

Murray

THE AUSTRALIAN

# Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

## *The Red Sea Path*

Have you come to the Red Sea place  
in your life,  
Where, in spite of all you can do,  
There is no way out, there is no way  
back,  
There is no other way—but through?

Then wait on the Lord with a trust  
serene,  
Till the night of your fear is gone;  
He will send the wind, he will heap  
the flood  
When he says to your soul, "Go on."

And his hand will lead you through  
—clear through—  
Ere the watery walls roll down,  
No foe can reach you, no wave can  
touch,  
No mightiest sea can drown;

The lapping billows may rear their  
crest,  
Their foam at your feet may break,  
But over their bed you shall walk dry  
shod  
In the path that your Lord will make.

In the morning watch, 'neath the lifted  
cloud,  
You shall see but the Lord alone,  
When he leads you on from the place  
of the sea  
To a land that you have not known.

And your fears shall pass as your  
foes have passed,  
You shall be no more afraid;  
You shall sing his praise in a better  
place,  
A place that his hands have made.

—Anon.



REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. MELBOURNE FOR TRANSMISSION BY POST AS A NEWSPAPER

Vol. 58, No. 27. Tues., July 12, 1955

# THE AUSTRALIAN Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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Printed and Published by The Austral Printing and Publishing Co.

524-530 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, C.1. 'Phones: FJ 2524 and FJ 4251

Subscription.—Payable in advance. Posted direct (Aust. and N.Z.), 25/- year, Foreign, 30/- Through Church Agent, 5d. week.

Cheques, Money Orders, etc., payable to The Austral Printing and Publishing Co.

Change of Address—Send old and new address a week previous to date of desired change.

Advertisements.—Deaths, Memorials (space does not permit verse), Births, Engagements, Marriages, Thanks, 3/6. Wanted, For Sale, To Let and Similar Ads., also paragraphed Coming Events, 24 words 2/6, every additional 12, 1/-. Displayed Coming Events and Other Ads., 3/6 inch. 6d. extra when invoiced. To ensure insertion in next issue copy required by First Mail Friday.

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## Not Doing Wrong is Not Doing Right

A tract in tabloid by W. R. Hibburt.

Jesus was an uprooter of mountains. Religious leaders had made false beliefs their Gibralters. To remove them was like uprooting a mountain. Yet he was not daunted by the greatness of the task knowing that truth ultimately dynamites out the false.

The mind had been so steeped in the idea of "thou shalt not" that good people had come to conceive of the fulfilment of God's will in a series of negatives. Jesus found it necessary to interpret God's will in positive terms—loving, forgiving, serving, doing, obeying. Because a man does not lie, bear false witness, steal and murder, it is no guarantee that he is a Christian. Not doing wrong is purely negative it is the positive doing of right that is well pleasing to God. "Go thou and do likewise" was the climax to the story of the Good Samaritan. No one is a Christian by virtue of the things he does not do. A man may not lose his temper, nor drink, smoke, gamble, but these things do not add up to the qualification of a follower of Christ. It is positive action that labels a man a Christian.

The New Testament makes it clear that the early Christians seeking salvation through Jesus were involved in the following primary positive acts:

Belief in Jesus involving his authority;

Repentance — the degree of sorrow that quitted doing wrong;

Confession of his name—indicating acceptance of his way of life;

Immersion — a proof positive act, symbolising a dying to self and a rising to walk in a life of total commitment to Jesus.

The beginning and the continuing of the Christian way of life demands actualised obedience. It is natural then for the New Testament records to indicate a regular attendance to the appointment of the Lord's Supper, whereby early Christians remembered Jesus and gave proof positive of their continued loyalty to their Lord and Saviour.

Do this and thou shalt live, is Jesus' corrective to that don't-do-this attitude to achieve salvation.

# THE FELLOWSHIP

Many of our words have both a secular and a sacred use. It is so with the word *fellowship* which means, briefly, something that is shared in common. We may enjoy social fellowship or share with others in the common weal. In its sacred use the Greek term *koinonia* is rendered as *fellowship* in many passages of the New Testament. Some later revisions have lessened the number of times fellowship is used and thereby lose, we believe, something of the rich and sacred meaning of this, one of the greatest of English words. There may be a decided advantage in bringing translations of the Greek text into line with modern terminology. But in doing so we are in danger of losing a lovely and expressive word which incorporates all those participations of the Church in worship, service and sacrifice, and in prayer, praise and preaching embodied in *the fellowship*. Would we, for instance, prefer some other word than fellowship in Acts 2: 42, "They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and *fellowship*." Or in 1 Cor. 1: 9, "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the *fellowship* of his son Jesus Christ our Lord"; or again, in 1 John 1: 3, "so that you may have *fellowship* with us: and our *fellowship* is with the Father and with his son Jesus Christ"; or "gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of *fellowship*" (Gal. 2: 9)? (Quotations from S.R.V.)

In the many profane causes that spring up in the world from time to time we will find that words, which in their richest sense belong to Christianity, have been appropriated for these causes. Thus New Testament words may come to have new meanings in the mind of those who have never known them in their truest and greatest sense, whilst no new words are incorporated in the text to take their places adequately. This naturally impoverishes the churches, and we can believe that many churches have been left destitute of the blessings of fellowship because they have failed to grasp the rich import of the word and to recognise that in primitive Christianity the disciples adhered as steadfastly to *fellowship* as they did to the apostles' doctrine. This is a word therefore which we need to hold as expressive of the brotherly love which should predominate in every assembly of the household of faith. If one has cause for rejoicing then do we all rejoice. If one is grieved we all grieve and encompass our brother not only with compassion but with what spiritual strength we have to give. If a brother is in any need whatever, we should endeavor to supply his need, for this is part of the great fellowship of the Church of God. We enter into the rejoicings and sufferings of others, not only because of our own personal experiences, but because we have entered into the

body of Christ and we are therefore all partakers of his joy and his sufferings. As co-laborers and partners with him in his work, we are participants in declaring the gospel of Christ. We have communion one with another and are recipients of the divine Spirit. All this and much more is embodied in that spiritual fellowship which links Father, Son and Holy Spirit with those who are born again.

Too often, owing mainly to much of the erroneous teaching of our day, men look upon the church as a place rather than as a people—a believing assembly. The place may have a sacred atmosphere to us because it is where we worship together. But in this world there is nothing really sacred but man, for the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. It is a greater wrong to defame the humblest of God's saints than it would be to set fire to a cathedral; the former is incendiarism the latter a sin. The former is punishable by the law of the land; the latter punishable by God. Those within *the fellowship* should always recognise that Christ died for every man — the least and the lost — and must never lower the ideal that the soul of man alone is the habitation of God. Because men have forgotten this, is one reason why the meaning of *Christian fellowship* has been lost.

"The great need of the world is fellowship," said R. T. McCracken, "If civilisation is not to perish from the earth, we must find some way of rising above the animosities that set men against men, class against class, nation against nation." And what greater fellowship exists, with all its faults, than the Church? And yet it is a sad commentary upon any local congregation that members should fall away because they fail to find the fellowship they need and long for. Not that this is always the fault of the Church. In many cases it is the fault of the individuals who have not been prepared to drop from their lives any of those things that hinder them enjoying the rich blessings which the church affords. But a church that is only lukewarm can never offer much that is necessary to supply man's spiritual need. It is lukewarm because it lacks *Christian fellowship* and such a church, we are told, makes God sick.

Let us be reminded of the prayer of Isaac Errett, ". . . teach us to be willing to know the fellowship of Thy labors and Thy honors, and to give our little all to Thee who gavest all for us. Then shall we have fellowship with each other . . . then shall we have unclouded views of Thy glory and rise to the possession of everlasting fellowship of heavenly rest and joy."

A. B. WITHERS, of West Preston, Vic., pleads for . . .

# PERFECTING THE PLEA

More than could be imagined I have refrained from speaking of "our" plea.

There is something about the plea at once to enthuse and to make me anxious. I want to press for it, and yet am restrained. I admire it, but am withheld from much speaking of it.

The plea has been made impressive to me by some who held it deliberately, strongly and dearly, who in faith set it forth sensibly and instructively. It was made praiseworthy; it was something to believe and contend for, which they could speak about imperatively. But I am prevented.

I am not on this account to be judged of being against the plea, or of being uninterested in it. There is no against; I am all for. I am not uninterested; I am very much interested.

Why then am I reluctant towards it?

It could be due to a fear of saying things in mere repetition—a desire, true or false, to be individual or independent in thought.

It might be due to an inability to think originally enough to discover something arresting or incisive to say.

Whether or not, it is due in part to the plea itself. By it I am taken back to the proclaiming of Christ, a teaching of the scriptures, a speaking of truth. All of which would justify both the believing and the making known of the plea. That which gives constraint to the preaching of Christ and the teaching of the scriptures is surely worth the telling for its acceptance by others and its promoting among all people. Yet to do this, other than by allusion and reference I almost always have found near to impossible. Almost always, only; for I have spoken of the plea. I know its goodness.

Indeed, though I may have feared the saying of the same things in undesirable repetition, anything which seems to give the plea a setting is an exciting find to me, as for example, the phrases, "primitive areas" and "the ancient rhythms." Or am I (it has been said that preachers do not know the plea), am I, in such a thought of it, mistaking the meaning of the plea? No one who knows the emphasis now being given to the "primitive" in preaching and church will think so.

My reluctance goes further than these contradictory and (by other minds) easily over-ruled feelings.

I doubt the emphasis of the plea as "our" plea. It is ours. We are heirs to it and it is ours also by persuasion. We believe it. We have made it ours. It is ours, not as the originators of it, but as its interpreters.

I doubt (whether the doubt is valid or invalid) that we further the plea with its meaning to us by too strong a consciousness of it as "ours."

Is this only sensitiveness, and silly sensitiveness at that, or is there in it the likeness of those divisive assertions among the Corinthians, "I am of Paul; and I . . ."? While there had to be some inclination to Paul if the faith in Christ were to become expansive, an into-all-the-world gospel, it was far from good that there was divisiveness, that Peter and Apollos and Christ himself with Paul were not all one; that Paul's withstanding of Peter to the face could not be simply the correcting of an error and not evidence of confusion and disunity.

Think of it like this: our own reaction to any show of arrogance. It does not even have to be this; it need only be natural pride or legitimate persuasion, a kind of conscience in some people. All Christians, according to their groupings, have convictions, and many hold tenaciously to some feature (unless it is some fallacy) of the faith. But their attitude, their mind, their spirit—how do these make us feel?

What impression then are we giving of ourselves, even though we are for the truth and though we contend earnestly for a faith once given?

It is not egotism to say "our plea." It is not arrogance to say it. But, does it sound like it? And what effect upon the mind has the saying of it among

the people who as a body are instructed in the plea? Are they made to feel something they ought not about themselves, until sometime they become bad advocates of the plea?

We could be giving the impression of our own importance. After all, high-mindedness is not an impossibility among Christians and among ourselves, and we might be judged of thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think.

The very plea for unity and the restoration of original doctrines and observances of the church can offend. That will not worry some, but offensiveness is not our calling. With the plea on our lips we can estrange people to unity. With our mind upon it, we may be putting it away from us. We look for unity, and behold, divisiveness!

Perhaps I am making too much of too little, but whereas we speak of "our" plea, the creeds are not so restricted, and the confessions are not, and the unity (and restoration) of the plea is the unity of the Spirit, the unity of the faith. Jesus is our Lord Jesus Christ; but there is no restriction, no divisiveness in that.

My contention, then, is not for less pleading, but for finer pleading; not that the plea be disused, but that it be not misused—a contention for the perfecting of the plea, not in principle and not in substance, but in presentation.

## Aborigines Missions

Notes by J. K. Robinson, Federal Secretary.

### WEDDING AT CARNARVON.

On Saturday, May 28, 1955, the first wedding actually conducted on Carnarvon Mission took place. Peggy Mitchell, a senior Mission girl, was married to Mitchell Dooler, a splendid type of young man from one of the pastoral stations. Both are of very big build, and they made a striking couple. Peggy in her white bridal attire and Mitchell resplendent in new blue serge suit and fancy tie. A Mission girl, Valerie Darby, was bridesmaid, and an ex-Mission boy, Snowy Kennedy, was best man. In addition to the Mission company of over 100, many white and native friends attended. The service was conducted by Mr. Reeson, and the missionaries had arranged a generous supply of foodstuffs, which were partaken of in buffet style.

The happy couple will live at the Station where Mitchell works, the

manager having arranged suitable accommodation for them. Peggy is a Christian girl, did well at school, and has a nice personality. We ask all friends to pray that she may ever continue to witness for Christ, and build her future life upon the principles of Christian morality and decent living she has learned in the Mission.

In response to a speech wishing them all the happiness God could bestow Mitchell made one of the shortest bridegroom's responses we have heard. With a face beaming with happiness, he stood to his full six feet four and said, "Thanks all you fellers for coming to my wedding!" That was all, but the sincerity was there.

### VALUABLE ASSETS.

The garden and poultry at Norseman continue to provide all that is needed from them for the Mission, and also

show a gratifying profit from sales. Mr. T. Hudson, who is in charge of this work, does a splendid job, and is very keen.

#### WEDDING BELLS AT NORSEMAN.

On May 14, Mr. Hudson and Mrs. Milham, two of our missionaries, were married in the Mission chapel. It was a day of happiness, and after a two weeks' holiday, Mr. and Mrs. Hudson are now back in service, keen to unitedly serve the Lord. We pray that God will abundantly bless their future life and service.

#### CHAPEL AT NORSEMAN.

With all the children attending Norseman State School, the school building on the Mission has been converted into use as a chapel, and proper chapel seating and furniture supplied. This has added much to the spiritual life of the Mission, for meetings no longer have to be held in the dining room, and in close proximity to the kitchen.

#### FITZROY, VICTORIA.

Doug. Nicholls continues to do good work in this centre, and the ladies of the little group have asked and been granted permission to devote some money from the offerings to purchase some crockery for social use. The point to emphasise in this is the fact that they have shown the initiative, and really want to do it. It is a sign of social growth in the Christian atmosphere of the work at Fitzroy.

#### PLEASE PRAY.

For God's guidance in the provision of a new superintendent at Carnarvon. For new workers of all types for both Missions. For the growth in Christian grace of young native people who have already accepted Christ. For the winning of others. For strength of body, mind and spirit for our missionaries. For the breaking down of racial bitterness, which is very strong in many native people, even in many of the children on the Missions. For the protecting care of the Holy Spirit over those Mission children who are now at school in the cities, or who have gone to employment. For the Federal Board and State Committees as they administer the work.

□.

#### A TOUCH OF GOLD

"We get the sweetest comfort  
When we wear the oldest shoe.  
We love the old friends better  
Than we'll ever love the new.  
The old songs are more appealing  
To the wearied heart—and so  
We find the sweetest music  
In the tunes of long ago.  
For—there's a kind of mellow sweetness  
In a good thing growing old—  
Each year that rolls around it  
Leaves an added touch of gold."

July 12, 1955



#### FOR BETTER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

Miss B. Bates, field worker among Victorian Bible schools who is being kept busy assisting in school organisation, teacher training, included the following schools in recent visits: Ivanhoe kindergarten teachers' class, Footscray, Brighton (three sessions), Camberwell (five evenings), Geelong (three visits), Brunswick (three evenings), Kaniwa district (several days). In addition Miss Bates called at Good Companions' Camp at Monbulk in May, gave lectures at Federal College of the Bible and St. Christopher's Women's Training College (Anglican) Malvern.

#### CHAPLAINS FOR TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Under the Education (Religious Instruction) Act, the Council for Christian Education in Schools is the Church united to provide Christian Education in the State Schools of Victoria. The Council is charged with the responsibility of accrediting all religious instructors for approval of the Minister of Education.

Recently the Council has appointed three full-time chaplains to serve in metropolitan technical schools and these men were set apart for this ministry in an impressive dedication service in St. Paul's Cathedral: Dudley Hyde, LL.B., Minister of Methodist Church, assistant director of the Council, during 1955 chaplain at Collingwood Technical School; F. T. Morgan, B.A., Minister of Churches of Christ, Footscray Technical School; A. J. Morison, B.A., Minister of Presbyterian Church, Brunswick Technical School. A further venture in faith was the appointment of J. R. Barrie, B.A., Dip.Ed., Minister of Presbyterian Church, as lecturer in Christian Education to Theological students.

The Council (Director: L. M. Thompson; Secretary: Mrs. Doris Peart) has taken great steps forward in the hope that the affiliated bodies will grasp the importance of this ministry and make adequate provision for its maintenance. Churches of Christ are called to take their share in this responsibility and the annual offering taken in Victorian churches for the Council's work provides one avenue of support.

At the above mentioned induction service a message was conveyed by the Lieut.-Governor, Sir. Edmund Herring and the Director of Education, Major-General A. H. Ramsay, delivered the address. Both emphasised the basic

needs of life which could only be met by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### QUEENSLAND YOUTH WORKERS' CONFERENCE.

The annual Youth Workers' Conference was held in Toowoomba, Qld., June 11-13. The guest speakers for the week-end were Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Stirling of Canberra. It was truly the biggest and best Conference to date. Toowoomba people provided accommodation for at least 80 people for the whole week-end. A bus load travelled from Brisbane, and country churches supported well. Mrs. Stirling spoke on Girls' Brigade work and this is now underway with our Queensland churches. Such subjects as "Programming for C.Y.F." "Putting Pep in the School" and "Growing a Church" made the Saturday contributions of Mr. Stirling. Other speakers, forums, and demonstrations made a first-class programme. The services of Sunday were inspirational. Over 300 attended Margaret-st. in the morning, 150 the youth rally in the afternoon and more than 257 attended at closing gospel service. One young lady made her decision for Christ.

#### RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION.

The Y.P.D. (Qld.) has fostered a football competition that has become very popular. There is a competition between our north and south side Brisbane churches and another that takes in another church. It is hoped that this will become an inter-church competition next year.

#### CALOUNDRA WATER SCHEME.

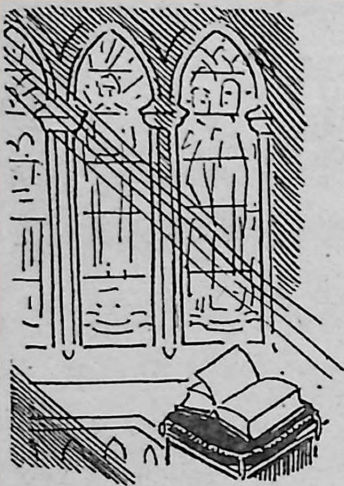
The Department has approved the spending of £500 on water and shower systems for the Youth Camp at Caloundra, Qld. This will be a very definite addition to the facilities of the camp.

—Contributed by V. C. Stafford, for Federal Board of Christian Education.

□

#### USE YOUR MINUTES

We all have the same sixty minutes, the same twenty-four hours, to work with, and the man who achieves the greatest success is the man who knows how to work with this period best, and get the most out of it. Time economising is more important than money economising, for the right use of time is the price of every earthly accomplishment and reward.



# THE LIVING WORD

## Studies on the planned Sunday morning readings

Sunday, July 24

### OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 23: 1-13.

#### Summary.

Here is a selection of miscellaneous laws in the Book of the Covenant. This "Book" was a record compiled by Moses, of all the statutes and ordinances given by God upon Sinai, and it became the basis of the Covenant between God and his people. (See Exodus: chapters 20-24.)

Perhaps our present lesson comprises principles and admonitions rather than laws. No specific penalty attaches to the violation of them. They attempt to set forth, seemingly, "the moral attitudes which shall permeate all legal decisions."

Accustomed to hearing about the deficiencies of the Old Law, we are apt to overlook the fine liberality of some of its provisions. The harsh demands of retribution are softened by the occasional call to magnanimity and mercy. There are some lovely patches, as here in vv. 4-5, where "the glory of the coming dispensation has begun to shine on the jewels of the ancient breastplate of judgment."

#### Explanatory Notes.

"Raise a false report" (v. 1). — R.V. "take up," i.e., "give ear to." Translations favor idea of active circulation of baseless slanders, rather than the passive reception of such reports. Cf. the ninth Commandment.

"To decline after" (v. 2). — R.V. "to turn aside after." The prohibition is against siding with the majority to defeat justice.

"Countenance a poor man" (v. 3). — Meaning "to give undue favor to." Strong attempt made to read "great" instead of "poor," on grounds that "partiality for poor needed no prohibition." But surely sentimentality can corrupt judgment as well as ambition!

"Thine enemy's ox" (vv. 4-5). — The Mosaic Law inculcates the duty of kindness to animals. (Ex. 20: 10; Lev. 22: 27-28, etc.)

"Wrest the judgment of thy poor" (v. 6). — Moffatt translates: "You must never tamper with a poor man's rights in court." Corollary of v. 3.

"I will not justify the wicked" (v. 7). — Septuagint version preferred: "and thou shalt not acquit the guilty."

"Gift" (v. 8). — A bribe in any form.

"The seventh year" (vv. 10-11). — Cf. Lev. 25: 1-7. Peake suggests that the seven-year cycle was an individual matter for each landholder, rather than something observed throughout whole land at once. Note social motive for sabbatical rest (vv. 11-12).

#### Suggested Theme:

### "IMPERISHABLE VALUES OF A DEAD LAW."

**Introduction.** — "The Law came by Moses"—and the Law is dead! But the study of even an obsolete law is not without its rewards. Here are glimmerings of a timeless Gospel, and values that were to find new life in the deathless "law of Christ." Note the obligations to:—

**I. TRUTH** (vv. 1-3). — The emphasis here is upon reliability of testimony. (a) Baseless slanders forbidden. (b) False witnessing condemned. (c) Sentimental partiality prohibited.

**II. KINDNESS** (vv. 4-5). — (a) Enemy's wandering animal to be returned. (b) Enemy's fallen animal to be lifted.

**III. JUSTICE** (vv. 6-9). — (a) Rights of the poor to be regarded; (b) False charges, avoided; (c) Guiltless, exonerated; (d) Guilty, punished; (e) Bribes, rejected; (f) Aliens, respected.

**IV. REPLENISHMENT** (vv. 10-12). — (a) Land to lie fallow every seventh year; (b) Work to cease every seventh day.

**V. CIRCUMSPECTION** (v. 13). — Speech to be carefully free from the taint of idolatry.

**Conclusion.** — The provisions of the Old Law may no longer bind, but there are values here that are timeless, and that anticipate new duties in Christ.

### NEW TESTAMENT.

Acts 28: 1-16.

#### Summary.

This is a simple record of events following the shipwreck upon Malta, and culminating in the Apostle's arrival in Rome. It is the close of a great adventure, which recalls, in all its parts, the heroic proportions and spiritual grace of the man of God.

Paul, with his company, was three months on Malta, and during this period of waiting, was able to repay the generous hospitality of the Islanders, by healing many of their sick. They were then embarked on a vessel from Alexandria, and came by easy stages to Rome, where Paul was cordially

received by the Christian company, and placed under the lightest detention pending trial.

#### Explanatory Notes.

"Melita" (v. 1). — Certainly Malta. The shipwreck is correctly located in St. Paul's Bay, about eight miles N.W. of Valetta.

"Barbarous people" (v. 2). — Greek word does not mean that they were uncivilised, but simply that they were not Greeks or Romans.

"Vengeance" (v. 4). — Rather, "Justice," personified as goddess.

"Felt no harm" (v. 5). — Cf. Mark 16: 18.

"The chief man" (v. 7). — Lit. "the first man." Inscriptions show that this title was technically correct.

"Bloody flux" (v. 8). — R.V. "Dysentery." Note here, as elsewhere in Acts, the technical medical language.

"After three months" (v. 11). — Ramsay shows that wreck occurred before middle of November. They sailed, therefore, in February, earlier than usual beginning of overseas navigation.

"Castor and Pollux" (v. 11). — Lit., "the Dioscuri." Legendary twin sons of Jupiter, and tutelary deities of sailors.

"Fetched a compass" (v. 13). — i.e., "made a circuit" (Moffatt); "tacking round."

"Appii Forum" (v. 15). — R.V., "the market of Appius," was 43 Roman miles south of Rome on the great Appian Road.

"The Three Taverns" (v. 15). — 10 Roman miles from the capital.

#### Suggested Theme:

### "CALLED AND KEPT."

**Introduction.** — This story witnesses powerfully to the preserving mercies of God. Paul had been commissioned to preach the gospel in Rome, and the God who called was the God who kept past all the hazards of that devious way. Note:

**I. VISITORS' RECEIVED . . .** "the barbarous people showed us . . . kindness" (vv. 1-10). (a) A generous welcome (vv. 1-2); (b) A doubt dispelled (vv. 3-6); (c) A hospitality repaid (vv. 7-9). (d) A cordial farewell (v. 10).

**II. VOYAGE RESUMED . . .** "after three months we departed . . ." (vv. 11-14). (a) Details of departure (v. 11); (b) Ports of call (vv. 12-14).

**III. VENTURE REWARDED . . .** "we came to Rome . . ." (vv. 15-16). (a) A heartening reception (v. 15); (b) Portents of favor (v. 16).

**Conclusion.**—"So he bringeth them unto the haven of their desire." (Psalmist). So too, he brings all who are committed to him to the Romes where their service is to be rendered and their sacrifice offered.

# MISSIONARY NEWS



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

## "FROM IDOLS TO SERVE GOD"

All islands were represented at the Women's Conference held on Aoba. Mrs. Ron McLean describes how enthusiastic they were, and how they are making progress towards the things of the Kingdom.

We have just completed Women's Conference meetings here on Aoba, with a very good representation from each island. At the beginning of the week plans here seemed to be well in hand, and our women were looking forward to putting into practice all their plans. The first arrivals were from Pentecost and they came on Monday. From then until Tuesday evening there were many boat loads of women, and one party even walked over the high mountains from the other side of this island which is quite an attainment, especially as they had two young children with them.

Each island group had charge of a meeting in which we were lead in a study of "Witnessing" taking for our text 1 Thess. 1: 9, "For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God."

In the first meeting conducted by our Aoban sisters, words of welcome were spoken to Mrs. Dyer, mother of one of our missionaries. Our final meeting was a testimony meeting and was capably led by one of our women from the other end of this island. Opportunity was taken at this meeting to bid "God speed" to Mrs. Finger as she goes to Maewo to take up work there.

Each of the meetings was well carried out and we felt that those taking part were amply repaid for their diligent preparation. In addition to these meetings, Mrs. Smith gave a health talk which was much appreciated, as were the pictures shown by Mr. McLean and Mr. Smith on our first evening. The church was filled on every occasion. The number of visitors was one hundred and seven, and at our last meeting there were about three hundred women present.

Much happy fellowship was enjoyed by visiting the home women. Our women seemed to thoroughly enjoy looking after their guests and as some of the visitors had not been more than a few miles from their home village before, we felt that they settled in

very well. There were many willing helpers among our women. The men, too, gave their time to help with the cooking so that the women would be free for the meetings, while others gave their launches and time for the transportation of the women. Not the least of these was Mr. Finger who gave many days to help the women of Pentecost and Maewo.

After our meeting on Friday came the kai-kai which the men had prepared. Then it was time to pack up again. Empty baskets were filled with the lovely mandarins that grow here, and then the baskets, cases and the etceteras were packed on the launches. Everything was ready for a flying start on Saturday. The first left soon after 3 a.m., and others followed later in the morning. As I walked along the road later I spoke with some of our women who told that their legs were tired and they just wanted to sit down for a day or two, but they assured me that all the work had been worth-while and that they had enjoyed the meetings and fellowship.

## INDIA

### HOT SEASON.

Missionaries report that the hot season vacations this year provided happy experiences, especially for those who went to the Nilgiri Hills in South India. It is in this area that missionaries' children are at school. All children of our missionaries are well.

It was especially disappointing for Miss Kathleen Taylor, who remained on the plains for a longer period in order to meet her brother, C. G. Taylor, only to discover that because of delay in Australia he had to cancel the Indian portion of his trip. Miss Taylor left later for vacation.

### STUDENTS IN TRAINING.

The Secretary of the Committee of Management writes: "Approximately one third of those who are to go on loans this year are new recipients of this help. Some of these should have quite a bright future, and once again hope burns high in the human breast as we think of the possibilities. Of course it is early days, and a lot can happen between now and the completion of courses, but we have a lot of bright spots. I don't think that there is anyone much on whom there is need to comment, except perhaps to draw attention to the fact that Shivaji Jadhav, Headmaster, Baramati, now having completed his Matriculation, is going to commence on some Arts, but will in the earlier stages take some subjects by correspondence."

## Centenary at Hindmarsh, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The long looked for and carefully planned services of the Centenary of Hindmarsh church have eventuated. It was a wonderful experience.

I. A. Paternoster was guest speaker at all services on the opening day which began with an Every Member Present service followed by a back to Bible school afternoon and gospel service. The mayor, councillors and families paid official visits.

On Monday evening, June 20, Mr. Paternoster again spoke, and showed slides of our missionary work in New Hebrides. Koongarra Park Male Quartet provided musical items.

Women's evening on 21st, was presided over by Mrs. Shipway. Mrs. Candy (Pres. Women's Aux. Conf.) brought a greeting and the address was given by Mrs. K. Crosby. The Churches of Christ Choral Assoc. under the leadership of A. Glastonbury assisted, and violin solos were given by Allison Verco.

June 22 centred around 100 years of evangelism. M. A. K. Crosby (Conf. Pres.) presided, and J. E. Shipway presented greetings received. R. Coventry spoke of his work in India, and E. P. C. Hollard also spoke. Miss Jean Davies (soloiste) and Mrs. Foote (elocutioniste) assisted in this service.

Youth night—members of school presented pageant of church's history.

June 26. Homecoming and Thanksgiving Day. W. W. Saunders was the speaker in the morning. At the reunion service in the afternoon, A. Brooke spoke. Mrs. Maria Velce (from overseas) was soloiste. A great Centenary Tea was held at 5 p.m., in the Hindmarsh Town Hall. 430 sat down to the tea which was all given entirely free. Birthday cakes were cut by Mrs. Holden, senr., and John Candle, two of the oldest members of the church. A. Brooke gave a message. A presentation of a book to each of the four preachers taking services was made.

At the final service at 7 p.m., W. W. Saunders spoke. There were capacity houses at most of the Sunday services, while at the final service it was estimated that nearly 500 were present. The augmented centenary choir under the leadership of Geoff Trevaskis with C. Woods at the organ assisted the services with suitable anthems, while M. Wilton, Mrs. A. Russell and Mrs. R. Whyatt were soloists.

At the conclusion of the service, J. E. Shipway thanked all who had in any way helped to make the Centenary successful and made a presentation to C. Woods in recognition of his service as visiting organist. Doxology was sung by the great congregation.

It was a fitting climax to a truly great occasion, and with confidence we face the days of the new century, confident that God will continue to guide and help his people in the days to come.—J. E. Shipway.



Morning service at Bendigo church, Vic., will be broadcast over 3BO Bendigo, at 11 a.m., on July 24.

At the annual meeting of the N.S.W. branch of the B.&F.B.S., I. A. Paternoster, Churches of Christ Federal Conference President, was appointed a Life Governor. Mr. Paternoster has been associated with the Society for many years, and has been vice-pres. over the past ten years.

G. A. Grainger (Springvale) and R. V. Holmes (Bendigo) who have been ill for a number of weeks have now been able to resume their ministry with the respective churches.

At the last meeting of the Victorian State Committee of the Aust. Council for the World Council of Churches a minute was recorded expressing deep appreciation of the long and distinguished service given by Dr. John Mackenzie, and the personal respect and affection for a great Christian leader. Dr. Mackenzie was one of the founders of the original Victorian Regional Committee, and represented his church on this committee until his death.

Chaplain C. Young (Social Service Dept., Melbourne) advises that he will be on holidays for three weeks from July 28.

A warm welcome was extended to Mr. and Mrs. D. A. V. Thomas and family by the Shepparton, Vic., church on June 30. All auxiliaries brought greetings and R. Haley (Baptist church) represented Ministers' Fraternal. Mr. Thomas opened his ministry with the church on July 3, all services being well attended with 90 communicants for the day. The native church from Mooroopna joined in the evening service and Mrs. Atkinson and Muriel rendered a duet. Preparations are being made for 75th church anniversary.

The church at Mosman, N.S.W., rejoices in the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Tonkin and family to the ministry of the church there. An induction and welcome service presided over by A. W. Stephenson (Conf. Pres.) was held on July 2. Visitors included the Mayor of Mosman (J. W. Warre), Winston Jones (pres. Ministers' Fraternal) and representatives of North side churches. Charge to the church was given by R. V. Amos (Chatswood) and to the preacher by P. E. Thomas, B.A. (Marrickville). A solo was rendered by

L. Donaldson. At the social session following, Mrs. Allen (Ladies' Aid) presented Mrs. Tonkin with a bouquet and opportunity was given for all to meet the preacher and his wife. Visitors on July 3 were Mrs. Bromilow, Mrs. Paternoster and Gene (North Sydney).

Word has been received of the decease of Mrs. G. E. Elliot of Perth, W.A. Mrs. Elliott was the first secretary of the Women's Conference in W.A., which recently celebrated its jubilee, and held the Presidential office more than once. Her son, A. G. Elliott, is a preacher and acting principal of the Woolwich Bible College, N.S.W.

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It may be that some day the Church  
will be suddenly caught of some pas-  
sionate, burning enthusiasm for Christ  
and his Kingdom and suddenly find  
itself one where in vain it had tried  
to make itself one. (Frederick Lynch.)

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By air-mail from St. Louis, Mo., we have received a letter from the editor, C. G. Taylor, and also several commentaries on his journeyings so far. These will be printed in ensuing issues of *The Australian Christian*. Mr. Taylor had just returned from lecturing at the State Preachers' Retreat. He is half-way through his itinerary and spent last Sunday in Kansas City.

Word just to hand by air mail from A. D. Pyne (secretary, W.A. Conference) tells of the mission being conducted at Geraldton, W.A. Missioners are J. K. Bond of Wembley, and P. Perry of Mukinbudin, song-leader; with Ron Hillier, youth director. The latter conducted Happy Hours in which attendances grew to 200. Although there are only a few members in this important town, some meetings have reached over 100, and that despite inclement weather. To date there have been five adult decisions. The prayers of the brotherhood are asked on behalf of the mission in this difficult field. The mission is planned to close on July 31.

Mr. F. Fewster has served the churches at Morowa and Gutha, W.A., for five years. This is a big circuit in the wheat growing area of W.A. and reaches sixty miles south to a gathering at Wurbin. Mr. and Mrs. Fewster have served the churches well despite Mr. Fewster's ill health. The brethren of Gutha have done much to sponsor the work at Geraldton.

## *News of British Churches*

The Fraternal Delegate from the International Convention of Disciples to the Annual Conference of British Churches of Christ is Dr. A. Dale Fiers, who is due to arrive in London on July 11. Mrs. Fiers was to have accompanied him but, owing to the serious illness of her father, she is detained in America. A pre-Conference tour of the churches has been arranged for Dr. Fiers, enabling him to see something of the churches in England and Scotland.

Three American preachers who are to serve churches in this country will be formally welcomed at the Annual Conference. They are coming under a joint arrangement made by the Home Missions Committee and the American Committee on Fraternal Aid to Britain, and will serve the churches at Burnage, near Manchester, Coplaw-st., Glasgow, and Falkirk.

The British Study Committee has prepared its report on the Nature of the Church, to be presented at the World Convention at Toronto. The report is a lengthy one and its third section, on the contribution made by Disciples and Churches of Christ to the study of the Nature of the Church, is valuable. The chairman of the Committee is W. G. Baker, M.A., of Edinburgh.

Two Bible school superintendents, E. Perry of Sparkhill, Birmingham, and H. Ponting of Swindon, have been honored by their churches. Each has served as superintendent for nearly 30 years.—G. J. Hammond.



### A BIBLE BASIS FOR PRAYER (Romans 15: 30-32)

1. **The Challenging Cry** — "I beseech you."
2. **The Constraining Power** — "For the Lord Jesus Christ's sake and for the love of the Spirit."
3. **The Personal Responsibility** — "Ye in your prayers."
4. **The Fervent Attitude** — "Strive together with me."
5. **The Definite Request** — Deliverance from opposers and acceptance of his service with resulting joy.
6. **The Mutual Blessing** — "With you be refreshed."



# INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

## Tasmania

Collins-st., Hobart (H. W. Street). — A young man made his decision at gospel service on June 26. Youth Fellowship tea prior to service was well attended, and youth activities are increasing in numbers. Y.P. visited Kellevie on 28th, and monthly exchange visits have been planned. A. E. Heard and J. Park were recently elected elders and inducted at a special service. R. Boxhall spoket at morning service on June 5, introducing Faith and Fellowship month. Preacher has continued series during month. Men's Fellowship Friendship Campaign of visitation is proving successful. H. M. Arrowsmith (general sec. B.&F.B.S.) spoket at Men's Fellowship meeting. Mesdames S. Cooper and D. Davies have assisted in song at recent gospel services.

Margaret-st., Launceston (C. H. J. Wright). — June averages, morning 99, evening 96, communed 116. Several members have been sick and in hospital. Church was glad to welcome D. Burrows back after six months with R.A.A.F. National Service. As a follow up to Loyalty month a competition is being held in B.S. which has gained five new scholars for school so far. Average attendance in school shows 30 per cent. increase on last year. Mrs. A. Nelson has joined school staff. Ladies' Guild reports increased attendances in spite of winter weather. Y.W.F. held concert and raised £45 for Norseman Mission. Interest in Men's Society is increasing. There was record attendance of 42 at June meeting when C. Crabtree related N.Z. tour. Church officers are encouraging members to start saving now so as to be able to attend 1956 Easter Conference in Melbourne. Special offering for Launceston City Mission Winter Appeal netted £15. There were four baptisms during month. Messrs. Wilson (Invermay) and Wright exchanged pulpits for morning service on June 26. Mid-week meetings are being held in homes of members during winter months.

## Western Australia

Morawa-Gutha. — F. Fewster gave farewell messages on June 26. Mr. and Mrs. Fewster have given faithful service over the past five years. Mr. and Mrs. Ray (Sydney) commenced their ministry with the circuit on July 3. R. H. Carslake (Conf. Pres.) extended a welcome on behalf of the members and brotherhood.

South Perth (S. H. Wilson). — Attendances remain at high level in spite of cold weather. Preacher visited Carnarvon Mission and Geraldton from June 23 to July 1. In his absence P. Jefferies addressed morning meeting

and H. Heyhoe evening meeting on June 26. 1955 is Stewardship year and leaflets have been distributed to all members, challenging each one. A beautiful communion table has been anonymously donated to the church. This is much appreciated. Communion cloths, and new matting in porch have also been donated. J.C.E. continues to grow under leadership of Mrs. J. Pallot. Miss Morrow spoket to juniors on nursing, on July 3. Monthly youth tea was held on 3rd, when film, Ruth was shown by C. Bridge. Y.P. took part in the evening meeting, when R. Hillier (Youth Director) spoket. Mr. Nightingale addressed morning meeting. Prayer meetings continue to hold interest. Good Neighbors held their meeting at home of Mrs. B. Stevenson on June 28. Ladies' Fellowship had Mrs. J. Collins (Woorloo supt.) give interesting talk on visitation to the sanatorium on July 6. Boys' club continues to be active under leadership of J. Browning. I.C.E. meetings create keen interest. Weekly offerings are increasing and pre-gospel prayer meetings have increased.

Lake-st., Perth (A. J. Fisher). — Visiting speakers have been R. Raymond and B. Stitt (representing A.S.C.M.). A large supply of magazines have been sent to Seamen's Mission and Aborigines' Hostel. C.F.A. has been re-organised with E. L. Berry and J. Ewers as agents. Several have already enrolled. A Russian lady was received in on June 26, having been baptised the week before. Jumble sale on June 25 was most successful.

## New South Wales

Albury (F. L. Leivesley). — During past month work among Y.P. has been stimulated with formation of company of Christian Commandos, 22 boys from 7 to 14 years of age being enrolled. Two degrees of Good Companions have been commenced by Miss M. Raufers with an enrolment of 12 juniors and nine seniors. C.E. is enjoying meetings and claims an increasing membership. A young lady was baptised on June 26, and a young man confessed Christ on July 3. Intensive hospital visitation has been in progress through efforts of Ladies' Guild. Two visits each week are made to Albury Hospital when worth-while work is accomplished with co-operation of hospital authorities. Y.W.F. is making progress and has claimed some new members. T. Roberts is leading Men's Fellowship and interesting sessions have been enjoyed by men of the fellowship.

Beverly Hills. — Mr. Reese terminated his ministry with church on May 29. After the evening service, a short meeting was held in school hall, and presentation was made on behalf of

## Discipleship

- E. Rodgers, Gary Simper, Latrobe-terr., Geelong, Vic.  
Miss M. Mitchell, Mr. Cook, Kilburn, S.A.  
John Banger, Balwyn, Vic.  
Mrs. Dunning, Miss R. Taylor, Albury, N.S.W.  
Edgar Carey, Northcote, Vic.  
Marjory Forbes, West Preston, Vic.  
David Ashlin, Collins-st., Hobart, Tas.  
Peter Salgram, Helen Salgram, Mrs. Miller, Heather Miller, Mrs. Jarrett, Graham Simmonds, East Malvern, Vic.  
Anne Wright, Helen and Peter Nelson, Margaret-st., Launceston, Tas.  
Reg O'Connor, Ron Parker, Middle Park, Vic.  
Jennifer Leng, Malvern-Caulfield, Vic.  
Barbara Archibald, Margaret Archibald, Yvonne Crickmar, Geoffrey Wilson, Cowandilla, S.A.

## Membership

- E. L. Davies, to Latrobe-terr., Geelong, Vic.  
Carlene Tannebrin, from Dulwich to Kilburn, S.A.  
D. Kelly, to Kilburn, S.A.  
Mr. and Mrs. Gaylard, from Hawthorn to Box Hill, Vic.  
J. Brunker, Mrs. White, to Beverly Hills, N.S.W.  
Miss J. Morcom, from Hartwell to Middle Park, Vic.  
Mrs. G. Witham, to Hamilton, Vic.

## Marriage

- Barbara Hogan to K. Thompson, Hamilton, N.S.W.  
Norma Fraser to C. Norling, Hamilton, N.S.W.

## Fallen Asleep

- Mrs. Edwards, Swan Hill, Vic.  
Mrs. E. Ferris, Box Hill, Vic.

church members, a number of whom paid tribute to his work. On June 26, a Fancy Dress Frolic resulted in £18 being raised for Building Extension Fund. In absence of regular preacher, Mr. Norling has taken evening services during the month of June. Thanks is extended to him and to those who have taken the morning services.

**Bexley North (J. G. Shaw).** — On June 19, E. Heard visited and gave challenging message, later showing colored slides of his work in India. Former preacher (J. Henderson) gave appreciated message on morning of June 26. Church is again indebted to G. E. Knight, this time for hymn board and notice board, which are in keeping with church fittings. Miss H. Roebuck has been appointed captain of Girls' Life Brigade.

**Hamilton (C. J. Mackenzie).** — Camp reunion was held on Queen's Birthday week-end and an after-church fellowship was held on Sunday night. Chapel was filled. Testimonies were given by some of the campers, C. Wrigley (Chatswood), Norma Fraser, W. McKenzie and T. Fraser. On June 19, gospel film *All That I Have* was new innovation and proved interesting. Church received challenge on F.M. Sunday, when four brethren, C. J. Mackenzie, C. Fraser, A. Tregloan and N. Fraser gave brief messages on all phases of F.M. work. Visitors for the month were Mr. and Mrs. A. Norling and Sis. Hookway (Gosford). July 3 was broadcast service when D. Jefferson and D. Brown were duetists. Baptist Tabernacle Ladies' Aid took complete charge of Guild meeting on June 22. Progressive offering for Foreign Missions is £28. Sis. A. Tregloan is acting-supt. of kinders.

**Taree (M. H. A. Pleper).** — Church enjoyed visit of E. W. Heard on June 15. Films and address by visitor were most informative and members were impressed by work being accomplished by our missionaries in India. A most liberal gift of a special nature for F.M. was received from a member of local church.

### South Australia

**Mile End (L. E. Jones).** — Special John Citizen gospel campaign is continuing with added interest. Mrs. Fax (Housewives' Assoc.) spoke as representing Mrs. John Citizen on June 26. Two made their decision at close of Mr. Jones' message. Men's Fellowship tea was held on June 27 when I. A. Paternoster (Sydney) showed pictures of New Hebrides. C.Y.F. had car outing with 15 car loads of Y.P. on Queen's Birthday. 12 new scholars have been enrolled in B.S. as result of Happy Hours with Youth Director.

**Kilburn (H. G. Norris).** — A married man confessed Christ at morning service on July 3, when attendance of

178 was record. Chapel was filled for gospel service when eight of recent converts were baptised. L. Milne was soloist. At this service a young woman decided for Christ. B.S. has now attained record roll strength of 332. C.Y.F. enjoyed splendid programme on July 1, when about 90 young and older folk appreciated pictures and refreshments supplied by Cola-Cola. Church is indebted to C. Kirby for electrical work on new baptistry heater. P. Semmens is in hospital with broken leg and Mr. Nicholson has been sick.

**Cowandilla (T. T. Rinbison).** — On June 5, Girls' Life Brigade visited sick folk followed by tea at church combining with Girls' Life Brigade Cadets. Afterwards girls were enrolled at church service. Girls were very smart and trim in new uniforms. Chapel was crowded and leaders were encouraged with attendance of parents. Boys' Brigade held church parade at same service. Church news-sheet is appreciated by all. Attendance of B.S. scholars is improving. Mr. R. Dixon (India) spoke at Women's Fellowship on June 8. Burnside Ladies' Choir presented concert in aid of Women's Fellowship project. Life Boys' had good attendance at combined tea and church parade. Men's Fellowship had tea at church on 26th. L. J. Gomm (Baptist) spoke on Korea and Japan. Visiting missionary, R. Dixon brought greeting. Mr. Dixon spoke at B.S. showing dolls, and singing in Marathi. Finance Committee is dealing with matters concerning new chapel.

**Gawler (A. R. Pigdon).** — Averages for month of June were morning 60, evening 47, B.S. 99. Sickness amongst members has affected attendances. Baptismal service was held on July 3, when two young men were immersed. Family Fellowship was held at home of Mr. and Mrs. Jones, when Mr. Matthews was guest speaker.

**Hawthorn (A. A. McRoberts, B.A.).** — Average attendance for May, a.m. 175, p.m. 136, highest attendance, Mother's Day, a.m. 201. B.S. now meets at 9.45 a.m., and attendance has improved. J.C.E. meets Sunday afternoons. Y.P. society meets on Monday evening, about 20 attending. Ladies' Fellowship meets regularly and have interesting and helpful meetings; working for new carpeting for chapel they have £70 in hand. Young Married group meet in members' homes and are doing a good work. Girls' Life Brigade meets each week and keen interest is shown by the girls and leaders. Cadets also have good following. Basketball season is in full force, four teams from church have happy time together. Work on Youth Hall is progressing steadily, the aim is to complete, free of debt, for 60th anniversary celebrations. Work is done by voluntary labor. Overseas offering reached the record figure of £284, offerings are the highest ever reached. Work is in good heart and greater things are expected.

### Victoria

**Dandenong (L. G. Read).** — On June 12, evening service took form of a Sankey night, L. Stewart (Thornbury) being song leader. After the service the annual meeting of Dandenong Auxiliary of B.&F.B.S. was held at Methodist church. On 14th, a number of members journeyed to Oakleigh Guest Home and gave the aged folks an evening. Group of students from C.O.B., took morning and evening services, and also an after-church fellowship hour on 19th. On 25th, Youth Fellowship held its meeting at home of Mrs. Zeuschner, Miss G. Batterham being speaker. Preacher addressed morning service on 26th. At evening service, film *The Light of the World* was shown.

**Warragul.** — Attendances have been maintained during June. Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on June 19, and goods were forwarded to Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh. Film, *Decision*, was screened on 26th when 57 were present. Offerings were also received for 3UL appeal for West Gippsland Hospital and resulted in £47/17/8 being forwarded for this purpose. W. W. McDowell and M. R. Byard continue in a splendid ministry and service to the church.

**Carnegie (A. R. Lloyd).** — F. Manning (Mission to Lepers) was speaker at gospel service on June 19. He also showed colored film *The Lonely Journey*. At the close a lady came forward for reconsecration, and a young girl made her confession of faith. Offering taken for Mission to Lepers was almost £10. Mrs. C. Lever, another faithful member, was called Home on June 24. Sympathy of the church is expressed to her family, Mr. and Mrs. McCoughtry (Box Hill) have come to reside in district.

**Kyneton (D. Oakes).** — Successful B.S. anniversary was held in May, when F. E. Buckingham, was speaker. A very enjoyable week-end on 14th and 15th was conducted by medical students, R. Killmier, T. Banks, C. Warmbrunn, and soloiste, Miss M. Brown, when "something different" was held at Y.F., with all taking leading parts in the services on Sunday. Happy Hour after school and Berean Club are additional activities. Monetary assistance was given for J. Christie, per K. Skillicorn, Bihar, India.

**North Essendon (A. E. White, B.A.).** — In finale of Month of Missions held in May, I.C.E. organised missionary rally on 28th, which was well attended. Programme arranged by Pauline Matheson, included films screened by R. Edgar (Mission to Lepers), community song service, and various items by Endeavorers, who served supper to gathering. On 29th, preacher arranged Missionary Display on chapel platform and spoke on "Missions" at both services. Mrs. White and daughters have re-

turned after vacation in N.Z. On June 5, a pilgrimage was made to Keilor and Fawkner cemeteries, in remembrance of young people who lost their lives in Boronia accident. Led by preacher, several car loads of friends took part, returning to chapel in time for 11 a.m. service. At evening service several Mission Band ladies shared in conducting the meeting. Song service was led by L. Stewart, who also rendered solos. Good Companions are active, under leadership of Mrs. J. Brookes, with Beth Clarke as sub-leader, and Mrs. M. Graham as sports leader to senior girls. They held a tea prior to evening service on 12th and gave Dramatised Bible reading.

**Ascot Vale (H. Gross, B.A.).** .... Morning and evening services have been well attended. Special messages on **The Church and the Holy Spirit** have created much thought and are highly appreciated. Women's Auxiliary held another successful street stall and although the weather was cold £16 was raised for their work. Film **The Promise** was shown on June 26. A young lad from Bible class confessed his faith in Christ. Some of our older people have not been able to attend but H. Gross and C. Perkins have communion with them on Sunday afternoon. This brings much comfort to those unable to attend the meetings. Mrs. Harvey is now at Gladwood Home. Miss Burns had a fall at her home and broke a bone in her arm. Three Y.P. are attending preparation class under preacher prior to baptism. Church was delighted to have P. Cole at service on July 3.

**Balwyn (J. E. Brooke).** .... On June 26, 107 broke bread for day. At evening service a young man decided for Christ. On July 1, B.S. held annual concert and chapel was crowded as children from kinder to Bible class rendered over 30 enjoyable items. Inaugural meeting of Y.W.F. is to be held. B.S. attendance on June 26 of 132 was highest for year. Preacher has been released to conduct mission at Black Rock in near future. Prayers of church are with Mrs. Lennard who has entered Bethesda Hospital for operation.

**Box Hill (W. A. Wigney).** — Speaker at morning service on June 26 was P. Emmerson (Australian Student Christian Movement). Others of the movement also attended, and prayers of the movement were read by Miss Shaw. At Men's Fellowship tea on 19th, H. A. G. Clark screened pictures showing conditions in various countries visited on his recent tour. On 28th, Women's Fellowship celebrated its Birthday Rally with almost 80 present, representing district Fellowship and members of local Women's guilds. Soloists were Mrs. G. McCredden, elocutionist, Mrs. Kloster, and pianist, Mrs. Wickman. Speaker was Miss Martin of Christian Service Centre, Box Hill.

Dorcas Society has celebrated its second birthday, and records the fact that during the two years of its existence 2,660 garments, and 170 pairs of shoes, have been distributed. A scheme for raising finance for building extensions has been formulated and put into operation. Church extends sympathy to the Ferris family in loss of a beloved mother, and devoted member of the church for many years.

**Latrobe-terr., Geelong (T. A. Ferguson).** — A new member was received in on July 3 from another church, and in the evening a man and a boy were baptised. At this gospel service another man made the good confession. The attendance of a number of visitors was encouraging. B. Russenberg rendered a solo. He has now entered into N.S.T. First year of New Hall Savings Fund closed on July 4. £1,070 has been given in this period. With grateful hearts for all that God is doing for us and encouraging us in our building drive we commence another year. 45 attended monthly after-gospel service fellowship on 3rd, when after supper and happy singing, portion of still film, **The Life of Christ**, was shown. B.S. competition for new scholars and efficiency, has brought 10 new scholars in last three weeks. This is largely due to enthusiasm of Mr. and Mrs. A. Carr, Mr. Russenberg and others being willing to use their cars to bring children from more distant suburbs. Miss B. Bates gave a very interesting and practical talk to B.S. teachers training class on June 30. The lecture was on story telling and was the last of a series of five. We are grateful to the B.S. Committee of the Y.P.D. for Miss Bates' services. Mrs. Dawson is still confined to bed in hospital.

**Maidstone (E. H. Randall).** — Work continues in good heart with all auxiliaries doing well and B.S. well attended. Explorers had wonderful night on June 23 when they attended Essendon Aerodrome. On 26th, about 50 sat down to fellowship at youth tea, after which thought provoking films were shown. Three were welcomed into fellowship in the morning. Youth services were observed on July 3 with P.B.P. and Good Companions taking part in evening. Sale of old tyres brought in £9 towards School Hall Fund. F.M. offering was £92/-.

**Northcote (W. Gale).** — Preacher's messages are much appreciated. A young lad made his decision at gospel service on June 26. Youth Council is co-ordinating work very well. They recently assisted in an evening service at which W. Gale spoke.

**Portland (V. Quayle).** — Sickness among the members has reduced the attendance during June to morning 44, evening 31. Ladies' Guild held social evening at home of Mrs. K. Cooks on June 10, when a good gathering of members enjoyed a games even-

ing. Mr. Lavender (Methodist church) was guest speaker at C.M.S. meeting. Senior Y.P. club visited Methodist Y.P. and enjoyed table tennis. Preacher has charge of "Inter-School Christian Fellowship" at Portland High School, when Christian students meet once a fortnight for fellowship and instruction. G. Graham, B.S. supt., had charge of evening service on 26th, some of the senior scholars taking part. Mrs. Mee (Methodist) gave address. Conference President visited church on July 3 and addressed morning service. He was able to meet members at a fellowship lunch afterwards in Bible school hall. D. Griffiths was speaker at gospel meeting. Preacher and family have recovered from illness. K. Cook was song-leader at after-church fellowship on 26th.

**Red Hill (J. Sutton).** — Y.P. held social evening on June 4. Talent film was screened at gospel service on 5th, after which 35 10/- notes were taken by members to be used as a talent fund. J. Edwards (Dandenong) spoke at both services on 12th. Preacher and group of Y.P. were attending State C.E. Convention at Morwell. Ladies held their annual meeting on 30th. Preacher exchanged with K. Heath (Tootgarook) on July 3. V. Holmes, Mrs. O. Holmes and Mrs. E. White are ill. Block of land has been purchased for manse site. Members have donated a sum of money to assist in securing a full-time preacher. A manse fund has been commenced. Members are making effective use of their 10/- talent.

**Bendigo (R. V. Holmes).** — Much sickness has affected attendances. Junior Orange Lodge paraded on evening of June 19, when J. K. Martin was speaker. Fine attendances of youth on July 3 when F. Hunting (Ballarat) was guest speaker for the day. Senior club served delightful hot meal to 50 at youth tea. Ladies' Auxiliary reports half Manse Fund aim of £200 reached. R. Perl showed colored slides of local interest at June C.M.S. meeting.

**Black Rock (A. Avery).** — At annual business meeting on June 21, excellent reports were received from auxiliaries and youth clubs. Past year has seen many improvements to chapel, interior having been painted in pastel shades, new carpet laid and old roofing replaced by aluminium sheeting. Brethren are continuing their good work by giving of time and energy to repainting exterior of building. During preacher's absence at Sth. Melbourne mission, Mr. Styles was speaker. Fellowship and Bible study meetings are held every second Wednesday.

**East Malvern (R. N. Gilmore).** — On election day, Women's Fellowship raised £40 at their stall for the building fund. Owing to removal from district, church regrets loss of four members who have been active in

church and B.S. work, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Davidson and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wilson.

**Preston (J. E. Searle).** — The work continues to flourish, and there is a spirit of keenness and enthusiasm. On June 19, chapel was filled when various youth auxiliaries were present. At close of message on **Accepting the Challenge** there was one decision. Two young women decided for Christ at gospel service on 26th. Members of K.S.P. took part in morning service on July 3, when 18 Kappas sat together. Church has been saddened by sudden Home call of Mrs. Gray, senr. Mrs. Johnson, who is in her 105th year, is at the Will H. Clay Rest Home. She is enjoying splendid health.

**South Melbourne (S. Bannon).** — C.O.B. evangelists, K. Christensen, A. Avery and R. Chamberlain visited church in May and conducted fortnight's mission. Although no decisions were registered everyone who attended the services benefited immensely. Average attendance was 40 during week and 70 at weekends. Guests were Black Rock Singers, R. Gunston, L. Barlow and Miss Dudley. **I Beheld His Glory** was screened on May 21, and novel sermons preached during the nine meetings. **Counter-Attack** was screened on 29th, when evangelists were farewelled. P.B.P. and K.S.P. clubs are progressing steadily and gradually finding their feet. Secretary, K. Hank, is gaining confidence in his new position.

**Springvale (G. A. Grainger).**—Church is saddened by the death of Mr. Sheppard after a short severe illness. He will be greatly missed. Thanks is extended to all brethren who filled the pulpit during absence of preacher. Regular film services are being held, the latest being **Shadows of His Glory**, screened on July 3. An enjoyable kitchen tea in honor of Miss M. Daff and F. Draper was held on 2nd. Youth work is in good heart and B.S. has commenced practice for anniversary.

**Swan Hill (R. A. Banks).** — Usual monthly fellowship was conducted on July 2 in manse, when 30 were present. Church was saddened by Home call of Mrs. Edwards, member for many years. On 9th and 10th a party from Melbourne, led by B. Huntsman (Conf. Pres.) were in Swan Hill to conduct a conference with B.S. teachers. Mr. Huntsman was speaker at morning service on 10th.

**Hamilton (R. W. Saunders).**—Church enjoyed fellowship with delegates to C.E. Convention on Queen's Birthday week-end, worship and gospel services being taken by H. N. Pell and A. L. Ware. Evening service on June 19 was conducted by Mr. and Mrs. R. McPherson who, with a projector, illustrated mission work at Norseman. There was one decision for Christ on June 26, after a Billy Graham film and another on July 3. R. W. Saunders

was speaker. C.M.S. showed film **Macbeth** at their last meeting. At a tea provided by W.M.B., on July 2, Conference President and his wife (Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Huntsman) were welcomed. At a meeting which followed Mr. Huntsman gave a much appreciated illustrated lecture on church development. On 3rd, Mr. and Mrs. G. Witham were presented with a wedding gift. Messrs. Stent and Kennett and Margaret Myhill are in hospital. We pray for their speedy recovery. Fellowship with K. Patterson has been enjoyed. At Y.W.F. meeting at "Karawalla" on 4th, Mrs. J. Lunn discussed **Hat-making**.

**Maryborough (M. A. Coombs).** — Average attendances for June were, morning 66, evening 40, 66 communicants. At gospel services, illustrated sermons, using the method of flannelgraph, to illustrate has proved helpful. Men's tea was held on June 19 when F. Davies was appointed pres., and S. Nicholls, sec. Girls' choir competed in Amateur Hour at Carisbrooke and won their heat. Mrs. Callum and Mrs. Duncombe are improving after a long period of illness.

**Middle Park (J. Plummer).** — After-church Sankey hymn nights have been recommenced. At gospel service on June 26, two lads from Boys' Club made their decision. Mr. Bagot (Reservoir) presided on June 19. W. Annear is relieving Mrs. Plummer at organ on Sunday mornings. All auxiliaries are in healthy condition.

**Reservoir (R. E. Burns).** — Rich blessings have been experienced over the past few months, and fellowship enjoyed during mission by C.E. Quartet is proving beneficial. Three young men were baptised on July 3, bringing the total baptisms to 10 in six weeks. Average attendances for June were morning 45, evening 90. B. Whittaker who contracted polio is progressing slowly and is allowed to come home to be with his family each week-end.

**Wattle Park (H. A. G. Clark, M.A., B.D., Dip.Ed.).** — Good attendance average at all services is still maintained. Much appreciated speakers at recent evening services have been W. A. Wigney, J. Martin (representing Student Christian Movement) and L. A. Trezise. At S.C.M. meeting, solos from Miss L. Sommers were most helpful. Church welcomed Mr. Jenkins into fellowship following his confession and baptism. On June 21, Women's Fellowship anniversary afternoon was enjoyed by the 75 ladies present. Mrs. E. L. Williams was speaker. Following short devotional period led by preacher on June 22, church members spent remainder of evening in social get-together organised by officers. Club work is progressing well. Senior girls appreciated visit from Miss Jenkins (Sudan Mission). B.S. continues to grow in numbers and has commenced preparation for anniversary.

## BIRTH

**VERDON (Hill).** — On June 17, 1955, at Ararat, to Esme and Jack, a daughter—Kaye Suzanne. Both well.

## DEATHS

**BUTLER.** — Christina Jane, at Horsham, loving daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. H. Butler (Polkemet), beloved sister of Isabella (Mrs. Macdonald) dec.; James, dec.; Lily (Mrs. Lampard) dec.; Henrietta (Mrs. Oliver, Horsham); Roderick (Horsham); William (Gulgandra, N.S.W.); Duncan (Gulgandra); Harry, dec.; and May (Mrs. Raggatt, Horsham). Entered into rest July 1, 1955, age 77 years.

**DAWSON.** — On June 23, 1955, at her daughter's residence, 145 Central-ave., Inglewood, W.A., Elizabeth Margaret, beloved wife of the late Horace Frederick Dawson (Mt. Lawley), loving mother of Fred (Bunbury), Mavis (Mrs. Alex. Fraser, Qld.), Phyl. (Mrs. Green), and Alan; fond mother-in-law of Sylvia, Alex, Jim and Kath; loved grandmother of Judith, Helen, Allan, Robyn, Kerry, Janet, Ronnie and Trevor. Aged 81 years. Privately cremated Karrakatta, Saturday June 25.

## IN MEMORIAM

**CHILVERS.**—Cherished memories of a loving, devoted mother.  
—Inserted by her sons, daughters and in-laws.

**WILLIAMS.** — In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Albert E. P. Williams, who passed away, July 1, 1953.

"So sadly missed."  
—Inserted by his loving wife and family.

## SILVER WEDDING

**KRUGER.** — The sons of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Kruger, 15 Southern-ave., St. Mary's Adelaide, S.A., have much pleasure in announcing the 25th wedding anniversary of their parents, solemnised at East Ipswich, Qld., Church of Christ, July 9, 1930, by Lars Larsen.

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## Be a Hobab

Who was Hobab? Where did he live? What did he do? Not many can answer offhand, for Hobab dwells in an unfamiliar corner of the Bible. He was the brother-in-law of Moses. Moses, you remember, married a Midianite woman when he was in exile in their country, but when he went into Egypt, as God commanded, he went alone.

On his way to the promised land as the commander-in-chief of the Israelites, Moses returned to gather his family and possessions together. Before departing he urged his brother-in-law, Hobab, to accompany them and to share with them the riches of the land which Jehovah had promised.

"Come with us," said Moses, "and we will do you good." It is a pleasant picture to Hobab and an alluring offer. The riches of Canaan compared with the hardship of the desert are an attractive temptation. Surely he will accept, thinks Moses. But no. Hobab declines. He loves the arid wastes, the cactus growth, the wind-swept ridges, Moses is nettled. He loves his brother-in-law. He had really counted on him to act as the guide of the expedition and to direct them through the perilous country ahead where sand-storms were frequent and wells very few and far between. Moses considers. He needs Hobab. But how to persuade him? He goes to him again, bringing a new offer.

"Come with us and do us good," is his proposition. "Be our eyes, our guide, our scout, our pathfinder, our inspiring companion. We need you." Such diplomacy. And it achieves the desired result.

Hobab, who refuses to go for his own sake or gain, goes with Moses as soon as he discovers that he can be of service to others. A right royal fellow is Hobab. We like to meet men like him.

Ralph Conner has told us about Sandy who was inclined to drink. The minister had him on his mind and on his heart. All avenues of usual approach had failed. But the minister, like Moses, was a man of resources. Like Moses he was a diplomat. Races were about to be run. Attending them Sandy was in danger. The minister went to Sandy and said: "I greatly fear for Donald today. If he falls into the company of those wild fellows, they will rob him of his money and think how that will affect his poor family. Could you not keep an eye on him today and keep him sober?" Sandy straightened up and felt several inches taller. The idea that he could be of some use and that he was responsible for somebody made him say: "I'll be doing my best, sir." And do his best he did, for Donald came home sober that night. So did Sandy. It was a great victory. The minister was trying to help Sandy and succeeded by having Sandy help somebody else. The minister helped two.

All this illustrates how God means to help us. God does not comfort us so that we may be comfortable, but that we might be comforters. He does not enrich us that we may be rich, but that we might enrich others. We are not to corner our blessings,—we are supposed to bless our corners. That little space which we occupy can be made happier and brighter by virtue of our Christian thinking and living.

Life in its final summary is your—and my—opportunity to live this Hobabian way.—Richard Brounstein in "The Expositor."



### PAUL'S PLAN OF CHURCH FINANCE

(1 Cor. 16: 2)

PERIODIC	Worshipful
"Upon the first day of the week.	Habitual
	Prayerful
	Cheerful
PERSONAL	Each man
let each one of you	Each woman
	Each boy
	Each girl
	No proxies
	No merging
PROVIDENT	Forehanded
lay by him in store	Deliberate
	Thoughtful
	Intelligent
PROPORTIONATE	Generous
as he may prosper."	Careful
	Responsible
	Faithful

### IS THIS MAN — YOU?

I'm not "the chief of sinners"  
For I haven't reached that grade,  
But I'm pretty black, I tell you,  
If you call a spade a spade.

The lies I tell are plenty—  
Tho' I gossip not at all—  
But when the truth won't suit me,  
Sure, I dodge the coming squall.

I'm not in church connection  
For I have not got the pluck  
To invest my life with Jesus  
So I chance it all to luck.

I know that I'm a coward,  
And not worth his dying for;  
But his love has set me thinking  
As my sins swell score by score.

Some day, perhaps, I'll take him—  
If my courage mounts—that is!  
But, today, I don't feel like it—  
Tho' I guess I should be his.

\* \* \*

Lord grant this man some backbone  
That he may his heart unlock  
And accept his Lord as Saviour  
Ere the stopping of the clock.

—Josiah Park, Hobart.

Ruskin said it many years ago—and it's still true today: "It is a good and safe rule to sojourn in every place as if you meant to spend your life there, never omitting an opportunity of doing a kindness or speaking a true word or making a friend."



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July 12, 1955

## Ministry of Love

Mrs. Judith Fergie, Canberra.

A Message to Mothers with Babies on  
the Cradle Roll, by One of Them.

The first two babies on the Canberra  
Church of Christ Cradle Roll are my  
two children, and now there is another  
one further down the list; and my  
husband and I are very proud of the  
fact. It is going to be quite an honor  
to be first on that Cradle Roll, because  
it is going to grow, and the time will  
come when there are hundreds on it.  
Many of them will have passed through  
Kindergarten and Bible School, and  
will have come to know and accept  
Christ as Saviour. If our children are  
among these, we will be even prouder  
parents than we are now that their  
feet have been set on the first rung of  
the ladder. Both my husband and I  
know the value of this steady progres-  
sion from Cradle Roll to church under  
the guidance of Christian parents, be-  
cause we both began our Christian ex-  
perience in that way. And we know  
that the influence of a mother, strong  
in her own faith in God, is vital in  
the formative years when a child's  
future depends on the direction in  
which he sets off on life's road.

Most mothers, I think, must feel  
this great responsibility. They dread  
that the spirit of their child may be  
contaminated. They fear the subtle in-  
fluences over which they have no con-  
trol, in school, office and playing field.  
Is not the best insurance against these  
things, the creation round our children  
of the atmosphere of a Christian home?  
Although our own faith may be weak,  
it will grow in the effort we make to  
tell our children about God. Does it  
seem too great an effort, coming at the  
end of a long working day, to pray  
with our little ones, to tell them simple  
Bible stories, and to talk with them  
of Jesus? Yet these are the things  
they will remember when they have  
grown up. In times when our own  
faith may be failing, we remember the  
simple faith of our mothers, and it  
gives us something to hang on to when  
all else seems confused. I am so thank-  
ful that my mother had faith in God.

I believe that God has a key which  
he puts into the hands of mothers. But  
it is only that they may let him into  
their children's lives. He gives the  
mother the key that the little child  
may believe in God's love through the  
arms of its mother.

We are none of us perfect—least of  
all a mother with two or three little  
ones around that terrible hour between  
five and six at night. It is coming to  
the end of a long, long day, and the  
kiddies are tired and hungry and  
generally miserable. There is the tea  
to prepare and maybe a baby to feed,  
and everything seems to pile up. This,  
I think, is one of the everyday tests

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and love at a time like this, our chil-  
dren will sense that our belief is real  
and strong, and they will come to know  
that it is worth living up to.

I want to suggest then, that mothers  
in their ordinary daily round can carry  
out a really vital ministry . . . a minis-  
try of love.

The text that I would like to leave  
with you all, is from Mark 10: 49: "Be  
of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee."

*The Singers of Melrose*

A Hymn for July — No. 729,

Close together in the church of the  
Scottish border town of Melrose are  
memorials to two women hymnwriters,  
Mrs. Cousin (writer of "The sands of  
time are sinking"), and Miss Clephane  
(writer of "The ninety and nine," and  
"Beneath the cross of Jesus"). Stranger  
still, the two were members and  
workers together for a considerable  
period. After Miss Clephane's death, a  
touching poem by Mrs. Cousin referred  
to her as "our life's delight," "our  
beloved," "thou snow-white soul."

Elizabeth Clephane was the youngest  
daughter in a family whose name had  
been prominent in 1,000 years of Bor-  
der history. The conspicuous ability  
and gentle charm which shone through  
a life of bereavements and illnesses led  
her into a ministry of tender help-  
fulness to those less endowed. It was the  
tragic death overseas of a wayward  
brother that brought about the out-  
pouring of moving verse in "The ninety  
and nine."

Little is known about the writing  
of today's hymn except that in 1872,  
three years after Miss Clephane's pass-  
ing, two poems appeared under the  
heading "Breathings from the Border"  
in a Scottish religious monthly, the  
editor stating that they were written  
"on the very edge of this life, the  
Better Land fully in the view of faith"  
and expressing the hope that they  
might "comfort and direct succeeding  
pilgrims." The music for the hymn  
was composed by Sankey in the home  
of Dr. Barnardo, and when it was sung  
for the first time in an East End mis-  
sion the following morning, all were  
deeply moved. The missionary im-  
mediately altered his message to one  
on "The Cross of Jesus," and at its  
very first using the hymn was an aid  
in bringing many to Christ.—F.J.F.

*Open Forum*

I was very much interested in that  
article from the Christian Advocate  
on the late Timothy Coop (A.C.  
21/6/55). You may be surprised to learn  
that this gentleman had a link with  
Australia. One of the founders of  
the big Melbourne industrial company,  
Davies Coop and Co. Ltd. (cotton  
spinners, etc.) was another Timothy  
Coop. The similarity of name struck

me many years ago and, I wrote to  
Mr. Coop who was then living in  
Marne-st., South Yarra, and he replied  
that he was a son (or a nephew, I  
forget which) of Timothy Coop, senr.  
He was an elderly man then and has  
been deceased for many years. Pos-  
sibly there is still a Timothy Coop  
connected with the company, as the  
one to whom I wrote also had sons  
in Australia.—T. Smith, Glen Iris, Vic.

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