above 150 reaching 160, with some attendances up to 180, and an occasional one of over 200. With this increased interest it is only natural to expect and to find that a very large percentage of the increase is due to non-church-goers living in

the district, becoming more or less regular worshippers on Sunday evenings. There would be at least 50 non-members present on most Sunday evenings. Inevitably, as time goes by, some respond and accept Christ, others never do, but the important thing to remember is that "Sunday evening services are not a thing of the past," if you plan to attract the customers so that they can be aware of their spiritual needs.



NEWS OF THE WEEK OF PRAYER SWITZERLAND.

During the Universal Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25) a service of intercession was arranged by the Ecumenical Association of Churches in Geneva. It was held on Wednesday, January 19, in the Cathedral of Saint-Pierre. The Evangelical Alliance had agreed to co-operate with the Ecumenical Association on this occasion. The service was led by representatives of the Swiss Protestant Church, the Old Catholics, the free Evangelicals, the Lutherans, the Anglicans, the Methodists, the Christian Evangelical Association and the Salvation Army. The sermon was preached by Alfred Werner. The choirs of the Old Catholic Church of Geneva, and of the Salvation Army also took part. The World Council of Churches was represented by B. T. Molander and Phillip Potter, both from the Youth Department.

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, similar services were held in other towns in Switzerland.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The principles which must guide all prayer thought and action for Christian Unity, were stated by Hugh Bishop, CR (Anglican), at the meeting organised by the Men's Religious Orders in connection with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, in London. The Bishop of Kensington presided, and

others speakers were a Roman Catholic priest (Thomas Holland) and a Methodist (Harold Roberts).

"The only form of Christian unity for which we may pray or labor," Mr. Bishop said, "is that unity which is according to God's will, and which is already inherent in the divinely constituted nature of the Church . . . We cannot substitute any lesser form of unity for it. But there are degrees of membership of the one Church. And it is into even closer, deeper and fuller unity within the fellowship of that one Church that all of us without exception have to enter . . ."

According to Dr. Roberts (Methodist) the "sin of disunity lies in the fact that we are unable to recognise one another as belonging to the one Church. And that failure is revealed at the very point where the unity of the Church should be manifest — namely, in the celebration of the central rite of the Church, where the gospel of reconciliation is proclaimed by divine appointment. There we display our disunity."

"What could be done about it?" asked Dr. Roberts. "There is a sense in which we can do nothing, because the problem is far too big for us, and this is why we must recognise the necessity for prayer." They could, however, proclaim "the unchanging gospel of redeeming love by means of evangelism and service."

(continued at foot of next column.)

MISSIONARY NEWS

(Notes supplied by A. Anderson, Sec., F.M. Board.)

ENTERING JUBILEE YEAR

A splendid note is struck by E. W. Heard, Indian missionary:

Indian Mission Jubilee.

In the playground of the Boys' Home at Baramati is a very large tree, in which the boys have two big swings. Fifty years ago a young Australian and his wife camped under this tree and wrote to some of our brethren in Victoria recommending that from this centre, the Indian Mission of our churches of Christ be commenced. Baptisms soon followed of converts from among the Hindu people—a church was organised—more missionaries went from Australia.

Harvest of Souls.

We can proudly report in this 50th year of our Indian Mission that the unselfish devotion of a large group of your missionaries has borne fruit — thousands of once benighted idolaters have found forgiveness and peace in the company of the redeemed.

Indianisation.

The church has grown up alongside the Mission organisation, but was always weak in leadership and finance. The voice of the Indian Christians was heard little in the counsels of the mission. Lack of Indian leaders had hindered delegation of responsibilities to the church, and lack of responsibility had thwarted the rise of leaders in

Thomas Holland said: "Our Lord, on the Cross, would not have said 'It is finished,' unless the work he had begun was truly perfect, able to stand normal stress, and even abnormal stress. We, on this platform, do not believe the same Christian doctrines, frequent the same sacraments and recognise the same Christian authority. If we did, we would be fellow members of one visible Church. Our Lord has said, 'Ask and ye shall receive; knock and it shall be opened unto you.' I appeal to all, during this octave of prayer, to make the knock a reality . . ."—E.P.S., Geneva.

(Contributed by C. L. Smith for the Federal Committee for the Promotion of Christian Union.)

the church. It was clear that the church should be at the centre and not on the outskirts of the Christian enterprise the Mission had fostered. At the end of 1953, this took place, when the Mission handed over to the churches the control and organisation of the Mission activities.

Partners in Obedience.

This had a salutary effect on our young Christians, and it has been gratifying to see young men zealous to do Bible training and enter the service of the church. It also calls forth a new role for missionaries, co-operating with and eventually working under Indian Christians as partners in obedience to the one Lord. The impact of Indianisation on the churches must cause a response of increased and zealous witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

New Projects.

1. Dhond Hospital is crowded with patients — work has commenced on erection of a maternity and children's block.

2. Baramati School. Built to accommodate 400 — has 850 pupils. Work in hand to build four new classrooms.

3. Commencement of a Christian Agricultural High School at Baramati is only hindered through lack of finance — £300 wanted here.

4. Boys' Home at Baramati, over 130 boys here. Urgent need of new store room and enlarged meal room. The boys deserve this.

5. Indian leaders. Urgent need for more finance to train men for the work of the church. The young men are available — help with their fees through College.

6. Karjat. A new work was commenced here last year — centre of a new area of the N.E. of "Our India" where we have accepted new evangelical responsibility. This territory has not been evangelised for a generation. Over half a million people live here and only one preacher in the area. Finance is desperately needed to enable the placing of more men here.

An Oasis in the Desert.

Australia is an oasis of wealth on the edge of the great Asian desert of poverty and squalor to our near North, where hundreds of millions of people live out their lives in darkness and the fear of death. We can do no less than share our prosperity, that the Gospel may be preached, and God's

other children may know the Redeemer Christ.

CURRENT NOTES

Mr. E. W. Heard having completed an extensive programme in Tasmania and Victoria over the past few months, has now left for New South Wales to visit churches in that State.

Miss Gwen Batterham has been busy among the Victorian churches, especially in women's meetings. She is one of the Mission Bands' Living Links. Early in July, Miss Batterham plans to enter Epworth Hospital for additional nursing experience. She will remain there for about three months.

Miss Ruth Roberts has had to battle against storm and tempest in Queensland during her visitation of the churches. Consequently, her itinerary has been prolonged. She is booked to leave for India late August and be in India for the Annual Meetings and Jubilee celebrations.

Mr. Roy Dixon has visited the churches in Western Australia and has now moved into South Australia, where he will do deputation work till the end of June. Mrs. Dixon (and family) will journey from Victoria to share the South Australian visit with her husband.

Borrowed Beauty

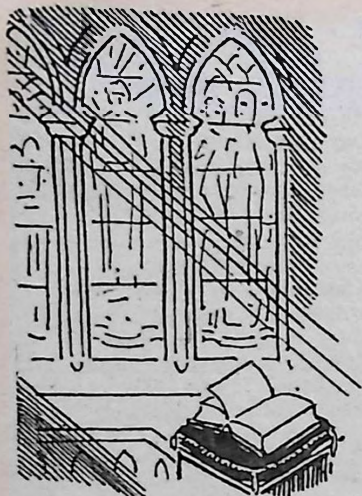
W. R. Hibbert

For some time the ornamental gracefulness of the wild cherry-trees that thrive in the Dandenongs delighted me. A botanical authority recently caused me to suspect their grace when he explained that they were parasites. Their vitality and beauty is borrowed. They send out their roots to search for those of neighboring trees, and thrive on the nourishment gained from these roots. When denied these conditions, they perish.

May it not be that the wild cherry illustrates the reason why the spiritual life of many Christians withers away when denied the companionship of a friend, or when circumstances transfer them away from home or the church.

An over-dependence on the faith, inspiration and promptings of others has tended to cultivate habits that in the time of testing prove one to be a spiritual parasite. There has been insufficient initiative leading to the personal habits of prayer, meditation, study and worship; yielding nourishment directly from Christ. We all need the constant reminder of the implied direct contact in Christ's words, "Abide in me."





THE LIVING WORD

Studies on the planned Sunday morning readings

Sunday, June 12.

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 16.

Summary.

The Psalm is full of certainty—this man knows where he stands; what he cherishes and what he rejects. It overflows with confidence, with utter trust in, and jubilant praise of God. It breathes deep contentment in the wealth of blessing possessed in God. It breathes an air of comfort in the strong reinforcement of the communion of the saints. In verses 1-4, the Psalmist takes his stand with God and his people; in verses 5-8 he exults in God as his portion; in verses 9-11 he glorifies God as the Preserver of his life.

Explanatory Notes.

Vv. 2-3. Unfortunately, the Hebrew text is very corrupt. The A.V., trying to be literally faithful to the Hebrew, sacrifices sense for true translation. To really bring out the meaning of these two verses, the Psalm needs to be read in a translation such as Moffatt's.

"My goodness extendeth not to Thee" (v. 2). — "Goodness" in the sense of "welfare." "Extendeth," i.e., "does not go beyond Thee." Hence, the meaning would be, "I say to the Lord, 'Thou art my Lord, my well-being is with thee and thee alone.'"

"But to the saints" (v. 3). — Read, as Driver, "As for the holy ones who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight."

"Their drink offerings" (v. 4). — Perhaps not literally "libations of blood," but as "loathsome as if they were composed of human blood."

"Their names" (v. 4). — i.e., "the names of their idol gods."

"Their names" (v. 4). — i.e., the boundary markings." He is comparing his fortunate lot in life to the happy chance of a man whose holding of land happens to be in a spot of great charm and beauty.

"My glory" (v. 9). — i.e., "my soul."

"Rest in hope" (v. 9). — R.V., "dwell in safety!" "The primary reference is not to the dead body in the grave, but to the continuance of bodily life on earth." (Dummelow.)

"In hell" (v. 10). — R.V., "to Sheol" (the abode of the dead). The meaning is, "Thou wilt not suffer me to die."

"For the Psalmist, death is swallowed up in forgetfulness. Overpowered with the sense of the absolute perfection of fellowship with God here and now, he forgets about the grim possibility of death. But death is not yet openly faced, utterly defeated, and swallowed up in the victory which Christ won." (Hugh Anderson.)

"For evermore" (v. 11). — Even if we cannot give an absolute Christian meaning to them, "the Psalmist's words contain an anticipation (though it may be a dim and only semi-conscious one) of the immortality which Christ has brought to light." (Dummelow.)

Suggested Theme.

"A SOUL WITH SURE VALUES."

Introduction. — What is the greatest good that we should seek in life? Many cannot choose; they want so many things. Many choose wrongly, and suffer disillusionment and loss. Here is a man who has preferred the highest good of all. "Thou art what I obtain from life, O thou Eternal; thou thyself art my share" (v. 5, Moffatt). His preference is shown, negatively, in

I. ABHORRENCE OF THE UN-GODLY (v. 4). — (a) The very names of their gods are unfit to mention. (b) The ritual of their religion is loathsome. (c) Its result is only sorrow and remorse. Positively, his preference is evidenced in

II. ADMIRATION OF THE SAINTS (v. 3). — (a) They who have God as their supreme value are naturally drawn together. (b) Through their sharing in fellowship they enhance each others' experience of God. Pre-eminently he proves his preference in

III. ADHERENCE TO GOD. (a) He trusts God utterly (v. 1). (b) He is completely absorbed in God (v. 2). "My well-being is with thee and thee alone." (c) He possesses God as a sure inheritance (vv. 5-6). (d) He looks to God for guidance (v. 7). (e) He stabilises himself in God (v. 8). (f) He rejoices in God (v. 9). (g) He hopes in God (vv. 10-11).

Conclusion. — As the Psalmist anticipated the richer revelation in Christ, so the soul that values God supremely never knows how supremely valuable he will prove to be.

NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 24: 1-21.

Summary.

This is not so much a trial of Paul as a "preliminary hearing" before the governor Felix. The high priest Ananias, and selected members of the Sanhedrin, bring a hired lawyer, Tertullus, to state the case against Paul. It is a farrago of falsehood. Paul replies with

dignity, skill, and dauntless faith. His speech falls into two parts, vv. 10-16 and vv. 17-21; each part covers almost exactly the same ground and makes the same four points.

Explanatory Notes.

"The governor" (v. 1). — History does not support Tertullus' flattery of Felix. He deserved some credit for vigorous action against brigands and zealots. But for the rest, Josephus said, he was a thoroughly bad man. In a famous epigram, Tacitus said, "with all manner of cruelty and lust he exercised the functions of a prince with the disposition of a slave."

"Sect" (v. 5) or "heresy" (v. 14). — The word was used in a derogatory sense, and Paul refused to accept it.

"Whom we took" (v. 6). — They wanted to make out that Paul was their prisoner. It was a falsehood. The Romans had arrested Paul to rescue him from the Jews (Acts 21: 31-33).

Suggested Theme.

"THE CONSCIENCELESS AND THE CONSCIENTIOUS."

Introduction. — V. 16 provides a key to the whole passage. The great contrast between Paul and those arrayed against him was that he was utterly conscientious, and they were completely without conscience.

I. THE CONSCIENCELESS. — (1) The persons confronting Paul (a) The counsel for the prosecution. His speech is falsehood subtly expressed to gain the desired effect. But he was simply doing what he was hired to do. Others were guiltier than he. (b) The governor. His reputation, his greed (Chap. 24: 26), his guilty fears (Chap. 24: 25). (c) The accusing Jews. They knew perfectly well that what was being said against Paul was false. (2) The charges preferred against him. (a) Paul was an insurgent. (b) He was leader of a sect—a Messianic movement, which the Romans knew, always caused trouble. (c) He was a defiler of the temple.

II. THE CONSCIENTIOUS. — (1) The skill of Paul's reply. (a) A compliment, but with no insincerity. (b) A plain denial of the charges. There was no sedition in his intentions or actions. The Christian faith was not a "sect," but "the Way," perfectly orthodox according to Jewish belief, including the orthodox doctrine of resurrection and judgment, which his accusers, the Sadducees, rejected. No evidence could be produced of any intended pollution of the Temple. (c) A shrewd pointing out that his accusers had no witnesses present to support their charges. (2) The secret of Paul's integrity—his constant effort to preserve a true conscience.

Conclusion.—With a conscience clear before God, a man may face anything that men may say or do.

An Australian Abroad

Divinity School
Drake University,
April 30, 1955.

The Editor,
Sir:

Living here in the mid-west I find myself making some comparisons of the distribution of population in the United States and Australia. For all that Australia is a primary producing country it is very urbanised and centralised. A recent *Commonwealth Affairs Bulletin* had figures showing that almost half the population in each State is found in its capital city (with the greatest relative concentration in Adelaide and the least in Brisbane). In the eastern States here and in California there are large city populations too, but in the mid-west there is a wide dispersal of population and extensive decentralisation of social institutions.

Iowa is exactly two-thirds the size of Victoria and has a population of 2,600,000. The largest city is Des Moines, with a population of about 180,000. It is also the capital of the State. It is not usual for the largest city to be the capital! Although our own Disciples' University (Drake) is at Des Moines, the State University is at Iowa City (27,000 population), the Agricultural University at Ames (23,000) and the Teachers' Colleges in yet other cities like Grinnell (7,000). Our Divinity School is at Des Moines, but other communions have their Divinity Schools in Iowa too, in cities other than those mentioned above. In addition, scattered over the State are Church Colleges which offer a regular B.A. degree course.

Iowa has ninety-nine counties, and each county has a large say in its own educational, medical, social welfare and agricultural programmes and policies. Some of the greatest opportunities in the ministry lie in these influential county seats in towns of, say, 3,000-8,000 population.

I think that this decentralisation of social institutions has much in its favor. I have been interested in recent letters in the *Sydney Morning Herald* with reference to the New England University at Armidale and the need for a Riverina University. (It is a great pity that the Mildura University was so short-lived.) I can see better than ever that such a spread of higher learning would greatly enrich our Australian life generally, including the life of the churches.

The Disciples here are mid-western and rural. (Collectively we are known as the Disciples, following Alexander Campbell; individual congregations are usually known as "the Christian church," following Barton Stone, although sometimes they are called

"church of Christ.") Being mid-western and rural are two of our big problems.

We began in West Virginia and Kentucky at the time when these were on the American frontier, and we followed the frontier westward, riding saddle to saddle with the Methodists. But we have never made much impression on the east. Put us in a frontier situation, like today's Texas, Southern California, Washington and Oregon, or like new suburban housing settlements, and we can hold our own. Isn't that also true in Australia? When we have been late on the scene in town and city suburb, we too, have made little impression or progress?

Since 1910, the farm population of the United States has declined from 32 million to 22 million while the total population has increased from 92 million to 162 million. The Disciples have 8,000 churches in U.S.A. and seven out of ten are rural churches.

We have suffered greatly from the relative and absolute decline of the

farm population. Since 1920, 1,000 (one thousand!) of our rural churches have gone out of existence (450 in the last ten years). The little white wooden rural church building has gone the way of the little red brick rural schoolhouse. Today many have less than 100 members and do not have even a part-time ministry or regular Sunday preaching services.

The Iowa Disciples number 66,000 in some 300 churches. You will get an idea of the size of the churches from the following:

members		churches
Under 100	—	100
101-200	—	100
201-500	—	30
501-1,000	—	50
Over 1,000	—	7

For every Australian abroad there must be thousands more at home, so I must not crowd out your space. May I point out some of the features of our rural situation next letter.

Yours statistically

Ron Graham.

P.S. There are three great maple trees across the street from the parsonage in leaf. All things are green and growing. Green as green is the Kentucky blue grass!

Book Review

A PURPOSEFUL PUBLICATION

Trainees Will Welcome a Copy

"All the best," is what you say to young men at your side in church, office and workshop as they leave to fulfil the required period of military training. But there is something you have not said, though implied in those words. You left it unsaid because you knew it to be in terms of advice and you also knew your teenage friend does not relish advice. But now you do not require to say it because it has been said for you in a friendly, brotherly, way. You will say what is in your mind and heart if you pass on to your trainee friend a copy of *All the Best*, a booklet of 20 pages. The author, H. A. G. Clark, M.A., B.D., Dip.Ed., in his preface explains that "it has been written primarily for young men who have sought to live by Christian standards and who, on being called up for military training find themselves thrown into a strange and challenging environment."

Anticipation is wise preparation. Explanation and guidance is designed to give a plan of action to trainees to win through the social, and mental and spiritual adjustment in a strange experience. Of course there is purposeful advice in the booklet, but you do not recognise it as such because it has been distilled into manliness through the friendliness and understanding by the author. The author has always possessed a zest for the frontiers of life.

The last decade of his life has been spent with the Australian Military Forces in Australia, New Guinea, Japan, Morotai, Borneo and elsewhere. Chaplain General, Allen Brooke, in his brief foreword testifies that "in these pages he (the author) shares with trainees some of the wealth of his varied experience." *All the Best* becomes alive immediately the eye rests upon the cover page illustration, and remains alive because of the subject matter and the action in each illustration.

This article is not concerned merely with the commendation of the booklet but rather with its use, as the medium it affords all to fulfil, a trust owed to youth friends thrust out on to new life-frontiers. In order that this trust may be fulfilled let each congregation keep on hand a ready supply, and each friend of youth several copies so that they can go into friendship action as opportunity presents itself. Let us serve as the field men of the Federal Literature Committee of Churches of Christ in Australia, the sponsors of the booklet. In faith, they have risked the expenditure of a 5,000 edition. Copies may be secured from The Austral Printing and Publishing Co., or State Bookrooms, at 1/5d each, plus postage. Young men leaving home for other purposes than that of military training would also be helped by the booklet. Friends desirous of arming chaplains with copies for free distribution are advised to send donations to C. L. Smith, 53 Boronia-rd., Boronia, Victoria.—W. R. Hibburt.

here and there

The Living Word for this issue, and throughout June, is prepared by J. E. Brooke, Balwyn, Vic. The next issue of *The Australian Christian* will be the F.M. number.

Letters have been received appreciating the hospitality of S. H. Wilson, preacher at South Perth, W.A., and of R. Thomson, secretary, Fremantle church. It is quite customary for the Western folk to meet the ships and planes, if they know brethren are travelling on them, and entertain them whilst in W.A.

A. W. C. Candy, who has been preacher at Grote-st., Adelaide, S.A., church for 4½ years has accepted a further three years term with that congregation as from next January.

T. A. Fergusson, preacher at Latrobe-terr., Geelong, Vic., was recently invited to represent the Federal Inter-Church Migration Committee by serving as chaplain on the S.S. Arcadia between Fremantle and other mainland ports. Scottish migrants would feel "at home" when they engaged in conversation with the chaplain!

Commencement of full-time ministry by R. M. Wilson, at Invermay, Tas., has been marked by increased attendances at all services. During recent weeks there have been eight decisions and ten have been baptised, some are waiting baptism, and others are close to decision. Prayers of the brotherhood are requested for this growing work.

The Bible School Committee is anxious to contact all those isolated members whose children cannot attend a Bible school regularly. The Committee asks that such members contact them at once, c/o The Young People's Dept., 161 Flinders Lane, Melb. State names and ages of the children. Lessons will then be forwarded each quarter under a Postal Bible School Scheme. The Committee would appreciate receiving names and addresses of isolated families from those who should know of any.

Newspapers have featured Adelaide's footballing parson at the opening of the season. Geo. Wood, preacher at Beulah-rd., is playing for the Norwood league team. Another of our young men, John Halbert, Unley church, has also captured the imagination of the Sturt supporters with good displays of his prowess in league company.

As a result of a resolution at its annual meeting, the church at Lake-st., Perth, W.A., is planning a new venture by an additional appointment for specialising among young people of its constituency. It is making enquiries for a likely person to fill the position of full-time Youth Director in the local church and thus hopes to utilise to the full the splendid equipment it has.

The environment of a Christian—

Beneath me — Green pastures
Beside me — Still waters
With me — My Shepherd
Before me — a table
Around me — mine enemies
After me — Goodness and mercy
Beyond me — The house of the Lord.

CHURCH WORKERS HONORED

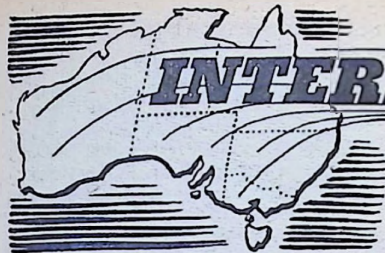
At a special service in Lismore, N.S.W., chapel, four members were honored as a mark of respect and love for the one hundred years of service which they have given between them.

They are Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Wotherspoon, C. L. Savill and G. M. Davis. Mr. Wotherspoon has been church secretary for 30 years, and Mrs. Wotherspoon secretary of the Women's Guild for 25 years. Mr. Savill has been associated with the diaconate for fifty years, and has rendered magnificent service as choir-master. Both Messrs. Savill and Davis are elders and the latter has also given many years of service in the various offices of the Lismore work.

At the testimonial service, Mr. and Mrs. Wotherspoon were presented with a chiming clock. Mr. Davis and Mr. Savill were presented with standard reading lamps. The service was conducted by A. C. Caldicott, and speeches were given by Ron Wotherspoon, A. J. Stevens, and Mrs. A. Somerville. Mrs. Edna Collingwood presented Mrs. Wotherspoon with a spray of orchids. Anthems were rendered by the choir, and a duet by Mesdames Cliff Gray, and G. Jackson. The Scripture was read by G. B. Davis of Woolwich Bible College.—A. C. Caldicott.



—Block from "Northern Star"



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

- Mrs. Holroyd, Roger Elliot, Essendon, Vic.
- K. and H. Boxhall, G. Masters, Misses M. and S. Boxhall, P. Masters, W. Harvey, H. Filbee, J. Potter, W. Boyd, Invermay, Tas.
- Brian and Kevin Stowe, Laurie Spelling, Wattle Park, Vic.
- Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Trainor, Mrs. E. Scott, Miss L. Cook, H. Schmidt, South Perth, W.A.
- Zorina Dixon, Nth. Essendon, Vic.
- Miss B. Gale, R. Kleinig, Bambra-rd., Caulfield, Vic.
- Miss M. Creed, Unley, S.A.
- Lynette Handby, Jack Cliff, Reservoir, Vic.
- Phillipa Docherty, Elaine Smith, Russell Smith, Edward Bell, Harold Rogers, Don Rouges, David Selvey, Judith McDonald, Georgetown, N.S.W.

Membership

- Mrs. Stowe, to Wattle Park, Vic.
- Mr. and Mrs. J. Deane, from Epping to Broken Hill, N.S.W.
- Mr. and Mrs. F. Bell, from Tumbay to Ungarra, S.A.
- C. Luxton, to Ungarra, S.A.
- Miss J. Telfer, to Ungarra, S.A.
- Mr. and Mrs. Pewtner, to South Perth, W.A.
- Mr. and Mrs. Ghys, Miss Ghys, from Mosman, N.S.W., to Bambra-rd., Caulfield, Vic.
- Miss M. Sherwood, from Fullarton to Unley, S.A.
- P. Aitken, from East Preston to Reservoir, Vic.
- Mr. and Mrs. Collins, from Collingwood to Reservoir, Vic.

Marriage

- Joan Reid to David Hill, Essendon, Vic.
- Joan Thomson, Springvale to Neville Westmore, Ringwood, Vic.
- B. Bolton to N. Armstrong, Cottesloe, W.A.
- Dierdra North to Kenneth Pleney, Nth Essendon, Vic.

Beverley Sell to Keith Goodall, Nth. Essendon, Vic.

Dora Small to Richard Hutchens, Rockdale, N.S.W.

Fallen Asleep

- A. J. Thomas, Lake-st., Perth, W.A.
- H. Larsen, Lake-st., Perth, W.A.

Tasmania

Invermay (R. M. Wilson). — Visit of D. Nicholls and W. Wigney was appreciated, and increased interest in Aborigine work has resulted. I.C.E. has been formed under leadership of M. Wilson, and youth club commenced with C. S. Badcock as supervisor. 26 attended first meeting. Church social was well attended and enjoyed. Mrs. Green has returned from Qld. and Sis. J. Alderton has been home on leave from S.A.

Queensland

Mackay. — Attendances are being well maintained at all services. Miss R. Roberts visited church and gave talk on Indian mission work. S. Vanham, (Conf. Pres.), was with church from May 14 to 24, and conducted Sunday and mid-week meetings. B.S. held annual picnic at Far Beach during April. Fine C.Y.F. concert was held in chapel on May 6. Three C.Y.F. members went to North Queensland camp at Magnetic Island during Easter. Improvements are planned for interior of chapel. Recent visitors have been Mr. and Mrs. Nelson (Rockhampton) and Mr. Warwick; while during school vacation, R. Nielson and May and Marie Langeland attended services.

Western Australia

Lake-st., Perth (A. J. Fisher). — Excellent meetings on Mother's Day, when also, annual offering for Youth Dept. was received, reaching £61. N.S.W. Flood Relief offering was £88. Working bees have been held at Christian Rest Home and our ladies have supplied cakes and biscuits for the Home for May. C. J. Robinson, (Conf. Pres.), addressed church on May 15. Barbecue was held at Greenmount on 13th, attended by record number of Y.P. Loving sympathy is expressed to relatives of A. T. Thomas and H. Larsen, who were recently called to their eternal rest.

Cottesloe (G. Smith). — Messages relating to youth and home were given on May 1 and 8. 42 attended youth tea on 1st. Happy Hour conducted by Youth Director from May 2 to 6 was enjoyed by average attendance of 128 children. Six basketball teams are doing well in competitions. Matron Taylor addressed

32 ladies at meeting held in manse to honor aged women of church. Offering of £4 was received for Indian widow. Betty Christie is improving in health.

South Perth (S. H. Wilson). — Baptismal service was held on May 22 when five adults were immersed. 151 were present. At close, two made good confession and one reconsecration. On 15th, one made the good confession and two reconsecrations. Salvation Army entertained church with band concert on 16th, proceeds of £16 being for ladies machine fund. Church held recognition social on 13th to Mr. and Mrs. B. Wesley (past church sec.) and presented gift as a mark of appreciation. I.C.E. and Good Companions held combined Mothers Night on 10th. J.C.E. entertained mothers on 15th. Y.P. held barbecue at Riverton on 21st. Meetings are well supported, seating has been taxed to utmost over past months. Prayer meetings on Thursday evening are receiving greater support. Fence and gate erected on south side of building by B. Steveson is appreciated. Envelopes for Federal Home Missions offering have been distributed. News from Mr. and Mrs. M. Lindsay (Sunday Island) and R. Schmidt (Carnarvon) was received with pleasure. R. Raymond (Subiaco) addressed morning meeting on 15th. 127 communed for day on 22nd.

New South Wales

Broken Hill. — Various speakers helping with services have been Messrs. Cremer and Deane (Broken Hill), Stroud, Lambert, Stevens and Carnaby (Adelaide) and Mr. Dixon (Olary). Church is grateful for their assistance. Other visitors have been Mrs. and Miss Stroud, and Mrs. Stevens and son (Adelaide), and Mr. and Mrs. Driscoll (Gawler). A young couple making their home here is Mr. and Mrs. R. Mellett. J.C.E. presented gifts to mothers and grandmothers of church for Mother's Day. Mrs. Huckle attends church when possible, but cannot do so regularly on account of illness of herself and husband. H. Garner who was in hospital for operation has been welcomed back to services. Y.W.L. was restarted on May 8 under Miss J. Hosking (supt.). B.S. held successful picnic on 14th at Zinc Lakes.

Taree (M. H. A. Pleper). — Establishment of the work at Taree was recognised in special services on May 21 and 22. Guest speaker was W. D. Howard (Merewether) who made a splendid contribution towards success of the occasion. Celebrations commenced with annual dinner held in Masonic Hall on 21st, presided over by M. Pleper. Many visitors from Newcastle and other districts attended, also preacher's father

from Ipswich, Qld. Mrs. C. Norling was convener of anniversary committee and had the help of a good band of workers. Mesdames. K. Porter and A. Burns (Newcastle) and local artists provided items. Services were continued on 22nd with attendances of over 100 at meetings. Thank-offering (incomplete) stands at £201.

Hornsby (K. R. Fennell). — Thanks are due to staff of B.S. for renovation of school hall. City Temple C.E. conducted prayer meeting on May 18. Circuit social was held at Hornsby on 20th. Chapel has been enhanced by installation of new curtains, new communion table, four new chairs on platform and second pulpit. Appreciation is extended to A. Morton for giving of his time to polish the new furniture. Mr. Bartholomew was speaker at morning service on 22nd. Gospel service took form of nurses' service at which some nurses from local hospital were present and one took part; Dr. R. Millar (Burwood) was guest speaker. G. E. Knight showed slides of Aborigine work at prayer meeting on 25th.

Rockdale. — Kinder held Mother's Day afternoon on May 1. Speakers on 8th were G. H. Benjamin (Earlwood) and C. Saxby. Mrs. McKellar (Epping) was soloiste. Church organist and J.C.E. leader were married by J. Henderson (Burwood) on 18th. B.S. held barbecue on 21st. C. Bowser was morning speaker on 22nd and Mr. McMillan in evening. Mrs. McDonald sang a solo.

Bexley North (J. G. Shaw). — During preacher's vacation following brethren gave helpful messages, N. Reece, D. Oldfield and L. Yelds. On May 15, officers conducted meeting, and a young lady made her decision. Sympathy is expressed to Miss M. Campbell and her father who were injured in a car accident; both are now recovering. Mrs. Rolls was welcomed back after her recent illness.

Kingsford (A. G. Elliott, M.A., B.Sc., Dip.Ed.). — Billy Graham film *Why Go to Church* was screened on May 15. On 22nd, a beautiful new baptistry screen, presented by Rodger family, was dedicated to memory of late Mr. and Mrs. J. Rodger. Three were immersed, and three others confessed Christ. J.C.E. and C.Y.F. are progressing favorably. Explorer Club is seeking more members. Good Companions Club is preparing for a concert. Loyalty month is proving very successful, with large gatherings, up to 130 at the gospel meeting, and three more baptisms. Mrs. McWilliams is improving after illness. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Lambourne in her recent bereavement.

Georgetown (W. E. Hoffman). — Week of tent meetings celebrating church's 15th anniversary created good interest. H. M. Long (Horsham, Vic.) preached each evening to good congregations. There was one reconsecration at the final service. Over 120 sat down to

anniversary tea on the Saturday evening, and there were over 150 at tent meeting following. Sister churches gave good support. Eight Y.P. have been baptised and received into fellowship. Over 30 mothers were present at kinder Mother's Day service. There were good attendances at all services during day. Men are attending special series of training classes in Hamilton chapel during May, with Messrs. Howard, Thurrowgood, Mackenzie and Hoffman giving lectures.

South Australia

Nailsworth (N. Gavros). — Services on May 22 were well attended. 43 years ago a church was formed in Walkerville and later moved to its present site in Nailsworth. Temple Day service on Saturday evening commenced anniversary series and special offering now stands at £160. Y.P.S.C.E. now meets at manse, membership has increased and enthusiasm growing.

Grote-st., Adelaide (A. W. C. Candy). — Four were baptised at evening service on May 22; an elderly man of 73, middle aged man, young married lady, and young man of 15. Service was well attended with many visitors. Women's Fellowship conducted successful birthday on 17th, over 60 attended. Bible study classes are to be conducted in homes of members during winter months.

Edwardstown West (H. Cave). — B.S. anniversary services were successful. Delightful singing under leadership of R. Sugars was enjoyed by large congregations. Visiting speakers have been T. Turner, R. Holland, D. Beiler and Sis. A. Kentish. R. Sugars has been elected as deacon to replace B. Nicholls who has moved to Flinders Park. Boys' Brigade, under leadership of M. Cave and B. Fairclough has been formed for youths 12 to 17 years. Several Y.P. assisted in youth service on Mother's Day. Tennis club celebrated successful season with victory social on May 7.

Fullarton (A. W. Morris). — Attendances affected by inclement weather on May 22. Colds also are prevalent. In the afternoon a men's fellowship tea was held with idea of forming C.M.S. L. Fitzgerald was guest speaker, introducing objects of C.M.S. Discussions ensued and it was decided to form a fellowship. Miss J. Overland rendered solo at gospel service.

Gawler (A. R. Pigdon). — Four B.S. girls and three boys attended Longwood youth camp. Girls' Life Brigade is going well; a Boys' Brigade will be started shortly. Ladies' Dorcas Society has sent two parcels of used clothes to Christian Welfare Centre. Ladies made presentation at last meeting to Mrs. Atyeo and Mrs. Gregory, who have retired from positions of president and secretary. Both ladies have done faithful service. Some members are on sick

list and prayers of church go out for them.

Ungarra (A. B. Titter). — Church has been pleased to welcome Mr. Titter and family into local work. Visit of Mr. Crosby and family was enjoyed. Mr. Crosby (Conf. Pres.) gave message at Easter Sunday morning service. Church services and C.E. have been well attended lately. New building is at standstill, until materials arrive. Four new members have been welcomed. Endeavorers held monthly cottage meeting at home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Lawrie. Mother's Day address was given by A. Pugsley at evening service. Offering for N.S.W. Flood Relief has been given. Mrs. Herde is back after time of sickness.

Kilburn (H. G. Norris). — Services on May 22 were well attended. Mrs. A. Dinning and preacher sang duet at evening service. Older group of Y.P. have additional C.Y.F. each month and arrange own programme with R. Peacock (jnr.) as convener. Fortnightly C.Y.F. continues with adult leadership. C.E. and basketball for both boys and girls are catering for youth of church. Mrs. Aird (West Coast) was recent visitor. D. Hamilton spoke at Prospect on 22nd, and two B.S. scholars confessed Christ.

Norwood (David G. Hammer). — Y.P. tea preceded May parade of Y.P. club members and more than 40 Y.P. sat down at table. Girls' Life Brigade attendance now is 19. Annual business meeting of church was held on May 4, and two new officers were added to board, Messrs. Eatts and Kimber. B.S. numbers are highest since 1938, and plans are in hand to bring old anniversary platform once again into use in approaching anniversary. Dorcas ladies sponsored picture night and renovations fund profited. When shipment of food ceased for Indian Mission, appeal was made to members, and more than a dozen eleven-pound parcels are being posted.

Unley (I. J. Chivell). — B.S. anniversary services were of high order and best attended since 1941; in the afternoon 162 teachers and scholars were on the platform. Speakers were G. W. Wood, A. A. McRoberts, and I. J. Chivell. New hall was crowded for concert and prize-giving. Offerings totalling £33 will be devoted to new equipment. Teachers contacted 70 homes prior to anniversary. At monthly song fellowship, words of appreciation and farewell were spoken to T. Thomas (going to W.A.), J. Halbert (Glovelly), and Mr. and Mrs. Minter (Ascot Park). W.M.B. received visit from Glenelg ladies, and at another, Miss F. Cameron spoke of our work in India. J. Amos has been appointed asst. to church sec. At monthly Family Night M. A. K. Crosby (Conf. Pres.) showed pictures of Home Mission work. £1/16/6 was given to Federal work. Offering for Youth Dept. totalled £19, and with

£41 given during the year through duplex envelopes, makes £60. Rally of southern district churches was held to hear Principal E. L. Williams. Annette Turner secured prize in State J.C.E. Question Box exam. At W.M.B. gift social, Dr. Kidd showed pictures of his overseas trip. Proceeds were equally divided between Home and Overseas Missions.

Victoria

Drumcondra (R. Wilson). — Mission Band held combined meeting with Latrobe-terr. and Belmont to hear Miss E. Mountjoy speak on her work in Aboriginal Mission on May 4. Speakers on 8th were R. Tattersall and Miss E. Mountjoy. Mrs. Pigdon (Gawler, S.A.) was among the visitors. 10 books were awarded to Young Worshipers, nine of whom attended maximum of 43 Sundays, and one attended 17 out of 17. Monthly competitions in B.S. are proving successful. Ladies' Fellowship closed their Time and Talent on 17th. Over £20 was brought in, with more to come. Money will be used for carpets in chapel.

Swan Hill (R. A. Banks). — Churches of district circuit have completed successful youth week. Services were held on May 12 and 15, with excellent attendances. Hike and campfire was conducted on the property of C. Edgar at Nowie North on 13th. This was held for junior clubs of district churches. Over 60 were present. Senior campfire was held on the property of C. Burke, near Ultima, with over 60 attending. At all of those meetings messages were brought to the Y.P. by guest speaker, R. McKenzie (North Richmond). Mr. McKenzie was speaker at service at Woorinen, Ultima and Swan Hill on 15th.

Wangaratta (R. J. Anderson). — On May 6, I.C.E. enjoyed campfire meeting on Mrs. G. Jackel's property. Reunion of North Easter District Youth campers was held on 14th, when 30 campers assembled. A. Jackel and R. J. Anderson showed slides and movies of camp at afternoon service, also in evening when many parents were present. Fellowship tea was provided by Y.P.S.C.E. R. Grazules, who with Miss S. Standen came from Drumcondra for the reunion, was soloist at the Saturday and Sunday services. F. Leivesley (Albury) was speaker on Saturday night, and E. Heard (India) brought greeting. Members from Wangaratta and Mr. Heard conducted Sunday morning service at Yarrowonga and A. Mathieson took service at Benalla. E. Heard spoke at Wangaratta I.C.E., B.S., and evening service, and showed slides at after-church fellowship. Baptismal service was conducted when three were immersed. Three also made that good confession. R. J. Anderson conducted afternoon service at South Wangaratta. Y.P.C.E. held open night on 16th when further slides on Indian work were shown.

Latrobe-terr., Geelong (T. A. Ferguson). — On May 1, commencement of youth week, services were largely conducted by girls of church. Young men assisted in gospel service on 8th. C. Young was speaker on 15th. On 17th, Mrs. J. Grieve, on behalf of Ladies Aid, arranged an afternoon for mothers and children. Mrs. Pigdon and Mrs. Martin were among visiting artists. Offering of £13 was received for Hall fund. Travel by Car competition around Australia, arranged by A. Carr and designed by B. Russenberg is stimulating interest in B.S. Teachers' training class has been commenced by preacher.

Essendon (M. Roberts). — At commencement of evening service on May 15, a girl from Pascoe Vale was immersed. On the same evening a young lad confessed Christ. A married lady made her decision at conclusion of evening address on 22nd. W. Alves is in Eye and Ear Hospital, and Mel. White is home from hospital after eye operation. Mrs. Blair and H. Grant are again meeting with the church after illness. Congratulations to Diana Weeks, B.S. scholar, for gaining first place in Melbourne Sun scholarship for piano-forte.

Springvale (G. A. Grainger). — Indisposition of preacher is deeply regretted by church, as Mr. Grainger had been busy in all sections of the work. A series of Happy Hours held after school for one month attracted up to 300 children and in this connection the help of B. Marks with films is greatly appreciated. P.B.P. club staged successful concert on May 6, and over 20 members of Good Companions Club under Mrs. Beanland and Mrs. Gracie spent a week in camp at Belgrave Heights during school holidays. Films **Home is Nowhere** and **The Family Altar** were screened on May 15. Thanks of church is extended to the brethren who have taken services recently. At conclusion of gospel service on 22nd, two girls from B.S. accepted Christ. Church sec., W. McKinnon who has been ill for a long period is again able to be with the church. Miss J. Thomson was farewelled prior to her marriage and transfer of residence to Ringwood.

Wattle Park (H. A. G. Clark, interim). — Church has been encouraged by recent meetings, messages from H. A. G. Clark and visiting speakers J. H. Cain (Camberwell) and J. E. Brooke (Ballyn). Services at Oakleigh Guest Home were conducted during April. Two weddings have been celebrated recently. Y.W.F. held birthday party on Apr. 27 at which 120 visitors from sister clubs enjoyed a happy time of fellowship. Church annual meeting was held on May 11, when following were elected to office: Deacon emeritus, Dr. W. A. Kemp; deacons, W. A. Kretzschmar, C. R. Brough, D. Sketchley, T. W. Veale, A. Rice, C. M. Bailey, sec., A. S. Ashley; treas., E. Salisbury. All auxiliaries reported a healthy year of activity; B.S. and youth clubs have greatly increased

in attendance and interest, but were very much saddened by accidental death of K. Fordham. Tennis club attained B grade premiership, and have now entered two teams in present competition.

Doncaster (F. B. Burt). — Social evening was held on May 17, when E. Crouch and J. Pump were presented with gifts in honor of their marriages. A splendid evening was enjoyed. B.S. anniversary services were held on 8th, when I. Cox was speaker. Prizes were distributed at close of service. Proceeds from **Talent and God's Acre** quest will be received on Temple Day. These quests will assist Building Fund. Attendances have been below average due to sickness and school holidays.

Reservoir (R. E. Burns). — Mission conducted by C.E. Quartet with L. Barlow, missionary, A. Haskell, song leader, L. Stewart and R. Price, has been held over past fortnight. Church has been greatly blessed and there have been 10 decisions and 26 reconsecrations. Musical items from nurses' choir, T. Clift, E. Forbes, and others were appreciated. A grand thanksgiving service was attended by 115 on May 22, when thanks were expressed to missionaries and book tokens presented as a gesture of appreciation. A praise and testimony meeting was held at conclusion of the service. Despite inclement weather, the average attendance over all meetings was 85.

Carnegie (A. R. Lloyd). — Youth council held fellowship tea on May 15, and at gospel service, Y.P. assisted preacher. In place of usual address **Question night** was held, when number of questions were answered. Men's Society met for tea on 22nd; afterwards Inspector Winterton, C.I.B., was guest speaker. Mrs. Outen and W. Manning are ill.

North Essendon (A. E. White, B.A.). — Camp at Monbulk, Apr. 23-25, attended by 42 Y.P. was under leadership of J. A. Luff, A. E. White, J. W. Burns, R. Drayton, Laree and Doris Dugay. 40 members, including youth choir and conductor attended Footscray mission where choir sang items. On Apr. 26, K.S.P. and others, visited Ascot Vale Congregational Men's Society and enjoyed indoor sports. Good Companions entertained mothers and grandmothers at tea in hall on Mother's Day. Pat Furlong and Lorraine Evans gave items, and A. E. White gave illustrated talk. On May 5, conference of preachers and church officers from Essendon, Pascoe Vale and North Essendon was held to discuss details of plan to form an **Area Group Church Board**. T. R. Morris and R. Ennis attended and took part in the discussion. Some proposals were adopted and will be submitted to respective churches. Month of Missions is being held during May. R. Story (U.F.M.) showed slides and sound film **Headhunters of New Guinea** on 15th. These my Brethren was screened on 22nd. Miss G. Batter-

ham (India) gave interesting talk to Women's Fellowship on 17th. D. Ploog spoke at morning service on 22nd. Visitors have included Miss Barth (Tasmania), Mr. Taylor (Ferntree Gully), Mr. and Mrs. R. Edwards and family (Laver's Hill). Mrs. Dees and Mrs. Hocking are recovering from illness.

Croydon (G. Rose). — Church has enjoyed ministry of new student since early February. Main event has been B.S. anniversary, May 8-15. Special speakers were C. Smith (Boronia) and R. Brooker (Ringwood). On final Saturday evening, play, *Transforming Cross*, was convincingly acted by C.Y.F. Small orchestra also performed during services. Men's Fellowship has had address by J. C. Jessop (M.M.B.W.), and attended G.M.H. plant with other groups. They also co-operated in meeting at Montrose. Y.P. have been active, having had a barn social, and a 21st birthday party for member in past month. We regret that the Steele family have left us, and wish them well in their new field. Time and Talent scheme has been started in aid of hall fund.

Late News Items

The fortnight's mission at East Malvern, Vic., with W. W. Saunders, missionary, and S. Corlett, song leader, commenced on May 22. There were large attendances at morning and evening services. Three confessions were made at the evening meeting. K. Morris was soloist and Mrs. Padey, organiste, at opening service.

A series of twelve mid-day services each Thursday, from June 9 to August 25, will be conducted by Lyall Dixon, M.A., B.D., in the Collins-st. Independent Church, Melbourne. The series is entitled *Ventures in Self-Understanding*. Services will begin at 12.15 p.m., and conclude at 1.45 p.m.

H. M. Long (Horsham, Vic.) who conducted a week of tent meetings early in May at Georgetown, N.S.W., has been delayed in Newcastle, first by illness of one of his sons, then Mr. Long was taken to hospital for urgent operation. Pneumonia and pleurisy developed and Mr. Long hovered between life and death for a period. Latest reports are that he now appears to be recovering quickly. Both Mr. and Mrs. Long are appreciative of over 100 letters of assurances of prayer from near and far.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

N. Gavros (preacher, Nallsworth church), 37 Newborn-st., Nallsworth, S.A.

J. Wiltshire (preacher, Bentleigh church, Vic.), altered phone number, XU 1755.

L. H. W. THOMPSON, of Glen Forrest, W.A., tells from the heart . . .

TRAVELLING ALONE— IS LONELY!

Some of us start out in life with all sorts of ideals, some high, some not so high, and we grow to a certain age, leave home, and come up against life in the raw.

While in our Father's home, within its sheltering walls, our ideals seemed quite feasible; but when the storms of cynicism, and fierce temptation sweep over us, we sometimes feel our feet slipping.

We meet the opposition of those who desire to throw off all controls, and "enjoy themselves," untrammelled by dictates of conscience. They find in our ideals a reproof, for they know what is right. We might, and probably would, stand up to open bullying; but the grave danger comes from another direction.

There are those cheerful souls whose conscience just doesn't worry them! They are friendly people, and we become very fond of them.

They see our efforts for decency, but do not make any great effort to stop us. They do not really care; but just tell us they have no time for religion. They suppose it is all right for those who need it—but look on such with a mild pitying contempt; and we feel that we are sinking in their estimation just when we most desire to attain their friendship. So our ideals begin to get a bit threadbare, and ragged.

Having had a proper upbringing, we will probably make many efforts to pull up; but the trouble is when we do make a stand the company we desire, drifts off, and leaves us alone!

Most of them really don't condemn us, they just don't want our type. Some of them even admire us—from a distance. But it's mighty hard to travel alone! We actually pray for strength, and we get it, and are glad—but then the temptation to be "one of the crowd" again overcomes us, and we slip back.

Maybe, and most likely, we will continue to pray, but our prayers gradually lack sincerity, and receive no answer, and we give way, and really do become "one of the crowd."

"Anyway," they say, "what's all the fuss about? Everybody's doing it!" We get to thinking that this might be some extenuation and let things slide.

Our ideas get warped, our speech coarse, our jokes vulgar, and we are accepted as a "jolly fine fellow" with a "good broad mind."

For a while we are semi-satisfied. We are as good as the next man, anyway! Then one day the shock comes! We weigh ourselves up, and we are disgusted with what we find. We hate ourselves for being such miserable failures and we make the big resolution—"We will change things!"

God waits for the failure.

The failure comes.

The one changing from evil to goodness feels the overwhelming power of the devil, and the hopelessness of human effort, strive as we may, we fail utterly! Then our spirit turns to the God that made us, and we cry to the Everlasting Father, "O! Lord God our Father, for Christ's sake help us!" and this prayer is full of sincerity!

Then the waiting God bursts into tremendous action. The great arms go out, scattering the devil and all his forces, and gathers the prodigal one to his bosom, and gives the strength to overcome — not in man's strength, but in the strength of Almighty God.

The lost one has learned that he had the power to will to be good, but the actual power to be good is given when, in penitence, he calls upon the Father in the name of the Redeemer, he who paid the price of our sins on the cross of Calvary.

Then the lesson of life is really learned!

The power of sincere prayer is ours; The knowledge of the cleansing power of the blood of Christ is revealed to us, and we grasp, and realise the love of God, now plainly seen by us, is there to help and sustain us through to the end.

Yes, we may slip and fall far too often; but stay down we will not now that we know Christ, the Power of God unto salvation! We feel that power has been given us to battle on until the end, and we are glad beyond measure, and rejoice in the hope that is in Christ Jesus — the only one by whom we may be saved, and the one who really does save!

By the time we get old and grey most of us sum up life, and see that truth, purity, kindness, love, and a willingness to help the needy, as the teaching of the Saviour points out, is the very essence of what makes life really worth living.

But, I'm sorry to say, most of us have learned in the hard way—we tried the other way first!

Now we know, and we are glad to

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

tell, that Christ is an actual, practical, present day Saviour, an eager helper of the "down and outs" in this battle of life! The only one capable of driving evil out of us, and renewing a right spirit within us. God is waiting for the time when we will see that we have failed utterly, and that we are in need of a power that can overcome all other powers, to help us—when we find that we are hopelessly lost, when we are in the grip of an evil that is slowly, surely and relentlessly destroying us—then when we call in our despair upon God, in the name of the Saviour, his crucified son; then God comes with his mighty power, and his unimaginable love, to show us that the name of Jesus Christ has not lost its miraculous power, but is available to all who call on him in their desperate need!

Then, with a singing heart, we, too, can say, "For I know in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've entrusted to him against that day!"

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God" — we no longer travel alone.



NEW WORLD

"Is this modern world a better place than our forefathers knew? Or do we let new thought efface old standards, tried and true? We often mourn the "good old days" and long for what's gone by; but distance adds charm to our gaze and memory blinds the eye. We can't expect the perfect world but we can do our part by keeping faith's flag still unfurled, led by a trusting heart. If we're all motivated by goodwill, we'll make the new world better still."

—Southern Cross.



"The following poem was found amongst the papers of the late Percy Pittman. ". . . He yet speaketh."

Why Did He Die?

Why did the sinless Jesus die
Upon the agonising cross?
Why did the Son of God most High
Endure such bitter pain and loss?
He died to show that God was just
In pardoning the guilty soul.
He died that all may fully trust
The God who rules the mighty whole.
He died the unjust to justify,
Made sin for sinners, that our sin
Might all be reckoned rightously
To him whose Spirit reigns within.
Divine, his worth was infinite,
And as the Lamb of God, he bore
The whole world's guilt, and lifted it
From sinful men for evermore.
In him dwelt all the fullness of
The Godhead bodily, and we
Are filled with his abounding love
And perfected eternally.—G.P.P.

May 31, 1955.

DEATH

DAVIDSON. — At the home of her daughter, Mrs. Roy Acland, Uralla, N.S.W., Florence Davidson, on May 16, 1955 (suddenly).

EWERS. — On May 18, 1955, at Port Lincoln, S.A., Keith, beloved husband of Peggy, father of Elizabeth and Margaret, and loved son of late W. L. and Mrs. Ewers (12 Victoria-st., Mile End, S.A.).

PRATT. — Arthur Herbert, beloved and devoted husband and pal, of Emily Frances, loving father of Ken (deceased), called suddenly to higher service on May 18, 1955, aged 71 years. First and much loved pastor of the church at Mt. Evelyn. Father and son united. His promotion brings us holy joy, though the loss is great.

IN MEMORIAM

BODY. — In loving memory of Arthur S. Body, loved husband and father who passed away, May 22, 1947; also Ian, passed away, Jan. 24, 1924.

—Inserted by E. Body and family.

SAUNDERS. — We thank God for the lives of Valerie and Brian, and their friends, cut off in the Boronia level crossing tragedy, June 1, 1952, and for the perfecting of His ultimate will for them.

"Increasingly missed."

—Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Saunders.

CHRIST IN THE HEART

'Tis not enough that Christ was born
Beneath the star that shone,
And each was set that morn
Within a golden zone.
He must be born within the heart
Before he finds his throne,
And brings the way of love and good—
The reign of Christ-like brotherhood.

ENGAGEMENT

FELTON—ANDREW. — Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Felton, 4 Alverna-gve., Brighton, have pleasure in announcing the engagement of their youngest daughter, Valerie Joan, to Malcolm Eric, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric J. Andrew, Ricada Orchards, Red Hill, Vic.

APPROACHING MARRIAGE

MUDFORD—WITHAM. — The marriage of Lois Elma, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Mudford, 15 Kirkwood-st., Eaglehawk, to Glenton Sumner, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. J. Witham, 22 Haig-st., Hamilton, will be celebrated at the church of Christ, Bendigo, on Saturday, June 11, at 12.15 p.m. Officiating minister, W. W. Saunders.

The marriage of Rosemary, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Collings, 9 Myrtle-ave., Ringwood, Vic., with Pastor Will H. Morns, Pascoe Vale (late Newrybar, N.S.W.) will take place at the gospel chapel, Warrandyte-rd., Ringwood, at 3.30 p.m., on June 4, 1955.



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Coming Events

Chinese Mission, Queensberry-st.,
50th ANNIVERSARY
June 4, at 8 p.m.

SOCIAL MEETING
Speaker: L. G. Burgin

SPECIAL MEETINGS
Sunday, June 5, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

1955

Eastern Dist. Conference

of churches of Christ
will be held at

BAYSWATER
on

June 11, 12, 13.

President: A. Handasyde
Vice-President: C. L. Smith
Leader of Song: P. A. Jordan

Saturday, June 11
3 p.m.

Bayswater Church of Christ

DEVOTIONAL SESSION
R. Ryall

Business Session — Basket Tea

Evening, 7.30 p.m.

Speaker: L. Burgin
Soloiste: Mrs. K. Crouch

Sunday, June 12
3 p.m.

Bayswater Hall

CONFERENCE SERMON

Speaker: E. L. Williams, M.A.
Soloiste: Miss K. Jones

Monday, June 13
Bayswater Hall

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
2 p.m.

President: Mrs. Dickason
Secretary: Mrs. J. Reidy

Devotional Session

Speaker: Mrs. E. W. Heard
(Missionary from India)

Musical Items
Business Session

Youth Session
7 p.m.

Programme arranged by Youth
Committee

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May 31, 1955.

Open Forum

Since the State Conference the church incinerators have been busy burning the waste literature that came duplicating announcements of Conference gatherings. We received a handbill of all the meetings. The Conference report contained another list. Separate handbills came from every department that had a meeting. Conference Picnic provided one also. In addition we had a wearisome re-iteration—at every session—of meetings yet to be held. The H.M. Committee raised £8,960 at a cost of telephone, printing, stationery and postage of £603, or £6 for every £89. The Youth Dept. figures are £8,400 and £469, or £4/14/- for every £84. The Women's Conference figures are £4,383 and £27. In all, our State committees spent £2,094 under these four heads, this excludes Federal Departments.

Not anywhere in the reports was reference made to evangelism, except in titles: Dept. of H.M. and Evangelism, on page 32, and Special Evangelistic Fund, page 39. This latter fund appears to be frozen. It does nothing. It came into the accounts from 1953 and is carried forward to 1955. The fund was gathered during the last war on a promise by the then H.M. Secretary of great evangelistic exploits "after the war." It is so long since we had an evangelistic team at work in this State that names like Harward, Bagley, Chandler, Hagger and even Hinrichsen, are unknown to most of our diminishing membership. These men were evangelistic organisers who went where the people are and through their mission campaigns won thousands for Christ. I think perhaps the two matters I have mentioned are not entirely unconnected. We are supposed to be an evangelistic people.—W. A. Strongman. Gardiner, Vic.

THE CHURCH AND THE POLITICAL SITUATION

Regarding W. H. Clay's article on the above (17/5/55), I feel that some of its statements should be challenged. Mr. Clay says that the aim of the industrial groups is purely sectarian. From actual personal experience I can say that this is incorrect. He, with other well-meaning people, including clergymen, who, if they had personal experience in industry, would know better, have fallen for that very astute propaganda of the communists, in playing upon the animosity between nominal Protestants and Roman Catholics.

Those fighting Soviet fifth column tactics in Australia, include not only many R.C.'s (all honor to them), but also Protestants, many of whom know from personal experience the violence and intimidation of basher gangs at

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meetings, and the deceit, trickery and
falsehoods which mark this Satanic
movement. However many for the sake
of their jobs and personal safety do
nothing, and so let the communists gain
control!

"The only thing necessary for the
triumph of evil is that good men say
nothing and do nothing."

Regarding the integration of R.C.
migrants into the Australian com-
munity, the R.C. church appears to be
gaining, but are not Protestant churches
seeking Protestant migrants? If not, we
should be.—C. C. Arnold, Northcote.

OBITUARY

Alfred Thornley Thomas.

On May 6, 1955, after a prolonged
illness, Alfred Thomas ended an active
Christian life. Born in Adelaide, S.A.,
in 1881, he was brother of the late
J. E. Thomas, and as a young lad
accepted Christ as Saviour, being then
in Unley, where he taught in the Bible
School. For about three years he worked
in New Zealand, and also visited Eng-
land. In 1908, he married Agnes
Moate, coming to Western Australia in
1910, where he lived for the rest of his
life. A printer by trade, he bought a
newsagency in Beverley, and later pur-
chased The Beverley Times. Coming to
West Leederville in 1931, he purchased a
newsagency there. He was in active
membership with the church at Subiaco
and Lake-st., and assisted when York
and Shenton Park chapels were built
in a day. His talent was also used on
building drives at Norseman Mission.
For many years he served as a deacon
at Lake-st., and helped the brother-
hood, first as Business Manager of the
Western Christian, and then as Editor.
He leaves a widow, four daughters and
a son, all of whom are active in Chris-
tian service, the son, Dr. Thornley
Thomas, being well known in S.A. and
W.A. His body was laid to rest at
Karrakatta on May 6, in the presence
of a representative gathering, fittingly
expressing the loving sympathy of
many friends, and the whole church.
—A.J.F.



AT END OF DAY

Have you done the deed
That would cheer one heart—
Have you said the word
That would life one head—
Have you smiled the smile
That would sway one life—
Have you finished the task
That you've been assigned—
Have you read the word
That brings peace within—
Have you felt the joy
In giving Christ your best?
Then you'll be happy
At end of day.

—Mary Katherine Lee in
"Western Recorder."

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