

Murray

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST



“Always a
Mother
at the Foot
of the Cross”

This moving picture of a woman's grief, as she mourns over a loved one, plucked from her in a Greek earthquake, makes vivid and personal the words of John 20: 25, 26—

“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother . . . when Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!”

here and there

A telegram from Reg. Sack reports 60 decisions in the first two weeks of the mission being conducted at Collie, W.A., by J. K. Bond.

100 members and friends attended a social evening at Tootgarook, Vic. on Feb. 18 to welcome A. Cant, B.Ed. (C.O.B.) who has commenced a student ministry with the church there. Fifty-seven attended a parent and scholar night on Mar. 4 and enjoyed a social hour after the service.

Six decisions were registered at closing service of tent mission held at North Balgowlah, N.S.W., with D. W. Tonkin (Mosman) as missionary. The mission closed on Mar. 11 with a total of 15 decisions.

Bassendean church, W.A., tendered a farewell evening to its preacher, C. J. Robinson and family, prior to their departure from the church. Representatives from local churches expressed their appreciation of the co-operation and fellowship enjoyed with Mr. Robinson. Church members and auxiliary leaders spoke of the work done by the preacher during his term at Bassendean, and presentations were made to Mr. and Mrs. Robinson and their family.

E. Ewers, preacher at Kadina church, S.A., has concluded a five-year ministry there. M. T. Lawrie (Kaniva, Vic.) will commence his ministry at Kadina on April 1.

W. E. Hoffman, preacher at Georgetown, N.S.W., will conclude his ministry with that church in May.

After traversing Qld's treacherous roads and arriving safely in Townsville, K. R. Fennell was soon greeted by another hazard—the fury of Cyclone Agnes. But, in spite of all this, he declares he likes the North and its heat, and looks forward to his work here. A welcome evening held at Hermit Park chapel on Mar. 3, was chaired by S. Vanham, who also conducted an Induction Service the next morning. O. Irwin, C. Beale, F. Hammond and Mrs. O. Irwin gave a welcome on behalf of the church. Five carloads of Townsville folk then journeyed to Charters Towers, where Mr. Fennell's coming to the full-time work also means a great deal. The Towers' warm welcome, was practically shown in a sumptuous fellowship tea and a lovely supper. The evening

service in the old Towers church was full of praise, with the bells ringing out, marking the important occasion. The church thanks the Federal Conference and Home Missionary Committees, and all who have made this ministry possible.

Clients with cars, desirous of shopping at The Austral, or availing themselves of our printing facilities, are notified that they will now find the parking position eased in Elizabeth-st., adjacent to the office. It was impossible to park previously, due to all day parkers occupying the kerb, but this has now been eliminated by the introduction of one hour angle parking on both sides of Elizabeth-st., from Victoria-st. to the Haymarket.

Church members at Inglewood, W.A., were part of 300 guests who, at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Les. Peacock, spent a very happy time on a river trip, the occasion being to mark the 25th wedding anniversary of the host and hostess. Former preachers of Inglewood church, and their wives, were among the guests. Opportunity was taken to express thanks and appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Peacock for their splendid services rendered to their home church at Inglewood, and the brotherhood.

The church at Bexley North, N.S.W., celebrated its 25th church anniversary early in March, with G. R. Stirling, B.A. (Canberra) as guest speaker. A. W. Stephenson, M.A., gave an entertaining illustrated lecture on Mar. 6. Youth night conducted by J. Henderson was also much enjoyed. One hundred enjoyed birthday tea and address by G. R. Stirling. L. Yelds gave a brief summary of the early days, and made a presentation to J. Saville, a foundation member. Mrs. Stirling was a visitor on 11th, and a baptismal service on that evening climaxed a memorable occasion. Church regrets the passing of Mrs. Peterson, a pioneer member. J. G. Shaw is minister at Bexley North.

The Austral continues to be a popular rendezvous for interstate and country visitors. B. Crowden (Mundalla, S.A.), Mr. and Mrs. G. Mathieson (Maylands, S.A.), H. Walmsley (Tamworth, N.S.W.) and B. Burn, preacher-elect for Auckland, N.Z. church, have been recent visitors.

As this edition went to press, word was received of the passing away in Enworth Hospital of Mrs. Wiltshire, beloved wife of James Wiltshire, preacher at Bentleigh, Vic.

It has been necessary to hold some church news over until the next issue due to the reception of a large number this week. The usual church directory on the inside front cover has again been omitted to allow greater space for articles and news.

A group of children, assisted by adults from Dulwich, S.A. church, visits the Adelaide Hospital every Monday evening distributing posies to the patients. This work has been continued for years, and last year approx. 3,000 posies were distributed.

Bonnie Bates Visits Queensland.

For just one week, Queensland has had the services of Miss Bonnie Bates, of the Victorian Youth Department. It was a week packed with meetings and a teachers' camp. Meetings at which Miss Bates met teachers, spoke to tea table fellowship groups, and then presented an audio-visual display, were held in three strategic centres of Ipswich, Toowoomba, and Ann-st.

At Ipswich, the Conference President, S. W. Vanham, welcomed Miss Bates to the State, and R. Hilford (preacher) to a well attended meeting. In the Toowoomba gathering there were a number of teachers who travelled well over 100 miles to attend the meeting with Miss Bates. Kindergarten teachers were met, and a well attended tea, at which Miss Bates spoke, preceded the audio-visual display. Ninety teachers, preachers and leaders gathered for the final meeting in the Ann-st. church hall. All were impressed and highly appreciative of the programme presented.

At the teachers' camp, sixty-one teachers (many of them key persons) met in fellowship for the weekend. Miss Bates was the principal speaker and was supported by Helen Trudgian, B.A., Dip.Ed., C. J. Williams and K. D. Horne (Director). In the four sessions at which Miss Bates spoke, such subjects as: Telling the Story, Worship in the School, Lesson Planning, Roll Playing, and Schools in England and the U.S.A. were presented and discussed. In all it has been a great week of activity, and all who met Bonnie Bates have felt how grand the opportunity and how challenging the task of Christian education.

Queensland has benefited by this visit, and we appreciate the gesture of the Victorian Y.P.D. in releasing this competent worker for service in this State. Our Bible schools will be the richer for her coming.—K.D.H.

CHRIST AMID THE RUINS

Look at the arresting picture on this page. Maybe you're startled to see a crucifix on the pages of *The Australian Christian* (no letters to the editor, please!). But this is a crucifix with a difference. Something has happened to it. It has been caught up in an overwhelming disaster. Torn from its accustomed place, it was one of the least of the victims of an earthquake, heavy in its toll of human life. It lies half-buried in the rubble, yet with a power of symbolism in it that the conventional crucifix never knew. The left arm of the Christ seems firmly fixed still to the cross. But something has happened to the right arm. It has broken free from the cross; indeed, the whole body seems to be straining free from its imprisonment, and there is a living eloquence in that out-flung, up-pointed, liberated right arm. Here is the Christ of our times, speaking anew to us from the midst of the ruins.

First, let us thank God that he is there, amid the ruins of even man's best hopes for himself. There is no hell of our apparent forsaken-ness in which we cannot hear him cry, "My God, why?" There is no depth of bitterness from which his words may not rally us, with their "Father, forgive!" What a word this is for a generation which has seen man's inhumanity to man rain such destruction from the skies that heaps of rubble have remained for months and even years. There, amid some of the ruins in the years just after the war, families, gaunt of body and shattered of spirit, made their home. And those who ministered to them then in the name of Christ found their Lord there before them. He always is. That is the assurance of Easter.

For what was Calvary but the place of lost hopes; Golgotha, "the place of the skull." A grim name, for the grave-yard of man's dreams—and the seeming end of God's. What a place Calvary is for those who are depressed and saddened; for whom the bottom has fallen out of life! Never forget that he is there—Christ amid the ruins.

But he did not stay there, nor in the tomb across which the stone had been rolled with dread finality. He broke free! The crucifix, with its drooping, prisoned figure, is no true symbol of the Christian faith. Yet it is true in its picture of what we have done with him. Look at that left arm in this picture—still fast on the crucifix. The Christ is not wholly free. Is not that true of many of our lives? Are we afraid to set fully free in us this disturbing Christ, with the "kind but searching glance"? We tie him down with our little faith, our timid deeds,



our half-surrender. But Easter assures us again that he must be free to do with us what he will—and what he alone can.

It is the ultimate triumph of Easter that this Man, who went down to death for our sakes, should be the one who points us upward and onward to the triumph of God. Note how life-like and imperative that right hand is in this picture. Remember, too, how, when he warned his disciples of the coming tragedy—and could anything be grimmer than Mark 10: 33, 34?—he could not leave them without the triumph of "And the third day he shall rise again!" There is the pointed hand, the victory shout that rises even from the rubble. Before his death, he arranged a rendezvous in Galilee. There it is again—the certainty that nothing can finally defeat the will and purpose of God. Look at this Son of God again, with outflung arm and victory in his words. "There is a way for man to rise!"

Principal W. G. ROBINSON muses on the words

"O Love of God! O Sin of Man!"

"The words of Anselm, 'Not yet hast thou considered how great is the weight of sin,' ought to haunt the imagination of the modern theologian, and equally the warning found in *Cur Deus Homo?* (Anselm's great work on the Atonement), 'Not yet hast thou considered how strong is the love of God.'" Dr. Vincent Taylor, to whom we owe so much for his contributions to Biblical scholarship and to the meaning of the death of Christ considered in terms of his sacrifice, reminds us in this penetrating observation that in the Cross we see both the love of God and the sin of man, and until we see them clearly we cannot understand its significance. The words of the hymn of F. W. Faber are another insight into this truth:

"O love of God! O sin of man!

In this dread act your strength is tried,

And victory remains with love,
For he, our Lord, is crucified."

Let us see what the New Testament says about the love of God and the sin of man as they are revealed for us in the Cross.

The Gravity of Man's Sin

There is no more searching analysis of the desperate weight of man's sin than in Paul's Letter to the Romans. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (3: 23). There is no distinction, says Paul. Non-Jews are in sin—and he gives an appalling catalogue in chapter 1 of man's vices run riot—the unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity of those who are insolent, haughty and boastful inventors of evil ways (1: 29-32). And Jews, too, in spite of the Law, have failed and fallen (as the second chapter so clearly shows). "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you" (2: 24). Similarly, if Romans 7 reflects the autobiography of Paul in his pre-conversion days, he analyses, too, the sense of individual sin. "I am carnal, sold under sin . . . For I know that in me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me, but to do that which is good is not. For the good which I would, that I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I practise. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me out of the body of this death?" (7: 14, 18, 19, 24).

Lest we should think that this is a mere morbid preoccupation of the Apostle, let us look elsewhere also.

There is no minimising of sin or failure to grasp its gravity in other parts of the New Testament. Sin is hostility to God, self-assertion against him, rebellion against his fatherly goodness and against his will. All this is seen in the Crucifixion—had the rulers of the world known God's wisdom they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory (1 Cor. 2: 8). It results in slavery (Jn. 8: 34-36), in hatred of God (Jn. 15: 22-24). It involves awful consequences (Heb. 2: 1-3; 10: 26-31); it makes men the enemies of God (Jas. 4: 4); it rejects all his loving advances to us (1 Pet. 2: 1-8); it is diabolical lawlessness (1 Jn. 3: 4, 8). All these insights into the nature of sin come from knowledge of the Cross, for it is supremely at Golgotha that its gravity is seen. From the beginning, as the speeches in Acts demonstrate, the followers of Jesus saw this with striking penetration (Acts 3: 13-15; 5: 30; 10: 36-39).

The Strength of God's Love

These early speeches, however, also insist that there was nothing fortuitous or unforeseen about the Cross. It was by "the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God" that lawless men crucified him (Acts 2: 23). In it was seen his purpose to win men back to himself. In a word, in the Cross God's love was demonstrated. God, who loves the unlovely and the unlovable, "commends" (or sets forth, or proves) his own love for us by this, that "while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5: 8). "God, being rich in mercy, for his great love where-with he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, quickened us together with Christ (by grace have ye been saved) and raised us up with him . . . that he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2: 4-7).

If we are sometimes in danger of thinking of God's giving of His Son (Jn. 3: 16) as an act of God's love which demanded a terrifyingly high price from his Son, we dare not forget that the love of God and the love of Christ are interchangeable terms. To see this sharply, set Jn. 3: 16 alongside Gal. 2: 20 ("the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me"). Or see how this is brought out in the Fourth Gospel ("Even as the Father hath loved me, I also have loved you," 15: 9; "having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them to the end; or,

utterly," 13: 1). Or observe how in Romans 8: 32-39, that great hymn of Christian confidence, Paul used the terms "the love of Christ" (8: 35) and "the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (8: 39) as synonymous. So Paul can write, "The love of God constrains (that is, controls) us, because we are convinced that One died for all . . . and he died for all that they who live should no longer live to themselves but for the sake of him, who for their sakes died and rose again" (2 Cor. 5: 14, 15).

It is the love by which all love is tested, and by which all love is illuminated. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son" (1 Jn. 4: 10). "Hereby know we love, because he laid down his life for us" (1 Jn. 3: 16).

Victory Remains With Love

In the "dread act" of the Cross the sin of man and the love of God meet in conflict and "victory remains with love." Sin is defeated once for all at Golgotha. "The death that he died, he died unto sin once for all" (Rom. 6: 10). He "gave himself for our sins that he might deliver us out of this present evil world, according to the will of our God and Father" (Gal. 1: 4).

Jesus himself led his disciples to see the significance of his death. "The Son of Man, came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mk. 10: 45). "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me," to which is added the evangelist's comment "this he said, signifying by what death he should die" (Jn. 12: 32, 33). Those disciples, from a short time after the Crucifixion, saw it as Jesus intended them to see, as of supreme importance in God's plan of salvation. They saw the victory all the more clearly because they saw it confirmed by the Resurrection (cf. Rom. 8: 32-34; Col. 2: 9-15).

There are many theories and doctrines of the Atonement which seek to explain what happened in the Cross. All have their own special insights and none gives the complete picture. But, at its simplest, we say that what did happen in the Cross was that men are brought face to face with the gravity of sin and with the strength of the love of God, and that they share the victory he won.

In a B.B.C. broadcast, Dr. HERBERT H. FARMER illustrates

MIGHT IN THE CROSS

Many years ago I knew an old Polish Jew who had become a Christian, and what a fine Christian he was! He happened to hear me preaching. I was preaching on the love of God. I suppose I was preaching in the cheerful, confident way of one for whom, on the whole, the lines of life had fallen in not unpleasant places. He came to me afterwards and said, "You know, you have no right to believe in the love of God until you have seen, as I have seen, a massacre of the Jews, until you have seen, as I have seen, the blood of your dear ones running in the streets." I do not altogether agree with him. There is a cheerful confidence in the goodness of God which is entirely right in a child or in the immature and inexperienced. But I know now what he meant, and I have often thought of it since.

I asked him later, when I got to know him better, how he had come to believe in the love of God, having seen such a massacre. The answer he gave, in effect, was that the Christian gospel first laid hold of him because it bade him see God, the love of God, as it were, just where he was, just where he could not help always being in his thought—in those blood-stained streets on that grey winter morning. It bade him see the love of God not somewhere else, in the crocuses and the daffodils, but in the midst of just that sort of thing, in the blood and agony of a Cross. He did at least know, he said, that the Christian message was not rose-water sentimentality about the loveliness of the world, and all that. It was a message that did at least grapple with the facts. And then he said something which I have never forgotten, and to which I want to come back again before I close. He said: "As I looked upon that man upon the Cross, as I heard h'm pray, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,' I knew that I must make up my mind once and for all, and either take my stand beside him, in his strong love and strong, undefeated faith in God, or else fall finally into a bottomless pit of bitterness and hatred and despair."

Call for Decision

The Cross is either a great, grim, hoarse, mocking shout of "No," to the proposition that God is love, taking up into itself all those other things which shout "No" in our human life; or it is a firm, steady, quiet "Yes," which penetrates and

persists through all those other things. Who, then, is to decide which it is? The strange thing is, you have to decide. And believe me, it is God himself who is laying hold of you, it is his light which is beginning to shine out of the darkness of Calvary into your heart, when, confronted by this final choice, there stirs somewhere deep within you the conviction that you cannot, you must not, you dare not join in that great, grim, hoarse "No." Rather, you must with



your whole being add your "Yes." So it was, with my old Polish friend. "I knew," he said, "that I must take my stand by him or else fall finally into a bottomless pit of bitterness and unbelief and despair."

A Light and a Challenge

Is that, then, all? No, it is only the beginning, though it is a beginning which may have to be made again and again. We have to come back to the Cross, many of us, again and again, especially in these days, and face the dilemma and choice again, and feel God speaking to us in the facing of it. Still, it is only the beginning and the basis. Plainly we have not said "Yes" with our whole being, except we are prepared to make the experiment of living according to that "Yes," even in this modern world, except we are prepared to launch out into life itself in the faith that, in spite of all, the truth is in Jesus Christ, is in the crucified and not the crucifiers: some-

what like John Bunyan—only probably for most of us in a rather quieter way—when he said, "Wherefore I am for going on, and venturing my eternal state with Christ; I will leap off a ladder even blindfold into eternity, sink or swim, come heaven, come hell, Lord Jesus, if thou wilt catch me; if not, I will still venture for thy name's sake." God's richest gifts are assuredly given only to those who launch out on the active, venturesome life of discipleship, who obey the heavenly vision with their whole being. There is light for these times in the Cross of Christ, God's light, but it is a light which has within it a great challenge, and it is a light which will not remain with us except we seek, I repeat, even at some cost, to walk in it.



Story of £40

The Secretary of the Federal Home Mission Board, Howard Earle, has received through S. Laney (Past President of the N.S.W. Conference) the sum of £40 for evangelistic work in North Queensland. This amount remained in the Commonwealth Savings Bank to the credit of the Church of Christ, Darwin, N.T. The Head Office of the Bank contacted Mr. Laney during his year of office, and intimated that as the account had not been operated for years, unless something was done about it, the amount at credit would be transferred to Consolidated Funds.

Members may recall that a church was established at Darwin, N.T., in the 'thirties, when several brethren were engaged on constructional work for the Commonwealth Government. At the outbreak of war in 1939, the church was disbanded. Mr. Laney made great efforts to locate the signatories to the account, and finally succeeded. After due consideration, the brethren — A. L. Madgwick (N.S.W.) and M. H. Fletcher (S.A.) — agreed with Mr. Laney that the account be closed and the amount at credit be paid into Federal Home Mission Funds for work in North Queensland, and the accrued interest be used to assist in the work at Canberra.

In acknowledging the work of these brethren, we would assure them of the gratitude of the brotherhood, and endorsement of their decision.—Howard Earle.

Dr. ARTHUR J. GOSSIP, world-famed preacher, sounds

EASTER'S SHOUT OF VICTORY!

Once on a day, a young Scottish ploughboy, of the name of Clyde, as he was being tied to the stake, noticed that his fellow martyr, an older scholarly man, was somewhat shaken by the ordeal, and called to him, "Be of good cheer, sir! The Lord Christ never promised to keep us out of trouble. But he did promise to bring us through. And he will do it!" And, with that, the other's faith revived; and he, too, died looking death in the eyes, contemptuous and unafraid.

That is a story we had better keep in mind; a spirit we must seek to catch. For we have need of it these days. Troubles in plenty keep crowding in upon us, and problems of first-rate importance clamoring for solution and refusing to wait.

God is not Dead

But we have God to help us! True. But do not many come under the condemnation of Maurice's gibe against Carlyle—that "he believed in a God who died in the days of Oliver Cromwell"? Or, at least, do not our minds recognise what Erskine of Linlathen meant, when he wrote, "The past is with God, and the future is with God; and so is the present. But we do not feel that so much." There, where the pinch lies, and where our struggle has to be fought out, we seem left to ourselves, thrown back upon our own resources. And so we fuss and bustle, with the uneasy impression gathering in our minds, that we are not fit for the job assigned to us. How can it be put through?

"For the wettest of wet blankets," said John Morley, "give me the man who was most of a visionary in his youth." He has had his dreams. We have had ours—of a world of universal brotherhood; and we have wakened from it to the ugly reality of the nations, sullen, greedy, resentful, falling once more into bickering groups.

An Incredible Adventure

The astronomers assure us that even the drabest life is an incredible adventure; since each of us moves unthinkingly to and fro, all the while holding on with his feet to a ball spinning dizzily through space, and with his daring head sticking out into the sheer abyss. That sounds dangerous enough! But things become ever more perilous, now that one maniac with an atomic bomb or two can in a moment hurl a whole civilisation, built up through centuries of toil and sacrifice, into thin air and nothingness.

"It is no weak Christ you have to do with. But a Christ of power. For though he was crucified in his weakness, he lives by the Power of God."—2 Cor. 13, 3, 4 (Moffatt).

These things are telling on us. Many are angry and disappointed, feeling that they have been fooled; that they have paid down the full price of what, after all, has been denied them; that they have been cheated and left empty-handed.

Even Christian people are a little daunted and dispirited. But that will never do! For the function of a Christian is to remain unafraid, calm, imperturbable, when others are faltering, and beginning to look back across their shoulders. It is for them, by being what they are, to steady those around them, and to keep their morale from cracking.

Not the First Time

Things have often before this looked desperate. That shrewd mind that wrote Ecclesiastes, steadily regarding the human scene, came to the sombre conclusion that the whole thing is largely purposeless; and human effort, in the main, a sheer futility. And, apart from Christ and the God whom he reveals, there is no answer to that gloomy finding. For the thing is simply true. But, then, we have Christ; and a risen Christ at that. And with him beside us, to be anything but confident is silliness.

There is no fear that, when he comes to you, he may draw back, and say that, while his grace is practically an illimitable thing, he had not thought to come upon such a case as yours; and you can hardly expect him to meet it, nor that he will be baffled by the complicated problems of our time, though he could solve the simpler ones of his own primitive day. His gospel was designed to reach down to the depths of things, to face the worst, to save to the uttermost. And a wonderful gospel it is, if it be true; and if it works!

But there is no doubt about it. It is true. It has worked. It has faced all that there is to face; and year by year, Easter comes with its shout of victory.

Fulness of Faith

"If you think you see the ark of the Lord toppling, you can be perfectly certain that that is due to a swimming in your own head." So

wrote John Newton once to a discouraged soul. And it is true.

We must not stop short too soon in our faith, but must accept the whole of what it offers. It is not enough to follow the Master, listening, moved and heartened, to his gracious teaching. Not enough even to stand on Calvary in a hush of spirit, awed and very still in the thick darkness round the Cross. If we are to be real Christians, and to know the faith in its full strength, we must press on to find and serve and glory in the risen, living Lord.

"Lead me to the other side of darkness," cries a bold soul in the Upanishads, that earliest attempt to grapple with and understand the dark and inscrutable enigmas in life, and, so saying, plunges into that darkness unafraid, sure that there is another side, where the clear light is shining. And the gross darkness upon Calvary is not the end!

After Calvary, Easter Day

Was not Michaelangelo justified, when, in a sonnet, he turned angrily on his fellow-artists for their misrepresentation of Christ? Why, he cried, is he always painted hanging in weakness on the tree, where he was only for a few hours, and not rather risen, triumphant, with his foot upon the futile stone that could not hold him? For he is the risen and victorious Christ for ever and ever.

"Ours," claimed Paul boldly, speaking out of an actual experience of him, "Ours is no weak Christ, but a Christ of power." He has faced everything and won. That is the truth that we need to remember, to put heart and steadiness and courage into us. Ours is no weak Christ, but a Christ of power; and we, so ineffective in ourselves, can do all things through him that strengtheneth us.

In Christ, we are called upon to rise into a glorious new life. It can be done. It has been done—that over and over and over again. Did not Jung cry out in amazement that not less than that is what the Christian faith had the audacity to offer. And, said Jung, "You can't laugh it out of court, for it has done it! And every day we meet such new creatures in the streets!"

And Christ could do it for us, too. "For ours is no weak Christ but a Christ of power," a Christ whom the grave could not hold, the conqueror of sin and hell, a risen Christ, the Christ Victorious!

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

MISSIONARY NEWS

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

Indian Notes

BARAMATI SCHOOL BUILDING

Difficulties being cleared away and final permits granted, the new dormitories for lady teachers, and class rooms, are now well underway. Mr. Bairagi, who has charge of the building operations, reports: "Thank you for everything; especially the money for the building work. The stone work is now completed, and the brick work will be done very rapidly. We will require a further £500 next month."

Already nearly £1,200 has been forwarded for this building. In another portion of his letter Mr. Bairagi adds, "The Indianisation Scheme is working very smoothly. The opening of the Lasurna Friendship Centre was very encouraging, when nearly 2,000 people were present at the Christian play. Last night I gave a tea party to those who took part in the play. We are trying to get the local church at Baramati to take an active part in the evangelistic work of the Mission."

(When in India a few months ago, I visited Larsuna with Hariba Waghmodi. The people were very pleased at the thought of opening a Friendship Centre, and were prepared to see that suitable premises were available. The response on the opening day gives promise that the folk will have more than a passing interest. A.A.)

LOVE CHANGES THINGS

At Poona, I visited the Industrial School, where one of our boys is in residence. He had been treated for T.B., and is now well. The Superintendent was in a fix to know what to do for the lad, as he would not respond to anything.

Shankar came here at the request of the Superintendent for a short time at Christmas. He said he had no wish to live, and that nobody cared whether he lived or died, and that he might as well be dead. In those 10 days he changed . . . He found that there was someone who cared, and I promised to go to his Superintendent after a month, and if there had been any real improvement in his behaviour, that I would plead with them to let him have teacher training.

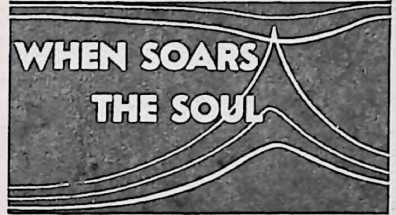
The whole staff have suddenly become conscious of him. Four different people spoke about him and his powers at games. I was horrified, and told the Superintendent to be careful of his health. The doctor was called, and he said there was no reason why the lad should not go for training. The tailoring master said he could in two months sit for his first tailoring examination, because he was naturally clever. The Superintendent gave an order there and then for him to be deputed to the Government Teacher Training College from June. Honestly, there is so much difference in the lad who came on Christmas Eve with a face that could not smile. A little love makes so much difference. The Superintendent said that he came home a different person after the Christmas holidays. The Government is anxious that young people will be reinstated into society, but it isn't always easy to do this. Well, here is one lad who is being helped.—Edna Vawser.

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST AND THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

"The gospel is a much more powerful weapon for the renewal of society than is our Marxist philosophy. All the same it is we who will finally beat you. We are only a handful and you Christians are numbered by the million. But if you remember the story of Gideon and his 300 companions you will understand why I am right. We Communists do not play with words. We are realists, and seeing that we are determined to achieve our object, we know how to obtain the means. Of our salaries and wages we keep only what is strictly necessary, and give up the rest for propaganda purposes. To this propaganda we also consecrate 'all our free time and part of our holidays.' You, however, give only a little time and hardly any money for the spreading of the gospel of Christ. How can anyone believe in the supreme power of the gospel if you do not practise it? If you do not spread it? And if you sacrifice neither time nor money for it? Believe me, it is we who will win, for we believe in the Communist message and we are ready to sacrifice everything, even our life, in order that social justice may triumph. But you people are afraid to soil your hands."

—From Pax et Liberté, French Communist Publication.

When soars the soul earth's
clamoring voices cease,
Stilled in the wonder of God's
power and peace.



Jesus told them, "The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you truly that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain of wheat; but if it dies, it brings a good harvest. The man who loves his own life will lose it, and the man who hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. If a man wants to enter my service, he must follow my way. And where I am, my servant will also be. And my Father will honor the man who enters my service. Now comes my hour of heart-break, and what can I say; 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very purpose that I came to this hour."—Jn. 12: 23-27 (Phillips).

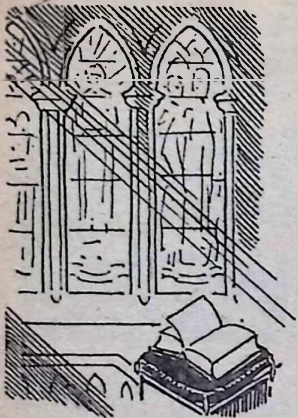
Jesus' picture of the seed dying in the wintry ground, to spring up in the golden harvest amid the summer sunshine, lit up for him in his last hours the meaning of the Cross. There he touched bottom, as it were. He reached the point of despair, when the sin of man seemed to shut out the very face of God. But on the far side of despair there came the resurrection, in which his love became triumphant to overcome the world . . . When we touch bottom, faith reaches out for some foothold, and finds the rock beneath. When the sun is eclipsed, stars not seen before come into view. The sun's brightness hides them, and when that light goes out they become visible. If we find ourselves in the place of despair, and there seems nothing left to live for, let us recall the Cross and the resurrection. God's Kingdom is a gift for the desperate, but only when we come to that point can we see its open-gate.—Dr. James Reid.

O thou whose glory we have seen in the face of Jesus Christ, help us to live in the light of that vision, ashamed to give thee less than the best that thou thyself art always giving us. Amen.

One Kingdom, only, is divine,

Its banner triumphs still:

One King, a servant, and its throne
A Cross upon a hill.



THE LIVING WORD

Studies on the planned Sunday morning readings

Suggested Theme.

"YOU CAN'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF"

Introduction.—Here is the story of a man who has come from the depths of despair to the joy of a great deliverance. He cannot keep quiet about it, for

I. SOMETHING WONDERFUL HAS HAPPENED. — It is the Lord's doing. In response this man must (a) share—in worship and witness (vv. 22, 25); (b) sacrifice (v. 23); (c) exercise stewardship—"I will pay my vows before them that fear him." Rightly, the Psalmist realises that the man who owes the Lord such a personal debt must call to others, "Rejoice with me!"

II. SOMETHING WILL GO ON HAPPENING. — With prophetic insight, he sees (a) salvation as universal, not merely personal (v. 27); (b) posterity worshipping him (v. 30); (c) the Kingdom realised (v. 28). Here is the true perspective of the man of faith.

Conclusion.—But what happens to the man who keeps it to himself?

NEW TESTAMENT

Mark 16.

Summary.

Experiences at the empty tomb are followed by summary accounts of Jesus' appearances to Mary Magdalene, "two of them," and "the eleven." Some final teaching precedes the ascension, and the disciples' commencement of their mission.

The first eight verses of the chapter are universally regarded as centred round verses 9 to 20. Men like Campbell Morgan have had no doubt of their authenticity, and they certainly appear in most MSS from the 2nd Century on. But their style is different from the rest of Mark's writing, and they are missing from some of the best accredited MSS. There is also another suggested ending, dating back from early MSS, and re-produced by modern versions like Moffatt and R.S.V. Few of those who accept either of these endings as a later appendix to what Mark wrote, think that the original Gospel ended abruptly at verse 8. Many favor the theory that the original ending was lost in "the accidental destruction of the last bit of the papyrus roll which once contained it" (Turner).

Explanatory Notes.

"Who shall roll us away the stone?" (v. 3).—This seems a belated thought, on their way with the spices in their hands. Turner thinks the fact that the difficulty did not occur to them

till then was perfectly natural. "Perhaps," he writes, "they had not seen, at their distance and in the twilight of Friday evening, how large the stone was."

"a young man" (v. 5). — Not the youth of 14: 51, 52, but an angel.

"as he said unto you" (v. 7). — Referring back to 14: 28.

"neither said they anything to any man" (v. 8). — "God's mutes, on a matter about which God has said, 'Tell'" (Luccock).

"seven devils" (v. 9).—Dummelow comments, "The 'seven' indicates the greatness of her disease, not of her previous wickedness. There is no evidence that the persons possessed with devils in the N.T. were specially wicked, or that Mary Magdalene had ever been a woman of evil life."

"upbraided them with their unbelief" (v. 14). — Yet opponents of Christianity have tried to make the resurrection the figment of such men's imagination!

"on the right hand of God" (v. 19). — "The real meaning here is that Jesus and what he represents is the determining influence in God's governance of the lives of men" (Davies).

"with signs following" (v. 20). — The miracles indicated in vv. 17, 18.

Suggested Theme.

"FOR FRIGHTENED FOLK"

Introduction.—Today's mood of fear needs the message which these bewildered, frightened women heard at the empty tomb.

I. REASSURANCE. — "Fear not." (a) God has acted—nothing to be frightened of there. We might well be afraid if God never acted. (b) God himself reassures. This is no glib comfort. Behind it is the authority of God, and the Son, who himself talked like that to bewildered men.

II. RESURRECTION. — "He is not here; he is risen." (a) Why look for him in the place of lost causes? Neither he nor those who trust in him can be held by defeat. (b) Why be afraid when the Lord isn't where we expect him to be? He makes his

III. RENDEZVOUS. — "He goeth before you into Galilee." (a) He wants us to make the venture of finding him. (b) He surprises us along well-remembered paths. (c) He is ahead of us.

IV. REMEMBRANCE.—"as he said." (a) Has his word ever failed? (b) Has he ever forgotten "his own"? (note "and Peter").

Conclusion.—The nearer we are to him, the further we are from fear.

Sunday, April 1

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 22: 22-31.

Summary.

This is the triumphal section of the Psalm, following on the grief and desolation of the first twenty-one verses. There are both personal and universal notes in the hymn of praise.

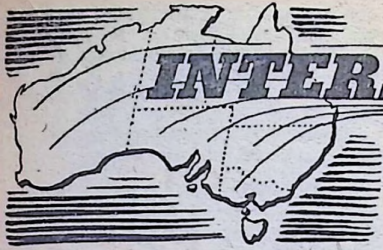
Explanatory Notes.

"My praise shall be of thee" (v. 25). — R.S.V. has, "From thee comes my praise." Taylor suggests as a better rendering, "Thy faithfulness is my praise"—a phrase-expressive of the thanksgiving of the previous verses.

"The meek shall eat" (v. 26). — The reference here is to the sacrificial feast, which followed the offering of sacrifices in fulfilment of the Psalmist's vows. "Portions of the sacrifice were eaten by the one who provided the offerings, and by those whom he invited to be his guests. The Psalmist's guests are those in the congregation who, like himself, were afflicted and sought the Lord" (Taylor).

"all they that be fat upon earth" (v. 29). — R.S.V. has "all the proud of the earth." The text of this verse in the Hebrew has suffered from corruptions, and Oesterley says that, "as the Hebrew text stands, it is impossible to make sense out of it." But, at the same time, he has no doubt of the general sense of the verse, which he translates, "Of a truth, him shall they worship, all that sleep in the earth, before him shall they bow down, all they that go down to the dust, and the soul that liveth not shall glorify his power"—picturing the departed joining in "worshipping God for the manifestation of his power in delivering his servant."

"A seed shall serve him" (v. 30). — "Posterity shall serve him" (R.S.V.).



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

- Keith Philp, East Ipswich, Qld.
Mr. and Mrs. N. Ansell, Dawn Sampson, Desley Sauer, Kedron, Qld.
Marie Gardner, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.
Barry Matthews, Midland Junction, W.A.
Barry Barnier, Hamilton, N.S.W.
Margaret Johnston, Keith Thomas, Gardiner, Vic.
Ruth Wilson, Jack Files, Ann-st., Brisbane, Qld.
Jeannette Slater, Margaret Brookes, Janice Balcombe, Blackburn, Vic.
David Breed, Box Hill, Vic.
Janet and Marion Anderson, Margaret Cameron, Montrose, Vic.
Adrienne Ames, Merral Ames, Nola Wright, Gayle Chadbourne, Robert McLennan, Peter Taylor, Colin Cockerton, Inglewood, W.A.
Mrs. Hunt and Brenda, Clayton, Vic.

Membership

- Mr. Cahill, from Cottesloe to Inglewood, W.A.
Margaret Ward, Alan Cant, to Toogarook, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Clark, David, Margaret and Barbara, from Ormond to Glen Waverley, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. Hyde, from Cheltenham to Semaphore, S.A.
L. Larcombe, from Kingsford to Inverell, N.S.W.
Mrs. Larcombe, from Fairfield to Inverell, N.S.W.
R. Martin, to East Ipswich, Qld.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Muller and family, from Boonah to East Ipswich, Qld.
Mr. and Mrs. Woods, from Sheperton-rd. to South Perth, W.A.
Mrs. Hood, from Wembley to South Perth, W.A.
Miss Fay Docking, from Wonga Park to Croydon, Vic.
Mrs. Holden, from Yarrawonga to Croydon, Vic.

Marriage

- Shirley Thomas, Gardiner, Vic., to Walter Milne, Bordertown, S.A.
Elsbeth Martin to Don Welmer, Ann-st., Brisbane, Qld.
Raylene Rogers to Les. Drummond, Glenelg, S.A.
Pamela O'Neil, Belmont, to Thomas Wilson, Geelong, Vic.
Jennifer Plank, to Russell Bates, Geelong, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

- Mrs. J. W. Curtis, Balaklava, S.A.
Mrs. M. Potter, Ann-st., Brisbane, Qld.
B. J. Lawrance, senr., Kilburn, S.A.

Tasmania

Collins-st., Hobart (H. W. Street).—Attendances are showing a continuous upward trend. Church has had fellowship with many mainland visitors, including Mrs. Lloyd (Pres., Vic.-Tas. Women's Conference) who addressed women of the church; also Mr. and Mrs. Morffew, senr. Sis. Fay Hughes has been enjoying extended visit from Adelaide. On morning of Mar. 11 a recognition service was held for officers appointed at recent annual business meeting. Harvest festival service was combined with gospel service. Attendance in the morning was 129, evening 75, communicants for day 128. B.S. attendances have shown an increase with addition of Bethany boys, since the Hostel moved from Dover to its new premises at Lindisfarne. Fellowship is enjoyed with Sis. M. Rowe after her illness, and church prays for her complete restoration to health. Dorothy Knight was farewelled at youth tea prior to departing for Melbourne to continue nursing at Queen Victoria Hospital.

Western Australia

Inglewood (W. J. Marshall).—Feb. 15 marked commencement of preacher's second year of ministry. Both meetings were well attended, and there were 104 communicants for the day Y.P.S.C.E. has recommenced activities. I.C.E. society is being formed under leadership of J. Somerville and Miss Betty Smith. Attendance at B.S. has returned to normal, and practice has commenced for anniversary. Visiting speakers have been A. Catt (Nedlands) and G. Powell (Narem-

been). A happy social event was held at Waterman's Bay Camp to honor the 21st birthday of Merle Peacock on Feb. 17.

Midland Junction (J. E. Gough).—Mrs. Crofts and Mr. Tucker have presented church with new communion table. Christian Women's Fellowship have purchased carpet for the platform. Y.P.C.E. has commenced. Four entries received for Youth Dept. poster competition. Services are gradually recovering after holiday season. A boy has been baptised and welcomed into fellowship.

Bassendean.—There were six decisions during Feb. At concluding service of C. J. Robinson's ministry a large congregation witnessed baptismal service, when four were baptised and received into fellowship. Visitors during month were Mr. and Mrs. Westmauld (S.A.) and Mrs. Lewis (Vic.).

South Perth (S. H. Wilson).—Attendances on Feb. 26 were 11 a.m., 126; 7.30 p.m., 125; communed 143. On Mar. 4 a party of 25 journeyed to Northam for long weekend, to be entertained by Northam church and meet them in tennis tournaments. Teacher-training course was conducted over four sessions from Feb. 26 to 29 by Youth Director with average attendance of 26. A token of teachers' appreciation was handed Mr. Hillier at conclusion. Three have been received into membership by transfer. Visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. Martin, Mr. Cannon and Sis. B. Cannon from Kalgoorlie. Ladies' Fellowship received talent giving of £100 from its members, 35 of whom were present on Feb. 29. Aborigines offering closed at £52. Pre-mission activity is increasing and 7 a.m. Saturday prayer meetings have been well attended. Cottage prayer meetings have commenced. Church received, with great regret, the resignation of J. K. Ballantine (elder) due to ill health; this indicating his inability to continue as church sec.

Queensland

Kedron (F. Langford).—In recent weeks four have made their decision, and all auxiliaries have resumed their activities. Encouraging to report that mid-week meeting is steadily on the improve. A Family Fellowship was held in Kedron Memorial Supper Hall, and 120 sat down for tea, splendidly prepared by the ladies. In the chapel that night the 1956 Talent effort was launched.

approx. 70 have taken a 10/- note, and the aim for the Talent is £600. J.C.E. conducted an evening service during the 75th C.E. Anniversary and held a C.E. tea. Ten teachers attended teacher training camp sponsored by Y.P.D.

Ann-st., Brisbane (C. G. Flood). — Attendances are encouraging at all services, despite adverse weather and recent power restrictions. Minister conducted half-hour session over 4KQ on Feb. 12. Guest speaker on Feb. 19 in morning was R. H. Carden, M.A. (Onehunga, N.Z.), who recently returned after special mission work in Southern Rhodesia. An excellent attendance at Men's Fellowship that afternoon heard a very interesting address from same speaker. Two B.S. scholars, who had made their confession at the Christmas Camp, have been baptised. Training class for public work in the church has been commenced. Annual meeting of church was held on Feb. 28. Reports showed an upward trend, with increased offerings and a healthy tone generally. Financial statement disclosed receipts for year exceeded £4,000. Executive positions on newly-elected Board of Deacons were filled by H. J. Payne, chairman; G. McKelvie, sec.; E. W. Potter, treas. Several B.S. teachers attended Teachers' Convention at Caloundra Camp, under leadership of Miss Bonnie Bates during weekend March 4-5. Sympathy of church goes to family of Mrs. M. Potter, one of its oldest members, who passed away. Recent visitors were Mr. and Mrs. T. Stone (Inverell), Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Williams (Brighton, Vic.), R. McDonald (Rockdale), Mr. and Mrs. D. Steele (Rockhampton), and Mr. and Mrs. J. Rowe (Ivanhoe).

East Ipswich (R. Hilford).—Annual church meeting was held on Mar. 3. Incoming officers are Messrs. Hilford, Reeve, Pieper (elders); Risson (sec.); Henriksen (treas.); E. Neumann, Fawdry, Fraser, C. Coward, A. Boettcher, N. Neumann, A. Jenner, J. Wiltshire (deacons). In presenting financial report, treasurer revealed that £2,322 was received for all purposes, of which £397 was raised for other causes. At a special business meeting, church invited preacher to accept re-engagement for a further two years. Amongst visitors during past few weeks were C. R. Burdeu accompanied by F. Gason (Vic.). There was a baptismal service on Feb. 5. Church regrets transfer of K. Ludgater to Emu Creek as State School teacher. Mr. Ludgater has been very active in youth work and was leader of East Ipswich Junior Fellowship. Average attendances for Feb. were: East Ipswich, 102 morning; 63 evening. Leichhardt (One Mile) 14 morning. Sis. Drage and Dack are home again after a period in hospital.

New South Wales

Beverly Hills. — On Mar. 7, R. Greenhalgh conducted mid-week prayer meeting and baptised two young men who recently made their decision. 36th anniversary of church was celebrated on 10th, when church was crowded. A. W. Stephenson, M.A., gave an interesting account of his visit to U.S.A. and England. At the close of his address, film, A Missionary at Walker's Garage, was shown by Mr. Knight (Marrickville). Annual business meeting was held on 12th, and reports showed that excellent work had been done over year by various auxiliaries.

Hornsby (G. Kerr). — Church supported tent mission at North Balgowlah on Mar. 2. Working bee was held in chapel grounds on 3rd. G. Kerr (Woolwich Bible College) commenced service with church on 4th. Mr. Barr assisted in song at gospel service. Mr. Ellerby has conducted gospel services on Feb. 12, 19 and 26, and morning service on Mar. 11. Other speakers have been Messrs. Morton, Thomson and Sloman. Boys' Home Annual Offering amounted to £15/8/-.

Mosman (D. W. Tonkin). — C. Murray and Mr. Morgan (Wiley Park) were speakers on Mar. 4, and Messrs. Tonkin and Murray on 11th. Preacher has been conducting tent mission at North Balgowlah.

Canley Vale.—Annual church meeting was preceded by a tea. All reports presented showed progress. Sec. and treas. were re-elected and H. Argall, M. Carre, K. Kemple, H. Reardon and F. Stimson were appointed deacons. C.E., which is progressing well under leadership of Sis. F. Gibson and D. Carre, held an anniversary service on Mar. 11, when a good attendance appreciated items by endeavorers and address by Mr. Turnell. Plans are proceeding for a three-weeks' mission to be conducted by R. Greenhalgh.

Georgetown (W. E. Hoffman). — A very good District Convention was held on Mar. 3, with J. Shaw (Bexley North) as speaker. District Youth Fellowship provided a youth choir. School work is progressing nicely with 61 in kinder recently. Teachers have provided a cuckoo clock in the kinder room. Mesdames Street, Perry and Raine are recovering after hospitalisation.

Hamilton (C. J. Mackenzie). — Visiting speakers for month were Messrs. Aird (Mayfield), Porter (Postal S.S. Movement), McCallum (City Mission). There was one decision on Feb. 19. Mr. and Mrs. Thoroughgood and family (Mayfield) visited on Mar. 4. Family night was celebrated with film, *The Lie That Grew*. These films are proving very interesting. Midweek fellowship meet-

ing is growing numerically, and appeals to those attending. Mr. and Mrs. N. Fraser have returned from holidays. Many members are ill. Representative delegation attended Georgetown Convention. Church friends congratulate Harold Menson on his recent final success in Pharmacy.

Inverell (E. McIlhagger, B.A.). — Two new members were welcomed to C.M.S. at first meeting of year on Mar. 4, when there was a very good attendance. Ladies' Guild had enjoyable meeting on 7th, when Mrs. Prussing (Salvation Army) was guest speaker. Attendance at gospel services has improved. Following have been added to B.S. teaching staff: Misses Margaret Jessen, Phyllis Newman, Dawn McCormack and Don Wells. B.S. picnic was held on 10th at Cape's Creek.

Wagga (K. Christensen).—Visiting speaker on Feb. 26 was Mr. Morrow (S.I.M.). Mr. and Mrs. Brown (Mildura) have been visitors. Many new scholars have been added to B.S. following canvass of new housing areas. On Feb. 24, Y.W.F. resumed fortnightly meetings after summer recess. Office-bearers elected were — Pres., Mrs. A. Willis; sec., Mrs. Christensen; treas., Mrs. Caspermann. Number of members visited Bowral for opening of new chapel. Sympathy of church has been expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Caspermann in loss of their baby son. Mrs. Donohue is confined to hospital. Messrs. Kavanagh, senr., and Rudd have returned home from hospital. Mrs. Pratt has also spent a few days in hospital.

South Australia

Balaklava (L. G. Armstrong). — During Feb., series of special gospel services entitled *Let the Bible Speak Campaign*, were conducted. Morning and evening services have been well attended. Offering received for Aboriginal Mission totalled £63. Junior and Y.P.C.E. both report good meetings with new members enrolled in both societies. Happy time was had by Endeavorers at picnic held at Tanunda on Feb. 11. Youth Fellowship tea was held on 26th, when matron from local hospital spoke. B.S. picnic was held at Wallaroo beach on 25th. Men of church have completed erecting new cyclone fence around church building. At church business meeting on 29th, a new method of nominating and electing officers was decided on. Mesdames Deuter and Woolford are making steady progress in hospital after operations. Alexander hymn books were introduced at special gospel service on Mar. 4, and special items from "Alexander's" were rendered by the choir. Service was continued with after-church hymn fellowship. It is planned to hold an after-church hymn fellowship once a month. Church was

saddened by death of Mrs. J. Curtis, and sympathy is extended to her husband and family.

Blackwood (G. T. Fitzgerald). — Meetings are very well attended. Chapel was full at both services on Feb. 26. A young woman was baptised at evening service. During the year thirteen have been added to church by baptism, and eight by letter. Preacher has commenced second year with the church, his second ministry here. B.S. reached record attendance on Mar. 4. J. Hemer, supt., is doing splendid job. Y.P. work is in good heart, and their loyalty at church services is a delight. A happy picnic was held recently by Women's Fellowship. New Youth Hall, though not quite completed, is proving a great asset. Much appreciation is due to the men who so splendidly gave much of their time to build it. Finances of church reflects splendid interest, nearly 50 per cent. increase over last year.

Dulwich (S. E. Matthews). — Good attendances are being maintained both morning and evening. On Harvest Thanksgiving and Temple Day 90 communed and a Temple Day offering of over £150 received. The day closed with a girl from Youth Fellowship consecrating her life to Christ. Dorcas visited Christian Rest Home, conducting a fellowship afternoon, and providing afternoon tea for ladies of the home. Local youth programme is in full swing, comprising J.C.E., Good Companions, Life Boys, Girls' Life Brigade, Boys' Brigade, Youth Fellowship, with sporting activities, tennis, basketball and table tennis. Youth teas are held bi-monthly with youth assisting in the evening service.

Kadina (R. Ewers). — Men's Fellowship held annual banquet on Feb. 6. Mr. Mudge (headmaster, Wallaroo Mines School) gave an address on Palestine. R. Hawke was presented with inscribed gold watch in recognition of his valuable services in erection of manse; musical items and appropriate toasts completed a fine evening. At annual meeting of the fellowship, E. K. Russack was re-elected pres., and E. Penhall sec. Harvest Thanksgiving services were held on 26th and 27th. B. W. Manning spoke at all services. Attendances were good, especially gospel services, when busload from Moonta attended. Choir, under C. Lacombe, rendered valuable service. Northern Conference was held at Kadina on Mar. 6 and 7, and meetings were well attended by visitors from all northern churches.

Nailsworth (N. Gavros). — At close of gospel service on Mar. 11, a young married couple rededicated their lives to Christ's service. A retiring offering to provide funds for the legal expenses of Keith Skillcorn, in India, exceeded £9. Annual Offering

for Church Extension Building Fund was well supported.

Albert Park (J. Baker). — New scholars still come along each week to B.S. at 9.30 Sunday mornings, and record attendance has been 173, nearly double the average when school opened five months ago. Women's Fellowship held open night when nearly 100 attended, many being non-member parents of B.S. children. 50 kinder chairs have been bought. Keen interest is shown in C.E. and Y.W.L., the latter having an attendance of over 40. There are over 50 children on kinder roll. At prayer and fellowship meetings Acts of Apostles is being studied. Recent speakers have been Messrs. R. Fax, Lovell and Hollard.

Ascot Park (H. Cave). — Worship service on Feb. 26, with nearly 40 present, was conducted by visitors—J. Squire (Edwardstown) and B. Pryor (Clovelly Park). About 13 attended fellowship meeting on 29th in home of Mr. and Mrs. Humphries. On Mar. 1 a party of eight attended Hawthorn 60th anniversary celebrations. B.S. has decided to support formation of proposed Southern District C.Y.F. Working bees were held recently every night of one week to complete work on temporary hall.

Fullarton (A. W. Morris). — Very successful B.S. picnic was held at Gorge Reserve in delightful weather; children journeyed by bus, and many parents and friends came in cars. Mrs. Morris, senr. (Albury) was visitor on Mar. 11. A new member was received into fellowship. Misses J. Overland and M. Patrick sang duet at evening service. Church is pleased that preacher's son, Robert, is progressing in Children's Hospital after operation. Sympathy is extended to relatives of late R. Lawrence, who recently passed away. The Hiss of a Kiss is title of pre-Easter gospel addresses.

Naracoorte (T. Edwards). — T. Edwards commenced a short interim ministry on Feb. 26. In connection with Jubilee Celebrations special services were held during the following week. After weeks of intense activity the new church hall was opened on Mar. 3 by Mr. Edwards, and it was a most successful and memorable day. C. Jackel (Ballarat) was the speaker at three services on Jubilee Sunday, 4th. Border District Conference was held at Naracoorte on 7th. At business session, M. E. Wardle was elected pres. Reports were presented by Bordertown, Kaniva, Mundalla-Wampoonny-Padthaway, Tarpeena and Naracoorte, and all rejoiced at the progress being made. C. Jackel was speaker at the three sessions. Mr. and Mrs. C. Thomas, who recently returned after 20 years spent on Indian Mission field, and are now resid-

ing at Bordertown, were present and Mr. Thomas addressed the gathering. Occasion was taken to farewell M. T. Lawrie who shortly leaves Kaniva to take up the ministry at Kadina, S.A. Sympathy is extended to Miss M. Lawrence and Mrs. E. A. Jellett in loss of their brother.

Gleneig. — D. Beiler, R. Rogers, T. Edwards, A. McGlasson, C. Schwab, W. Beiler and E. Manger have conducted services. Meetings have been well attended, especially the morning. Harvest Festival was held on Mar. 4 and splendid messages were given by A. R. Jones. All auxiliaries and clubs are in action and doing good work. Ladies' Guild, as one of their projects for the year, decided to modernise church kitchen. Captain of Girls' Brigade, Miss Raylene Rogers, was tendered social evening on Feb. 21, on eve of her approaching marriage to Les. Drummond.

Semaphore (R. T. Sercombe). — All auxiliaries have recommenced. B.S. is meeting at 10 a.m. on Sundays with increased attendances. O. Tenn has moved to Victoria, and G. Young is now church treas. Harvest Thanksgiving services were held on Mar. 4, and goods were distributed between Christian Rest Home and Morialta Children's Home. K. Jones (sec. C.O.B.) visited church and showed colored slides depicting general life of the College. Several members have been away through sickness. Church had fellowship with Mr. and Mrs. E. Enchelmaier and daughter (Alblon, Qld.). Average communicants for Feb. was 64.

Victoria

Bayswater (R. Ryall). — Meetings have been well maintained. An enjoyable church and B.S. picnic was held at Emerald Lake. Several members have been canvassing district in interests of 6 o'clock closing campaign. W.M.B. reports a good increase in membership. Aborigines offering amounted to £11. Family service was held on evening of Mar. 4. Mrs. F. Finger was soloiste. Church recently enjoyed fellowship with B. Crowden (former preacher) and Mrs. Crowden. A number of Y.P. attended weekend camp at Frankston. G. Mathieson (C.O.B.) took morning service in preacher's absence at camp.

Footgarook (A. Cant, B.Ed.). — Church has settled down after usual holiday activities, but quite a few visitors are still attending morning services. Fellowship club has recommenced activities and will be meeting every Saturday evening. Work on a tennis court has begun, because of the vital need of providing a gathering point for the local youngsters. Preacher has begun religious instruction classes at Footgarook Primary School on Monday

mornings. Two have been welcomed into the church.

Balwyn (J. E. Brooke). — Men's Society held monthly meeting on Feb. 24, when guest speaker was Dr. Wyeth, senior lecturer at Melb. University, who spoke on *The Effects of Comics*. A petition is being sent to Chief Secretary, Mr. Rylah protesting about the type of comics on sale. On Mar. 4, in absence of preacher at Hawthorn, S.A., speakers were Dr. Hare, and F. Manning (Mission to Lepers), who also showed films of the work. Men of church are conducting services this month at Oakleigh Guest Home. Y.P. entered combined K.S.P. and P.B.P. sports held at Mentone on 12th.

Blackburn (R. V. Amos). — A large number of Good Companions and Explorers attended Church Parade on Mar. 4, and ably assisted in the service. Film, *The Way to Heaven*, was screened. Three Y.P. made their decision. Phi Betas have resumed under leadership of Mrs. Amos.

Box Hill (W. A. Wigney). — On Feb. 19, church enjoyed thrilling message from Elmer Kilbourne (Oriental Mission, Korea). At evening service 18 members of Australian Nurses' Christian Movement attended, and assisted with choral items, Bible reading and testimonies. Harvest Thanksgiving was held on 26th, and goods were later donated to College of the Bible. Annual business meeting of church was held on 29th. Report from auxiliaries and clubs showed commendable activity for year. Preacher now enters upon his fourth year with the church and appreciative references were made to his helpful ministry. Officers elected were — elders: R. Sandells, G. Gray; deacons: F. Clark, R. Clark, G. Clare, R. Sercombe, K. Mitchell, G. Mullen, with one other to be elected; see. G. Gray; treas., R. Oliver; asst., G. Clare; B.S. supt., R. Muller; deaconesses: Mesdames Wigney, Hammond, Elliott, Gray. Dorcas Society reported that 1,154 articles had been distributed for year. Appreciation was expressed to R. Mullen, asst. organist, who resigned through having to take up other duties.

Lygon-st., Carlton (L. G. Burgin). — Attendances at worship and gospel services are increasing, with helpful and instructive addresses by preacher. On Feb. 26, H. R. Coventry gave an informative talk on our mission work in India. Church is wholeheartedly behind campaign to prevent extension of liquor trading hours, and preacher is most actively engaged with District Churches Committee in this connection. Gospel service on Mar. 4 was a Friends Night, with good attendance and excellent address. At the close a friendly hour of fellowship

was enjoyed. Mrs. Robinson is still very ill and is remembered by all in her special need.

Gardiner (F. A. Youens). — B.S. receives two offerings each Sunday, the second one being for overseas missions, by which two orphans are maintained and other causes supported. Recently nine cheques totalling £57/10/- were sent to various missions, and two recording tapes were sent to the Beales in the New Hebrides. A mixed Bible Class has been commenced under leadership of Miss Vi. Callanan.

North Balwyn (R. Dean). — Church has appreciated messages from Mr. Thoday (C.O.B.). Preacher returned from vacation on Feb. 26. Y.W.L. has been formed under leadership of Miss G. Collings and attends morning and evening services. L. A. Trezise spoke to newly appointed officers at special service on Mar. 4. Temple Day held on that date was successful, and gifts totalled £160. B.S. is increasing in numbers. Ten of our preachers have conducted house visitation, and intensive prayer has been offered in preparation for special evangelistic campaign.

Warracknabeal (R. H. Patterson). — Meetings are continuing well, but a

number of folk are on holidays. Ladies' Aid has commenced after break. Officers elected were: Mrs. Harmer, pres.; Mrs. Earl, sec.; and Mrs. Parsons, treas. Working bee to paint manse is to be held. Mr. and Mrs. Pollard have returned from S.A.

Croydon (J. Edwards). — Church is grateful to those who filled pulpit during College vacation. B.S. continues to grow, and their picnic to Carrum was very successful. Feb. meeting of Men's Fellowship was addressed by Mr. Nankivell. J. Edwards (C.O.B.) commenced a student ministry on Feb. 19. Morning meetings have been well attended. Right hand of fellowship has been extended to two new residents in district.

Clayton (J. L. Reid). — Mid-week prayer meeting is being well attended. Baptism was conducted during gospel service on Feb. 26. During preacher's absence, while conducting mission at Essendon church, services have been taken by A. Thomas (Gardiner), Mr. Thompson (Springvale) and N. Kingsley. S.C.E. took part in mission at Essendon on 10th. Men have been holding working bee to paint both hall and manse.

North Fitzroy. — Annual business meeting was held, and reports of

Microgroove records of addresses of members of the Executive of the World Council of Churches during their visit in February 1956

speaker	subject	mark	min.	disc
Dr. Eugene C. Blake	'Christianity, the Church, the churches & you'	L 54	16	1s 10"
	'how big is your church?'	S512	19	1s 12"
	'casual Christianity'	S 74	21	1s 12"
Dr. Kathleen Bliss	'the ecumenical movement & you'	L 75	23	2s 10"
	'women & God'	S910	9	1s 10"
Dr. Leslie E. Cooke	'urgent journey'	S 51	14	1s 10"
	'through the dust'	L 71	34	2s 12"
	'the language of the hands'	S613	18	1s 12"
Dr. Franklin C. Fry	'the I-Thou relationship'	S 77	19	1s 12"
Dr. Visser 't Hooft	'the World Council of Churches'	S 73	19	1s 12"
	'the liberation of the church'	L 53	16	1s 10"
	'responsible international society'	S 78	30	2s 10"
Bishop James	'testimony'	S 58	10	1s 10"
Bishop L. de Mel	'as you sow'	L 52	16	1s 10"
	'bridge building'	S 55	10	1s 10"
	'Christian unity'	S 57	19	1s 12"
Dr. Frederick Nolde	'peace justice & freedom'	S 76	25	2s 10"
	'the Christian witness to the world of nations'	S 79	32	2s 10"
Bishop Bromley Oxnam	'on against the coal face'	S 55	19	1s 12"
Dr. Ernest A. Payne	'main Christianity'	S511	16	1s 10"
	'what's the church?'	L 72	21	1s 12"
	'this new era'	S 59	17	1s 12"

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AUDIO-VISUAL AND PANEL of the Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania

4 Hilltop av
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Victoria

R S Ryall
Chairman

year's activities revealed that church is doing an effective work, although B.S. work is increasingly difficult. W.M.B. held successful anniversary on Mar. 14. Church is happy to have services of H. R. Coventry at morning services and doing pastoral work. C. Cole continues to conduct gospel services. B.S. had happy picnic at Mt. Evelyn.

Latrobe-terr., Geelong (T. A. Fergusson).—On Mar. 3, South Western District Conference was held in chapel. At evening service, W. W. Saunders, representing Local Option Alliance, was guest speaker. 4th marked commencement of B.S. anniversary services. R. Banks (Drumcondra) was speaker in afternoon. Kinder prizes were distributed by Mrs. Russenberg (kinder supt.). Mr. Fergusson spoke at evening service, when one lady confessed her Lord. School choir, under leadership of Max Carr, sang at both services. Miss Ruth Fergusson at piano and Allen Carr at the organ provided the accompaniment. On 10th, B.S. picnic was held at Torquay. Weather was favorable and an enjoyable time was had by those who attended. Anniversary services were continued on 11th, when guest speaker was Ron Brooker. His illustrated talks, and choir items, were much appreciated. One young lady confessed her Lord at evening service.

Swan Hill (A. Avery). — Despite wet weather, attendances at both services of harvest thanksgiving, held on Mar. 11, averaged 70. Visitors at evening service included Mr. and Mrs. Reveleigh and Wendy (Dandenong), also Mrs. Butler (Melbourne). Sale of goods was held on 12th, with proceeds going to the hospital. Sixteen Y.P., and preacher, attended Northern District Convention at Kerang on 10th. I. Crowe was speaker at morning service on 11th, during preacher's visit to Woorinen.

Maidstone (E. H. Randall).—K.S.P. took part in morning service on Mar. 4, and P.B.P. assisted in evening and rendered two items. The Pfeiffer family were visitors and there was a good congregation. Offerings for Liquor Referendum fighting fund amounted to £9 for local work. A girl from the club was baptised on Feb. 26.

Prahran (P. Retchford). — On Mar. 3, a social evening and kitchen tea honored Janice Marston and Ian McKenzie, on their approaching marriage. On 4th, preacher took suddenly ill, and at very short notice H. B. Robbins preached at both services and the following Sunday, conducting a baptismal service in the evening, when a married woman followed her Lord's command. Mr. Robbins conducted mid-week Bible study. Glad to report that Mr. Retchford has recovered and resumed his ministry. Church held very enjoyable picnic

on Labor Day, at Toorourong Reservoir. Interest is growing in approaching evangelistic campaign. Attendances at mid-week Bible study are steadily maintained.

BIRTHS

CANDISH (Woodbridge). — On Feb. 25, 1956, at "Vaucluse," Moreland, to Alva and Tres, a daughter—Gwenda Elizabeth. Both well.

CARTER (Storey). — On Mar. 10, 1956, at Footscray Hospital, to Stella and Max, a daughter—Anne.

BEREAVEMENT

MAGILTON. — Mrs. A. Magilton and family wish to thank all kind relatives and friends for floral tributes, cards, letters and telegrams of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement.

Would all please accept this as our personal thanks.—West Rosebud, Vic.

IN MEMORIAM

FINGER. — In loving memory of Alfred Edward, who passed to higher

service, Mar. 16, 1953. Greatly missed by his wife Grace, and son, Laurence.

STEVENS. — In fond memory of my dear husband, Stuart, and loved father of Carson, John, Beth, and Charles; passed away Mar. 23, 1952.

HERON. — Treasured memories of my husband, Alfred John, passed away Mar. 24, 1942, beloved father of Douglas, Ernest and Keith.

"In silence we remember."

ENGAGEMENTS

AITKEN—LITTLE. — Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Aitken, 33 Benambra-st., West Preston, have pleasure in announcing the engagement of their only daughter, Isabel Marion, to Keith Robert, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Little, 4 Truganini-rd., Carnegie.

WILLIAMSON—TIPPETT. — The engagement is announced of Lorraine, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Williamson, 4 Buckley-st., Essendon, to Graeme, only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Tippett, 7 Clonard-ave., Gardenvale.



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Coming Events

**NORTH RICHMOND BIBLE SCHOOL
ANNIVERSARY.** March 25. 3 p.m.,
Kinder afternoon, Miss M. Deane;
7 p.m., C. H. Dow. A cordial wel-
come is extended to all.

**NORTH FITZROY CHURCH, 83rd
HOMECOMING.** March 25. 11 a.m.,
B. Huntsman; 3 p.m., L. A. Trezise,
"The Chapel Choristers"; 5 p.m.,
Fellowship Tea; 7 p.m., C. Cole.
Hospitality provided. All past mem-
bers and friends invited.

COLLINGWOOD CHURCH. March 25.
7 p.m. service. Dramatisation of
Easter story by B.S. scholars and
young people. Visitors welcome.

PRAHRAN CHURCH OF CHRIST

High-st., Prahran

103rd

Anniversary Celebrations

Sunday, March 25

11 a.m., E. Lyall Williams

3 p.m., Givon Parsons

7 p.m., P. Retchford

Come and enjoy a happy day of
fellowship

If unable to attend, send a greeting
Hospitality provided for visitors

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ORMOND CHURCH OF CHRIST

Complimentary Social Evening

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on Monday, Mar. 26, at 8 p.m.

to mark the conclusion of a successful
ministry with the church

With the finish of his ministry at
Ormond, Mr. Buckingham will bring
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ministry of 38 years with the Churches
of Christ

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Required. Married couple to act as
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Memorial Village at Eltham. Adjacent
railway station. Homes opening in
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Must be Christians. Homes opening
in August. Apply Melbourne City
Mission, 280 Exhibition-st., City. Tel.,
FB 2742.

91st Annual Conference

OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

March 28 to April 5, 1956

Theme: "The Living Church"

Programme in Brief

(All meetings at Lygon-st. except
where otherwise stated)

Wed., Mar. 28.

Women's Conference. All day from
10.30 a.m.

Thurs., Mar. 29.

3.00—Preachers' Session.

5.45—Fellowship Tea and Discussion,
for Preachers and Secretaries
only.

7.45—Opening Session General Con-
ference, President's welcome and
address. Reports.

Fri., Mar. 30.

9.30 and 2.00—Conference Contd.
Notices of Motion. Reports. Ad-
dress by Incoming President.

Devotional Address.

7.30—Home Mission Rally.

Sat., Mar. 31.

9.30 and 2.00—Conference Contd.
Notices of Motion. Reports.

7.30—Overseas Mission Demonstra-
tion.

Sun., April 1.

2.45—Independent Church, Collins
St. Sermon Session.

Mon., April 2.

All Day Picnic at Wattle Park.

7.30—Aborigines' Mission Session.

Tues., April 3.

5.45—College of the Bible Old Boys'
Club.

7.45—Melbourne Town Hall, Great
Youth Demonstration.

Wed., April 4.

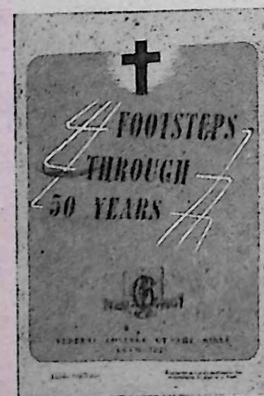
7.45—Social Service Session.

Thurs., April 5.

7.45—Christian Endeavor Rally.

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March, 20, 1956

*Ministries of Our
Women*

Interstate News

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Mrs. Kruger, our president, was in
the chair at the Auxilliary meeting on
Feb. 2, and welcomed all present, es-
pecially Mrs. Paddick who has re-
turned to S.A., from Roma, Queens-
land.

The ladies of the Albert Park
church led the devotional session,
and based their thoughts on "Stephen
the Martyr." Mrs. Pawson gave the
address, Mrs. Geddes the opening
prayer, Mrs. Verco brought the Bible
reading, and Mrs. Lovell sang a solo.

There were 86 ladies present, 56
being delegates. Many apologies were
received. Programme for All-Day Con-
ference was brought to Auxilliary and
approved.

Miss Allan reported Home call of
Mrs. Burns (Unley) and Mrs. Dal-
wood (Norwood).

Aborigines. Mrs. Riches brought Re-
port, and told of water shortage at
Carnarvon. Three have been added to
staff since last report.

Young Women's Group. Special
Easter service has been arranged for
March 27, at Grote-st.

Hospital. Thanks was expressed for
wonderful gifts brought to December
meeting. 130 parcels were taken to
Northfield, and 180 to Home for In-
curables and Magill Old Folks' Home.
385 visits have been paid.

Dorcas. Thanks was conveyed for
gifts for Morialta at Christmas.

Meeting closed in prayer, after the
singing of a hymn.—G. Coombe.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The meeting of the W.A. Women's
Auxilliary was held at Lake-st., on
Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Claremont sisters conducted a very
lovely devotional session. Mrs. R.
Pallot presided. A duet was rendered
by Mrs. T. Smillie and Mrs. E. Smith.
The theme of the whole service was
that of Peace, and Mrs. Mercer read
a very beautiful article on this sub-
ject, written by the late John Leach.

This meeting was smaller, owing
to school holidays. Mrs. Mason (Vic.),
was welcomed, and brought a greet-
ing. The financial statement showed
that the total amount raised for the
year was £1,423/8/2. Of this amount
£639 was for the budget and
£365/16/9 for our Jubilee thanks-
giving fund. The President, Mrs. G.
Ewers, expressed appreciation of our
Treasurer, Mrs. Beck, and to the sis-
terhood for their loyal support. Letters
were received from Carnarvon and
Norseman Missions, in appreciation of
Christmas cakes. Mrs. Digwood re-

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ported on the Christmas outing for inmates of Christian Guest Home, and thanked Mrs. Gordon Ewers, Mrs. R. Blackman and Mrs. Manson for supplying transport.

Mrs. Collins (Wooroloo Sanatorium Visitation Committee) thanked sisters for generously supplying 300 sponge bags, face washers and cakes of soap for the Christmas visit.

Mrs. Cooper (Hospital) reported on December visit to Mt. Henry Home and was grateful to all who had sent gifts of talcum powder.

Conference details were finalised and the meeting closed with prayer. —Clarice Digwood.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Coventry.

The death of Mrs. Coventry at the age of 92 is the removal of yet another of the "Mothers of Israel." She was the eldest of the well known Tomkins family, so long associated with the church at Hindmarsh, S.A. During her widowhood, she lived a quiet and secluded life with members of her family, and was for a long time isolated from the church and its activities. Her name, however, will live in the memory of the brotherhood, she being the proud and fond mother and grandmother of our honored missionaries of that household name. The deeds and words of this gentle lady, are a rich legacy which memory will hold in sacred trust for the beneficiaries under a will of love.—R.G.

W. Butler.

The passing, at the age of 82, of William Butler, on Feb. 15, 1956, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. A. Wheeler, Kingsgrove, will revive memories in the minds of many who knew him as a fine Christian gentleman, one who loved his Lord and his fellow men. Mr. Butler was born in Victoria, and came to the Gilgandra district in 1913. In 1927, owing to the ill health of his wife, he moved to Bexley, but returned to Gilgandra in 1942. Mr. Butler led an active life, and endeared himself to all who met and knew him. Members of the church are saddened by his passing, for here was a man who knew his God, and who strove at all times to convey to the people with whom he came in contact, the secret of true Christian living. It is significant that such a man should say, in a moment of consciousness before his passing, "Don't stop me, let me go"; and then the call came. Precious are the memories of his family, Mrs. M. Butler, daughters, Winnie (Mrs. R. Alderman), Mabel (Mrs. A. Wheeler), son, William; grandchildren and great-grandson. They sorrow, but do not mourn; for he has entered into rest. The funeral service was conducted by J. G. Shaw (Bexley North).

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