

M. May

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Vic.-Tas. Women's Conference

The 70th Annual Conference of women of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania was held in the Lygon-st. chapel on Wed., March 28. Mrs. A. R. Lloyd was in the chair for all sessions. The attendances were 375, 410 and 350.

Among interstate and country delegates were Mrs. Larcombe, President Women's Federal Conference; Mrs. C. H. J. Wright of Launceston; while 32 country women were welcomed by name. Mrs. Cleland expressed the welcome, to which Mrs. Amos replied.

Devotional periods were led by Mrs. W. Newham and Mrs. J. Strack, who both enlarged on the theme, *United in Fellowship*. For the Obituary, the names of Miss Ida Graham, Miss Thompson, Mrs. Parkinson, Mrs. Wiltshire, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Curnow and Mrs. Clydesdale were mentioned and, following a brief period of silence, Mrs. Ferguson led in prayer, when all who had been called upon to part with loved ones were remembered before the throne of grace.

Reports of committees and District Conferences revealed the amount of work which had been accomplished during the year. Statistical sheets—Form S—which had been used to record all giving, had been returned with a total of 98 out of a possible 111, with a total sum of £11,055/8/4½. The Missionary Department—now the Missionary Committee—raised the record sum of £1,292/12/11. The Aborigine representatives organised the clothing appeal, when large quantities of clothing for Carnarvon and Norseman were brought to the Missionary Rally, as well as £40/5/-.

The Social Service and General Dorcas continue their splendid work of relief to the needy. The Isolated Sisters committee reports 658 letters written, with 121 replies received. The service of prayer continues its quiet and necessary work. After a period of concentrated effort, the Temperance committee rejoiced in the victory for the continuation of 6 o'clock closing. The Helpers' Club membership totals 1,493. The thanks of all were extended to Mrs. Lowrey and the members of the Catering Committee. The ministry of visiting the sick and the aged continues with the workers on the Hospital and Homes Committees. Contacts made by the College Auxiliary are proving worthwhile. £226 was contributed towards the support of six Biblewomen.

District Conferences in Sunraysia, Eastern, South - Western, Central Northern, Southern Bayside, Midland and Tasmania reported good work done during the year.

Business items included the adoption of a project to finance the building of a Home for missionaries on furrough; the adoption of a suggestion from the World Christian Women's Fellowship that each church contribute 5/- per year to help meet the expenses of this organisation; that the overall name of Women's Fellowship, which was adopted at the 1953 Conference, be preceded by the

name "Christian"; a general discussion dealing with a recommendation that both Conference delegates and members of the Young Women's Fellowship explore the possibility of creating one Executive and Council was not finalised.

At the evening session, Mrs. Lloyd introduced the new office-bearers, and Mrs. Randall expressed appreciation of the work Mrs. Lloyd had done during her term of office, and presented her with flowers and a copy of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. The Y.W.F. president, Mrs. Jenkins, presented a cheque to Miss A. Ashley for the work of the Audio-Visual Aid Panel. Mrs. Larcombe's message on Fellowship, the music of the Murrumbena Ladies' Quartette, and the play, *Night on a Hill*, were a challenge and an inspiration to all.

Newly appointed officers are as follows: President, Mrs. E. H. Randall; president-elect, Mrs. W. Thomson; junior president-elect, Mrs. N. Wickham; past president, Mrs. A. R. Lloyd; secretary, Mrs. E. L. Williams; treasurer, Mrs. I. Gillespie; superintendents — Missionary, Mrs. Lloyd, secretary, Mrs. A. Kennedy; Prayer, Mrs. C. Hall; Homes Visitation, Mrs. A. Hodges; Temperance, Mrs. Squires; Federal College of the Bible Women's Auxiliary, Mrs. Curtis; General Dorcas, Mrs. Ploog; Isolated Sisters, Mrs. McIvor; Catering, Mrs. Lowrey; Social Service, Mrs. Ward; Hospital Visitation, Mrs. Manning; Nominating, Mrs. Lloyd.—B. L. Williams, Secretary.

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C. G. Taylor, B.A., Editor.

A. R. Haskell, Manager.

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OPENING OF EXTENSIONS

Extensions and alterations to The Aged Christians' Home, Brisbane, costing £25,000, were officially opened by the Hon. W. M. Moore, Minister for Health and Home Affairs, on Sat. March 24.

The Home was commenced in 1950 with seven residents, and plans were immediately started to increase the capacity to allow the committee to provide care for 30 old folk and staff. This has now been accomplished, and today we have a home which is not only providing a definite service to the aged but is a monument to the practical gospel.

C. R. Burdeu, in reviewing the work since the purchase of the property, told of the many struggles to secure necessary finance, and how the brotherhood had met the challenge.

The Hon. Mr. Moore, when opening the extensions, congratulated the committee on securing the position so close to the city, and with such excellent views, and told how the Government appreciated the help given by the churches in providing accommodation for the aged.

During the ceremony, an inscribed key was presented to the Minister, and silver cake trays to Mr. Box (builder) and Mr. Webster (architect). Greetings were received from the Federal Conference President, Federal and State Social Service Committees, and the Supt. of Brisbane City Mission. The thank-offering amounted to £350, leaving an overdraft with the bank of approx. £3,000, which will be further reduced when Government subsidies are adjusted.

The Aged Christians' Home is conducted by the Queensland Social Service Committee, and was named "Burdeu House" to recognise the work and leadership of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Burdeu.—S. Chambers, sec.

John Bairagi Loses Mother

From a friend of John Bairagi's in Suva, Fiji, we have learned of the death of John's mother. We understand that the parents of Mr. Bairagi came from India to Fiji during the recruitment drive for Indians to do work in Fiji. It was in Fiji that John became a Christian, and as a consequence was somewhat a little estranged from his family.

John always spoke well of them, and will feel the loss of his mother keenly, especially as he was not near her during the last days of her sickness.

Remember our brother and his family in prayer.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

IVAN K. HULL, S.A., reports on the Second Australian Christian Youth Conference, Geelong, Vic., 1956—

CHRIST OUR UNITY

When 170 Christian young people from Australia, New Zealand and South-East Asia come together for a conference under such a theme, one would expect big things to happen. Our expectations fell far short of what did actually happen.

"It was a divided world to which Christ came, and he united it. What unites us beyond our divisions is not what we will, but what God wills and is accomplishing.

"Our unity goes back to the fact, that in human history Christ lived and died and rose again, and took his place at the right hand of God. It is an essential part of the gospel. Take away Christ, and our unity falls to pieces. The nearer we come to Christ, the closer we come together.

"The implication for us is that if we call God Father, then we must recognise others as brethren."

Phillip Potter, Secretary of the Youth Dept. of the World Council of Churches, spoke to us in these words, and our studies and project work brought home to us the truth of them.

When we came to our Bible studies, *The Household of God, a Study on the Church*, we faced up to our differences, our divisions, but realised *Christ Our Unity*. These studies gave opportunity for all to explain their particular point of view. What a wonderful opportunity for a people who have a plea and a plan for Christian union. Whenever our position was put forward in obvious contrast, often to the majority opinion, we were received with obvious interest.

Our first contribution came with the distinction between the two covenants. "We have to go back into the Old Testament to look at the history of the nation called Israel, if we want to see where the Church began." This statement was made and most agreed. Our denial of it, and the claim of a sharp distinction between the Old and the New Covenants, opened the way for long and fruitful discussion. Many had never heard such an idea put forward. My only regret was that one or two of our own young people were uncertain about our position in this point. Here is a challenge to our preachers, teachers and leaders.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper came into our study under the head-

ing *Jesus and His Church*. The Lord's Supper found all non-conformists saying, "It is Christ, not the Church or church leaders, who invites." Argument in support was not necessary. At a conference under the theme, *Christ Our Unity*, we had two communion services. All realised this was a denial of the spirit we were experiencing in this ecumenical encounter.

Baptism brought forth long discussion. My thoughts were that if our delegates had not come to Geelong, no one would have heard of



our plea that the New Testament should be followed in this matter and all others. While there were differing opinions about the reasons for, and the various teachings of, infant baptism, there was no denial of our position as following the New Testament. Our following of the New Testament was recognised as being just that, and nothing more. It was our plea that the New Testament must be the guide book and authority for a united Church that aroused interest here.

I grew up in a Movement that claims to have a plea. I was taught we had a plea for the restoration of New Testament Christianity as the means of re-uniting the Church. But is there a plea, if no one is pleading it? At Geelong I realised that we have more than a plea. If we will only move out into these ecumenical encounters, we have a vital message to the Church.

The project work included these subjects: Evangelism; The Christian in his Daily Work; Australia and South-East Asia; Music, Drama and Architecture in the Church; Family Relations and Christian Missions. The value of the work of these groups will be realised as the many works they planned begin to be carried out. Details of this work are being set

out in the conference report now being printed. May I commend to readers the procuring of a copy when they are available.

The Christian Mission, *Christian Youth in Today's World, A Thousand Million Neighbors* (Australia-Asia relations)—here is material enough for the thought of young Christians. These addresses, and many others, called us to action in the name of Christ. The Australian Christian Youth Council was given the task of implementing the many resolutions passed by the Conference. These resolutions called for Christian action in many fields, but particularly in matters relating to youth.

What lessons did this ecumenical conference have for me as a member of Churches of Christ? We indeed have a message that can be taken to other churches. However, we are at present received as just another denomination, and not as a Movement working for unity through the restoration of New Testament Christianity. This is a criticism of ourselves, and not of our brethren of other churches. We are regarded as being more-or-less Baptist churches, with an over-strong emphasis of speculation on the time, etc., of the Second Coming. As I discussed our true position with conference members, I asked myself, "What have our churches been doing that such ignorance of our plea could exist?" Is the answer that we have discussed our message among our own people, but have neglected our missionary task to the Churches? If we have truth from God, we sin if we neglect to take it to his people.

If we are to make our best contribution at such a conference, we must be sure that those who attend as our delegation really understand our plea. They go not as individuals, but as representatives of our churches. It is not good enough just to have active youth leaders in our delegation. We must have young people who truly understand our plea.

Finally, we should take the initiative and promote ecumenical activity on the local level. Our senior youth groups should make contact with neighboring groups. The nature of the approaches and the work undertaken will naturally vary from place to place, but let us go out with the message *Christ our Unity*. We have a plea, then let us plead!

CECIL NORTHCOTT gives an on-the-spot story of

GRIEF and GLORY in GREECE

British Congregational minister, publisher, and journalist, Cecil Northcott visited Greece on his return from a recent visit to Africa. Mr. Northcott is a contributor to "The Times" (London), "Manchester Guardian," and other leading newspapers.

From the sunlit table-land of the Acropolis, glowing on a winter morning against a classic Attic blue sky, you look down on Athens. One's eyes ought to be upwards to the peerless lines of the Parthenon, but somehow you keep looking down on the city just as Paul must have done, when, from over there on Mars Hill, he told the Athenians what he thought of them.

Up there is the glory — this eternal wonder in stone and symmetry which man built five hundred years before Christ came. Down there is the grief, which man still goes on creating in these latter days of the Christian era, for Athens is one of the portals of Europe's refugee traffic, this endless odyssey of people which is continually moving out on the tides of hope across the world. It is all glory and grief mixed together.

Ready for Departure

On the second floor of Number One Sophocles-st., where the World Council of Churches orders its complicated 10-ordination of service to refugees passing through Greece, I watched a group of sixty young Greeks about to fly that morning direct to Australia. More emigrants than refugees, these young men are part of the new life which the old world is pouring into Australia, and their beginnings under Christian auspices is a token of Christian concern in the peopling of a continent. Greece has more people than she can economically support on her thin, meagre acres. Her exports must be flesh and blood, so through the portals of One Sophocles-st., every day go the hostages of one world to another.

I watched the blackboard at One Sophocles-st. which has the blessed word "departures" chalked on it, that talisman of wonder for the young Yugoslav or Albanian, who has crept down through the rocky defiles between his country and Greece, seeking a new start somewhere, preferably beyond the seas. The blackboard lists the daily sailings and flights from the Piraeus port and the Athens airfield as the stream of refugees is checked, sponsored, vouched for, investigated, and approved. I asked a young Albanian why he had jumped

the frontier. He flashed a smile and answered, "Communism."

The Helping Hand

It is now four years since the World Council of Churches opened its Athens office, under the direction of Christopher King, to help post-war refugees from Communist countries, and especially those without Greek citizenship but with a Greek heritage. Roumania has expelled some 4,700 "Greek ethnics," and Albania the same number. Then there are the smaller numbers of Bulgarians and Yugoslavs, and the 7,000 Armenians, and White-Russians who have found asylum in Greece at various times but have not secured Greek citizenship. The trickle of refugees into Greece never ceases, and, to the credit of the Greek government, no genuine refugee is ever turned back.

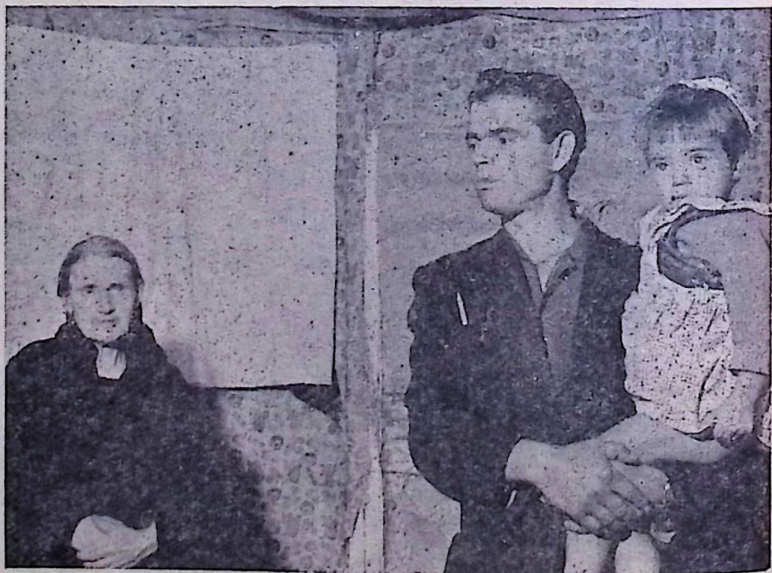
The refugee, as a personality in world affairs, is now accepted as part of civilisation's normalcy rather than an emergency. He is entitled to a few basic rights in the country which admits him — a little food, a little shelter, and a big hope that he may be passed on to a new life, if possible beyond the seas. But behind a refugee there usually stands a family, and through the Athens office proceeds the patient process of re-uniting families, tracing children, arranging for a younger brother or sister to join

the elder ones — a knitting of the threads of life, which perhaps only a Christian organisation can do. No wonder there is a staff of some sixty people at One Sophocles-st.

Here is the World Council at full stretch as a grand co-ordinator of agencies who, from particular angles, wish to assist refugees. First comes the United Nations High Commissioner, with his universal concern for refugees. Athens receives about \$18,000 from him. Then there are the gifts of the churches themselves through the World Council — about \$40,000 — and the grants from the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (I.C.E.M.) of about \$48,000. All this is backed by the powerful aid of U.S.E.P. (the United States Escapee Programme), which is concerned with non-Greeks who escape from Communist countries, and which provided \$174,000 last year. Add to this the value of travel loans, clothing and bedding, and food supplies through Church World Service, New York, and you get a mighty diapason of goodwill expressed in service and money, in order to keep that hallowed word "departures" permanently chalked up on that blackboard.

Training Tongue and Fingers

But to depart is not enough for the refugee. He must do something



One of the 240 families, ethnic Greeks expelled from Albania, who are housed in a refugee camp in Jannina, in Northern Greece.

to make himself efficient to depart, and that usually means, first of all, learning English. I watched a class of young men working out their sentences in English — those simple passports to the magic world of a universal language, and which is rightly demanded of the new citizen. The fumbling approach to "The cat is on the mat," and "The cat is not on the mat" is often the first conscientious act of the new life, an authentic jump as much as the one which took the refugee over the physical frontier.

I saw a class of refugee children from Roumania making the jump a little more easily, and enjoying the fun of talking a language they had not learned from their mothers. But to talk is not enough. A refugee with skill in his fingers is doubly an asset to his new country. So Athens teaches the basic elements of farming, and the simple use of tools, to over a hundred youths who have come over the frontiers without special skills. I saw the gleam in the eye of a young Albanian as he proudly showed me the fine piece of metal joinery he had produced at the Piraeus School. There were forty youths at the benches that afternoon at the school, learning how to use modern tools, and producing aptitude results sufficient to encourage a British engineering firm to enquire about the possibilities of employment.

The Gloom of the Unwanted

But behind all the glory and grief in Greece is the gloom of the unwanted refugee — that international personality indexed as "hard core." He can never, for health reasons, for age, for physical inability, join the milling crowd before the departure blackboard at One Sophocles-st.

I was taken to see a hundred families of them in a decayed hotel on the Athens water-front, with the plaster flaking off the grandiose exterior, and the once elegant iron balconies hanging loose in the winter sunshine. The grand staircase, with its tottering balustrade, opened on to a series of vast rooms divided by home-made paper and cardboard walls into little compartments of privacy for middle-aged and elderly people who had made them into homes.

No heat in the Athens winter, no permanent light except flickering paraffin lamps for a glimmer of warmth as well as light. Tiny gnomes of black-shawled elderly women passed along the shrunken passages between the compartments of cardboard, their deep-set, tired eyes looking inquisitively at the strange visitor. Some of them had been there for eight years, far away from their homes in Roumania, and with no desire to go back, but with a hope of something better to live in than this dilapidated

edifice known officially as a "camp." Here and there, through the four floors of gloom, I caught sight of a chair, a table, a comfortable looking bed, and a picture or two on the transparent walls. Someone had got a little work and extra money, and, with the unquenchable zeal of man, was turning his few feet of privacy into a home.

Greece is a poor country, still drawing hundreds of millions of dollars a year in American aid, and the bur-

den of refugees is just another added weariness to the administration. Without a co-ordinating agency, such as the World Council of Churches, which has the confidence both of the government and the Greek Orthodox Church, the efficient Athens plan for refugee service would probably not be in existence. As it is, this Christian service is on the frontier of a new life for thousands, and is not only binding up the wounds and bearing the burdens, but opening the doors to life — even life abundant.



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

"Let's Pray for India"

Let me tell you a little about my first Indian Christmas. Before coming home to Dhond to spend Christmas with Win. Walker, I saw the school's Christmas decorations and Christmas programme at "Mukti," and felt something of the joy and excitement there. On Friday and Saturday evening, there were Christmas programmes at Dhond, too, presented by the Christian Endeavor Society and by the Sunday School with just the same mixture of humor and deadly seriousness that characterises B.S. concerts at home. Then came Christmas Day. We were wakened in the morning by a group of young men singing carols. Actually, it was only I who was awakened then. Evidently, it was only thanks to being a very sound sleeper that I had not been awake much sooner. Several such groups had been going round singing since midnight. Before breakfast, Win. and I opened up little presents that had arrived from other missionaries. I also made a real ceremony of opening up a couple of boxes from home. I must admit I'd had a peep before, but now I had a really good look. Then, from breakfast time on, folk started arriving to wish us

a happy Christmas and bring us samples of their Christmas cooking. This seemed to me a very pleasant custom, even though I've yet to acquire the taste for many Indian sweets. We in turn would put some little gift of food on their tray as we gave it back. We had our midday meal with some Indian friends, and Christmas dinner at home in the evening. During the afternoon, I had a sweet time of fellowship with God.

There were some things about Christmas Day in Dhond that grieved my heart. I think I told you before that there are many nominal Christians in Dhond. Well, on Christmas morning, two or three hundred of them paid their annual visit to church. The church building was much too small to hold all the extra people. Many of them had to sit outside on the verandahs, and many of them didn't seem to worship at all. But let me tell you one heart-warming incident. There is a young male nurse working in the hospital here. He lives just near our bungalow, and on Christmas evening he invited to tea a Mohammedan family — a man and his two wives and three or four children. He had a Christmas tree and little presents for the children, and with the aid of the flannelgraph he gave them all the wonderful story of God becoming man for men and their salvation.

Not only in Dhond, but in all the area where our mission works, and, indeed, evidently throughout India, there is some mixture of, from the missionary's point of view, disappointment and encouragement. Some are Christians only in name, and many of them dishonor the name. Others, in spite of many difficulties, glorify Christ by their lives and their words. Here and there a prominent and trusted leader falls badly. Others capably shoulder ever-increasing responsibilities. Many "Christians"



Indian Village Preaching

(continued third col. page 231)

Women of our Western churches enjoy

Fifty-First Annual Conference

On a beautiful autumn day, the Annual Conference of the Women's Auxilliary of Churches of Christ in Western Australia was held in Lake-st. chapel, on Wed., March 28, 1956, under the Presidency of Mrs. G. A. Ewers.

Outline of Proceedings

Mrs. P. Jefferies conducted an obituary session, mentioning the names of 30 sisters, and Mrs. Digwood led a devotional session. There were 246 women present at 11 a.m., when 62 delegates from 22 centres answered the roll call. After elections, the morning was devoted to a consideration of Executive Committee and Financial Reports.

In the afternoon, there were over 320 women present. Devotions were led by Mrs. S. Wilson. Greetings to visitors were extended by Mrs. J. Collins, and responded to by Mesdames Ivory (Collie), F. Griffiths (Kalgoorlie), D. R. Stirling, and representatives of other church bodies.

Veteran sisters of 80 years of age and over were honored in a presentation of a shoulder spray and booklet. Those honored were Mesdames Payne, Hollett, McDiarmid, Clay, Sharpe, Vinicombe, Gray, Way, Morris, Kirman, Rhoades, Misses Ross, Entwistle.

An address from Mrs. D. Hamner (Carnarvon Native Mission) was greatly enjoyed by all. A welcome relaxation was an adjournment for afternoon tea, followed by consideration of further reports, general business and Federal business.

Lake-st. chapel was packed to the doors for the evening rally. Mrs. D. Maiden (Harvey) led a song service, in-coming officers were introduced, and the Conference President, C. J. Robinson, was formally presented with donations to Conference departments:—£266/13/4 to Home Missions, £197/6/8 to Overseas Missions, £107/16/8 to Aborigines Missions. It was announced that the special Jubilee Thanksgiving Fund had reached a total of £426, which was to be a specific gift to the Christian Guest Home. A sacred play, *On a Spring Morning*, performed by members of the Auxilliary and produced by Mrs. E. F. Black, brought a memorable Women's Conference to a close.

Highlights from Reports

Reports were received from the Executive, 12 Committees and the Treasurer. Some Committees act as supporters of General Conference de-

partments, others are for carrying on work specifically sponsored by the Women's Auxilliary. Each Committee works under a Superintendent.

Home Missions.—Mesdames L. Park and V. Pallot represented the women on the General Conference Committee and have kept the Auxilliary informed on all Home Mission matters. Special support has been given to new ventures.

Overseas Missions.—In addition to usual financial help, special assistance was given in the matter of communion glasses, New Testaments and Christmas cheer for the New Hebrides, Christmas cheer for Dhond (India) Women's Class, and a substantial gift to a widow with eight children, a member of the church in India. Numerous food parcels were sent to both India and the Islands.

Aborigines Missions.—Parcels and case of clothing have steadily gone forward to the Missions, Christmas cakes were made and forwarded to the missionaries and a number of special appeals readily answered.

Isolated.—This Committee corresponds regularly with 73 isolated sisters, keeping them in touch with General Conference activities. 183 personal letters were written, 71 replies being received. Conference Auxilliary literature is forwarded.

Social Service.—This Committee has been active in supporting all moves for social reform, and in sponsoring support for the Christian Guest Home. It acts in conjunction with the General Conference Social Service Committee.

Catering.—The Catering Committee served over 1,000 meals during the year, and assisted with Overseas Missionaries' Luncheons and Girls' Basketball Banquets. £20 was spent on new crockery.

Country Correspondence.—Mrs. L. Park keeps 14 country groups informed of Auxilliary activities, and this service is much appreciated.

Dorcas Work.—Most Dorcas Societies are now known as Christian Women's Fellowships, and these exist in 29 centres, with an average of twelve members.

Prayer Committee.—This Committee has visited fourteen Fellowships or Guilds during the twelve months, seeking to undergird Auxilliary work with prayer.

Youth Committee.—A special activity of this Committee has been the sponsoring of young women's work, in addition to helping Conference Youth Committee.

Woorloo Visitation.—This Committee has continued its much appreciated monthly visits to Woorloo Sanatorium, gifts to patients totalling approximately 3,000 bags of sweets (with a text in each), 1,500 jars of jam and chutney, 600 pairs of bed socks, 160 bed caps, 300 sponge bags, face flannels and soap.

Hospital Visitation.—Under an organised roster scheme, two women from each church visit Royal Perth Hospital on Friday afternoons. Shenton Park sisters visit Convalescent Home, Subiaco Young Women's Fellowship visits Home of Peace, South Perth sisters visit Mount Henry Home—all of these acting on behalf of the Auxilliary, and receiving assistance when needed. £1 per month is set aside for gifts of cake to the Silver Chain Homes. The sisters of the country churches also regularly visit the hospitals in their centres.

Financial.—Total receipts for 1955 were £1,423/8/2, of which £1,214/4/1 was raised by the Guilds and Fellowships in local churches. Expenditure was £1,057/13/-, leaving a balance of £784/18/11 at 31/12/1955. Of this balance, £365/16/9 has to be paid to the Christian Guest Home. (This amount increased to £414 during Conference). Outstanding items of expenditure were: Sanatorium £110, Aborigines Missions £133, Home Missions £271, Overseas Missions, £279.

Elections

Newly appointed officers are as follows: President, Mrs. W. Cooper; vice-presidents, Mesdames E. Black, H. Digwood, S. Wilson, J. Gordon; sec., Mrs. R. Armstrong; asst. sec., Mrs. C. Reid; treas., Mrs. T. Beck; pianiste, Mrs. V. W. Robertson; asst. pianiste, Mrs. V. L. Connigrave.

Superintendents: Mesdames J. Pallot (Home Mission), Jeff. Gordon (Overseas), R. Blackman (Aborigines), G. Baynes (Hospital), J. Collins (Woorloo), H. Moyle (Dorcas), P. Jefferies (Obituary), S. Wilkerson (Social Service), T. Smillie (Prayer), L. Peacock and R. Pallot (Catering), G. A. Ewers (Isolated), L. Park (Country Groups).

Representatives to Conference Committees: Home Missions, Mesdames L. Park and J. Pallot; Overseas Missions, Mesdames Jeff. Gordon and E. Lester; Social Service, Mesdames Wilkerson and Palmer; Youth, Mrs. E. Black; United Council of Christian Women, Mesdames J. K. Robinson and Wilkerson.

General News

Conference fellowship was enriched by the presence of women from country churches, the South-West being particularly well represented. Collie women hired a bus, leaving home at 4.30 a.m. and reaching home again at 2 a.m. next morning.

Messages in song were given during the day by Mesdames R. Armstrong, C. Smith, T. D. Malden, Clements, and a trio from North Perth.

Presentations were made to: C. H. Hunt, in appreciation of his long service in reporting Women's Confer-

ences (owing only to advancing years, Mr. Hunt has relinquished this service); Mrs. Digwood, on her retirement as Aborigines Superintendent after ten years' service; Mrs. R. Pritchard, relinquishing position of asst. sec.

Mrs. W. Cooper, the incoming President, said that her life's experience as a Christian had proven to her that God does not fail. She said that real Christian service was accomplished by a living faith in a living God, and gave Gal. 2: 20 as a text and motto for the Auxiliary for the new Conference year.—J. K. Robinson.

N.S.W. Women's Conference

N.S.W. Women's 62nd Annual Conference was held on March 20, at Enmore. There were 304 present. Mrs. L. Wylie, President, conducted the meeting in a very capable manner. After welcome and greetings, Mrs. Budgen led in prayer for the bereaved.

Mrs. C. J. Mackenzie (Hamilton) was the speaker, and gave a challenging message to each one. Miss Parcell (Wollongong) and Mrs. C. R. M. Graham (Chatswood) were soloists.

The W.C.W.F. was officially introduced in this State. The President made some explanation of this Fellowship, and asked that each church should participate and pay the affiliation fee of 5/- per annum. The Incoming President, Mrs. R. H. Wakeley, and Incoming Executive, Superintendents, and Representatives were introduced, and prayer of dedication was offered.

The Federal President, Mrs. A. Larcombe, made an appeal for Federal Conference, asking for our full cooperation in entertaining our interstate visitors. A recommendation came from the Finance Committee, that the special appeal for this year should be our gifts towards Federal Conference expenses.

This year we held a night meeting, which proved a very great success. Mrs. A. W. Stephenson was the speaker, and told of the church work in U.S.A., making comparisons between the church work there and in Australia. She said we had much to learn from their efficient methods. Miss Helen Stevens was the soloist. We were very happy to welcome Mrs. Bruce Munro from America and India. She brought greetings to us and will be doing deputation work in this State. Mrs. L. Wylie wrote and produced a pageant, *One Great Fellowship of Love*. This was very well written, and beautifully presented. It

was a prelude to our W.C.W.F., and emphasised that theme throughout the pageant. It included four sections — Missionary, Prayer, Service, and Study, and the women were all dressed in period costume. Then two heralds pronounced the beginning of W.C.W.F. Women representing 32 countries where Churches of Christ have members, were announced and came down the aisle to the platform, dressed in national costume. The 60 women in the final scene, under the banner, *One Great Fellowship of Love*, made a splendid, colorful picture. The Conference Choir and the 60 women sang, "To God be the Glory." Congratulations to Mrs. Wylie for such a delightful introduction to our World Christian Women's Fellowship.

Tasmanian Women's District Conference

The Tasmanian Women's District Conference was held at Devonport on Easter Sat., March 31, at which representatives from six Tasmanian churches were present. Apologies were received from other churches owing to distance involved.

The devotional session was capably led by Mrs. D. Holloway (Devonport). The president, Mrs. T. Orr (Launceston), presided over business session, when reports from the churches were discussed. Mrs. C. H. J. Wright (Margaret-st.), brought a report of the Women's Conference in Melbourne.

Officers elected were as follows:—president, Mrs. T. Orr (Sandhill); senior vice-president, Mrs. G. J. Foot (Margaret-st.); junior vice-president, Mrs. D. Holloway (Devonport); secretary, Mrs. A. Orr (Sandhill); minute sec., Mrs. J. Harrison (Margaret-st.); treasurer, Mrs. J. McLennan (Margaret-st.).—Elva F. Orr, hon. sec.

Missionary News

(continued from page 229)

scarcely read their Bible; many Hindus read it daily. Not many Hindus are being converted, but some are, and many seem, close to the Kingdom.

Dr. Billy Graham recently came to India. As riots were in progress in Bombay, the meeting to which some 40,000 were going from all over Maharashtra had to be cancelled. In Madras and Delhi, and elsewhere, he spoke in the power of the Spirit, and thousands were converted, and many greatly blessed and encouraged. Dr. Graham stressed the need of prayer, and the Lord keeps saying to my heart, "Pray for India." We must pray for the millions in this land who are almost Christians; for the Christians who are babes in Christ; for those who witness faithfully and for those who fall; for missionaries in times of disappointment, perplexity, loneliness, and often sickness; for both missionaries and Indian Church leaders in the process of Indianisation; for the fellowship of the Indian Church; for the Indian Government and local authorities. Yes, let's pray for India.—Dorothy Geyer.

Bhigwan News

Miss Hazel Skuce and Miss Ruth Roberts are now engaged in the work at Bhigwan (the old Diksal location, where Mr. and Mrs. Escott labored for so many years). Miss Roberts tells of some items of interest:—

This week I went to Bombay to meet Gwen as she disembarked. We were very pleased to see her and have her back among us, especially for Miss Walker's sake, who is suffering sorrow of bereavement because of the death of her father.

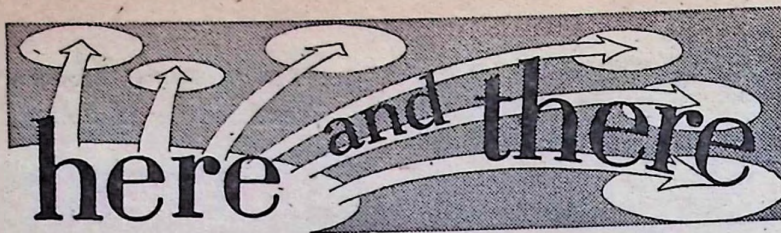
We thank our Heavenly Father that he has brought her back to us at a time when she is so needed. Truly, God's ways with each of his children are wonderful — past our understanding.

Gwen herself looks very well. All are well here, and the school children back at school again.

A hot summer is predicted this year. It has already commenced early.

As for the work here, it is just starting to get established. We hope to open a reading-room and library, but have not secured a suitable place as yet. It does take time to get settled and get things established and in going order. We have no vehicle as yet, but are getting the bullock-cart repaired.

We have Hariba Waghmodi and Shalinibai staying with us at present. Hariba and company have been conducting evangelistic meetings in the villages.—Ruth Roberts.



The church at Marrickville, N.S.W., announces that I. A. Paternoster has accepted their invitation to serve as interim preacher from May 13.

Y.W.F. Vic. and Tas. members are notified of change in secretary and treasurer for ensuing year. Sec. is Mrs. N. Cheal, 60 Primrose-st., Essendon, Vic., FU 8649; treas., Miss D. Ashley, 1 Neerim-gve., Oakleigh, Vic., UM 5418.

A. B. Withers, preacher at West Preston, Vic., church, for 13 years, has accepted a call to minister at Northcote, Vic.

Good attendances and very helpful addresses marked the 39th anniversary of the church at Camberwell, Vic., on April 8. Speaker for the day was Principal A. W. Stephenson (Woolwich Bible College), and at the conclusion of the evening meeting he showed slides of his recent trip abroad. On Wednesday a well attended church dinner was held, and after a showing of the film, Talents, the Talent Scheme was launched, each member taking a "talent" to put into use with the object of aiding the Building Fund. Hawthorn reports four new scholars to the B.S., with 37 present last Sunday. Much interest prevails. J. H. Cain, Th.L., is minister at Camberwell, and also assists in oversight of Hawthorn church.

D. W. Mansell commenced a ministry with Ormond, Vic. church on April 1. Attendances were 103 in morning and 80 at night. An official welcome was tendered Mr. and Mrs. Mansell on 7th, when representatives of church and auxiliaries pledged their support to the preacher and the church work. Redecoration of manse has been completed, and the property looks very attractive. Chapel was crowded for evening service on 8th, and a married lady made her decision. Day kindergarten, under supervision of Sis. Eickie is growing steadily, the church receiving good help through this auxiliary.

Women's Conference—now Christian Women's Fellowship in Victoria and Tasmania—wishes to notify all delegates and friends that parcels for the Hospital Visitation committee should be left at Lygon-st. in future as Council meetings will be held there; next meeting, May 4, at 11 a.m.

Malvern-Caulfield church advises that their homecoming day services arranged for May 6 have been temporarily postponed.

G. M. Mathieson reports, in a telegram, that 27 decisions have been recorded at the Lloyd Jones-Wood Mission at Maylands, S.A.

E. W. Taylor reports on the Easter camp in Tasmania, attended by 54, and representative of most churches. Leaders were Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Taylor. Mrs. Harvey, Joan McKenzie and Betty Bruce assisted in the kitchen. Studies, group discussions and singing were features of an enjoyable programme. There were several reconsecrations at the Sunday evening service.

A telegram from S. H. Wilson (South Perth) concerning the Youens-Brown mission reads: "Gales, rain damaged tent sides; affected mission and Happy Hour attendances. Five confessions, six rededications. Keep praying."

Jordanville, Vic., Bible School, which has an enrolment exceeding 300, is in urgent need of teachers. Morning B.S. is held from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m. Any people who can assist in alleviating the staff shortage are asked to contact G. Coates, phone BU 1127.

A mission conducted by K. A. Macnaughtan and H. B. Robbins commenced at Lismore, N.S.W., on April 4, but details of its progress had not been received as this edition went to press.

A. B. Clark, who was for some time editor of our Queensland churches' monthly, "The Christian Echo," has now accepted editorship of the N.S.W. monthly, "The Christian Messenger." Mr. Clark is minister of the church at Rockdale.

We note with interest in The Australian Baptist (28/3/56) that in Victoria "a prominent Baptist layman and local preacher was visiting a Home Mission church in the country. As he looked at the property he realised how much could be done, if only the Home Mission had a full-time carpenter on its staff. So he offered to pay a wage of £20 per week if the right man could be found." An experienced carpenter, who had previously applied unsuccessfully for overseas missionary service, has

been appointed to the position. "Wherever possible," adds the report, "he will organise volunteers to help from the church being helped. One of the major tasks will be the lifting of the sub-standard Home Mission manse to present-day standards."

Mrs. E. L. Gillespie, 23 Wild Cherry-rd., Carnegie, S.E.9, is now treasurer of the Vic.-Tas. Christian Women's Fellowship (formerly Women's Conference Executive).

C. F. Gribble, General Secretary, Methodist Board of Missions, in a recent survey indicated that Australian Methodists in the last five years have gone into three new areas—Central New Guinea, Indonesia, and a part-European work in W.A. Missionary enrolment has increased by 105 in the last 10 years, while 144 new workers have gone into the fields since the war. Mr. Gribble commented, "If I were asked what are the two greatest challenges to the work of the Church in the Pacific area, I would have to reply—militant Roman Catholicism, and the sinister inroads of the drink traffic into the life of the people."



Conference for Bible School Workers

The town of Berwick, 28 miles from Melbourne, will be the location of the next Annual Conference for Bible School Workers, on Anzac Day, April 25. The Conference will commence at 11 a.m. in the Berwick Theatre, with an Anzac Service. Guest speaker will be Mr. G. Beatty, of the Presbyterian Y.P. Dept.

Theme of the Conference is, The Challenge of a New Day in the Church School. Workshops to be conducted in practical activities; other sessions will consider worship and programme building.

Special provision will be made for teachers with small families. A creche is to be conducted under expert leadership to enable parents to attend the sessions. Parents should provide meals for the children.

Conference registration fee is 10/- per person; 5/- if no meals required. A bookstall will enable teachers to purchase helpful literature.

It is expected that this year the attendance will equal last year's Conference, when 350 met at Castle-maine.

The Conference is conducted by the Bible School Committee of the Y.P. Dept. The day will conclude at 7.30 p.m.—R.V.L.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

Mr. Dickie (senr.), J. Kay, G. Cole, Janice Morse, Dianne Gray, Joan Perches, Betty King, Annette Mills, Anne Cole, Ormond, Vic.

Mrs. Constable, J. Preston, Coburg, Vic.

Margaret Axford, Wendy Humphries, Lorraine, Charles and Warner Perrin, North Balwyn, Vic.

A. Phillips, Janice Maxwell and Barbara Kitt, Rockdale, N.S.W.

Rhonda and June Mudford, Gilgandra, N.S.W.

Mrs. Kingston and Isobel, Stafford, Qld.

Ian Philp, Don Purvis, Stephen Gunter, Fullarton, S.A.

Miss G. Lehman, Miss K. Penny, Mosman, N.S.W.

Gwenda Baxter, Woorinen, Vic.

B. Barnier, Hamilton, N.S.W.

John McCann, Blackburn, Vic.

Joy Telford, Reservoir, Vic.

Membership

Joan Morgan, from East Kew to North Balwyn, Vic.

Mrs. T. Horwood, from Subiaco, W.A. to Inverell, N.S.W.

D. Magna, M. Newton, from Meredith to Mosman, N.S.W.

Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham, from South Melbourne to Blackburn, Vic.

Mr. and Mrs. Abernathy, from Coburg to Blackburn, Vic.

Marriage

Faye Doran to Alex. Stuchbery, Reservoir, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

Sister Harris, Castlemaine, Vic.

Queensland

Kedron. (F. Langford).—D. Nicholls was speaker on morning of Mar. 25. Plans have been finalised for Evangelistic Mission in June with E. McIlhagger. Midweek fellowship continues to maintain good attendances in homes,

and this has proved most profitable. Film, *The First Step*, was shown at a gospel service. Y.W.F. and Women's Fellowships had excellent programmes with large attendances. A baptismal service was conducted on evening of Mar. 25.

Stafford (F. Langford).—Evening services have been well attended, and the showing of colored strip films for three Sundays on the Easter message brought interest to parents of B.S. scholars. D. Nicholls gave a very instructive talk to B.S. and thrilled children with his personality. Rear portion of building has been used for some time as a "Child Welfare Centre," which is of great help to parents in this growing housing settlement. A mother of B.S. scholar made her decision.

Western Australia

Harvey (D. T. Maiden).—Annual church business meeting was held on Mar. 22. All officers were re-elected. Reports showed year of increased activity and much good work achieved. Offering taken on same night for Church Building Fund amounted to £94. Preacher took car load of Y.P. to Perth to attend Youth Rally, held during Conference week. A number of sisters attended Women's Conference on 28th. On Easter Sunday, church welcomed visitors from Perth, Northam, Meredin, Kellerberrin and Nannup. At close of evening service two B.S. lads made their decision for Christ. After several all-Saturday building drives on new church, it is now ready for the roofing tiles. Mr. Maiden spent April 8 in Bridgetown helping the small band of followers in their church services.

New South Wales

Belrose (F. W. Reynolds, B.C.E.).—North Balgowlah Tent Mission resulted in great blessing for church. Two people from Belrose, who made the good confession and were baptised at the Mission, were welcomed into fellowship of Belrose church. A number attended recent rally of Woolwich Evangelistic Party at Chatswood. Sister J. Garrett and preacher were involved in an accident while journeying to Conference on evening of Mar. 24. Both are now on road to recovery. Services during preacher's absence were conducted by E. A. Bunn (Woolwich), and C. T. Garrett (Belrose).

Broken Hill (N. Kingston).—At recent church annual business meeting the following were elected: deacons, N. Rough (sec.); C. Ball (treas. and B.S. supt.); G. Lee, T. Garner, W.

Palmer, A. Hoskings, J. Dean; elders: J. Cremer (elected for life) and N. Kingston (ex-officio). Plans are finalised for new toilet block for church. At camp at Silverton during Easter, 17 Y.P. under leadership of Messrs. Kingston and Hollard, had a time of fellowship and inspiration. Mr. Hollard is conducting a week of special meetings. B.S. is entering efficiency campaign under leadership of C. Ball, with Miss J. Hosking as organiser. Ladies' Guild look forward to another year of constructive service and fellowship. Sickness has been prevalent; some members have been able to resume attendance, but a number are still indisposed. Sis. H. Harris, who has a broken leg, is in hospital. C.Y.F. meets in manse weekly, average attendance being 16. J.C.E. meets on Wednesday afternoons.

Dubbo-Gilgandra (V. S. Dallinger).—Meetings continue with interest, and B.S. at Gilgandra and Eumungerie have reported new scholars. Mr. and Mrs. Smith (Coonamble), Mr. and Mrs. R. Mudford (Padstow), and Mr. and Mrs. D. Barter have been visitors. Two B.S. girls were baptised at gospel service on Mar. 25, and received into fellowship. At recent annual church business meeting church released preacher from term of engagement. At Dubbo B.S., kinders average attendance is 30, and primary and intermediate school shows signs of progress. Visitors to Dubbo were welcomed from Bexley North, Sydney and Canley Vale. Ladies' Fellowship has begun year of service. Recent flood in town of Dubbo did not affect any members' homes. Dubbo is looking forward to erection of chapel and a full-time minister. W. Crossman (Wiley Park) held a fortnight's mission in Dubbo; Gilgandra assisted by visitation.

Inverell (E. McIlhagger, B.A.).—Visitors have been Mr. and Mrs. D. Baxter (Brisbane), Mr. and Mrs. Bartram (Murwillumbah), Mr. and Mrs. M. Smith (Coonamble), Mr. and Mrs. Larcombe (Kingsford), R. Macdonald (Rockdale), G. Warmbrunn (Carnegie, Vic.). Will Uren, first preacher, is now residing in district, and is in active fellowship. Speaker at C.M.S. tea on Apr. 8 was P. Lawrey, who spoke on *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Barbara Hunt and Mrs. W. Dick have returned from hospital after treatment. "Stackaby" chairs for new hall have been purchased with donations from members, amounting to £230. In absence of preacher at Conference, pulpit was occupied by Messrs. Young, A. Mackie and J. Andrew.

Marrickville (P. E. Thomas, B.A.).—Yearly business meeting on Mar. 14 revealed steady progress in work. Higher attendances, better consistent giving, and winning of souls have been revealed. Women's Fellowship sponsored film evening on 17th, to receive donations toward expenses of sweets stall at Pendle Hill (N.S.W.) Boys' Home fete. Joy was experienced at gospel service on 18th, when a young man made his decision. Men's Fellowship on 25th was "open" meeting to women folk, when Miss Higgins (St. John Ambulance Brigade) gave an instructive talk. Fellowship was enjoyed with W. Howard (Merewether) and E. McIlhagger (Inverell) at evening service. Life Gift Fellowship meeting on 28th elected S. James pres., and Mrs. L. Hutchison sec., for coming year. Thanks is expressed to W. Harrison, who has completed 20 years of service as prayer meeting organist. Sympathy is offered to Mrs. J. Pitt and Miss I. French in the Home call of loved ones.

Rockdale (A. B. Clark).—Very good meetings were held on Mar. 25, and several visitors were present. At evening service two Y.P. were baptised, and one young man made the good confession. I.C.E. held social to raise funds for new church building on 24th. Mr. Thomas was morning speaker on Apr. 8. I.C.E. visited Tempe church on 7th, for Woolwich Evangelical meeting.

Mosman (D. W. Tonkin).—On morning of Mar. 25, A. Norling (North Sydney) exhorted church. Visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Magna (Merewether) with their family. J. Henderson (Burwood) was guest speaker on morning of April 8. Soloist for evening meeting on Easter Day, when special meeting was held, was L. Donaldson. Miss Nicolette Hughes (North Balgowlah) was soloist on 8th. B.S. is conducting increase campaign, with class competing against class in *Race to Moon*, with special points for new scholars, quizzes, attendance, etc. 12 new scholars have been procured to date.

Hamilton (C. J. Mackenzie).—For a month prior to Easter, preacher gave a series of special messages. Through courtesy of 2 KO, gospel service was broadcast on Mar. 18. Words of appreciation were received from far and near. Mr. Pope (Mayfield Baptists) was speaker. Mrs. Mackenzie was guest speaker at Annual Conference in Sydney. Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie are spending their annual vacation in Victoria. Mr. and Mrs. H. Parsons have returned from their tour. On Apr. 3, Mr. and Mrs. Symes brought slides and gave a talk about their missionary work in Colombia, South America, for the World-wide Evangelistic Crusade. Mrs. Randall is once again a patient in Royal Hospital. Church thanks all who occu-

pled the pulpit during absence of preacher. Film, *Three Minutes to Twelve*, was screened at gospel service on Apr. 8 by N. Fraser.

South Australia

Fullarton (A. W. Morris).—Attendances are keeping up, likewise the offerings. At gospel service on Apr. 8, three young men made the good confession. Jennifer Outlaw sang a solo. An after-church Y.P.F. was in the hands of C. Patrick; supper concluded the meeting.

Norwood (P. Woolford).—At Harvest Thanksgiving services a large amount of gifts were displayed. 85th anniversary was celebrated, and Mr. Ingham was visiting speaker. Both services were well attended. Offering for Building Renovation Fund amounted to £116/8/-. Evening addresses have been dealing with questions that often perplex people, and interest is being shown in these services. Y.P.C.E. has been commenced, also a cadet section of G.L.B. has commenced with twelve new members. Attendances have been good and work in consolidating is on a high level.

Victoria

Berwick (R. Chamberlain).—Easter service on Good Friday was conducted by combined youth clubs at which Major Page of Salvation Army (Tas.) gave a brief resume of Easter story, and Mr. Chamberlain gave address. There were good attendances at all services on Easter Sunday. Presence of boys from Try Boys' Society at Harkaway has greatly added to morning attendances. Y.P. from Nth. Essendon were entertained in members' homes for weekend April 7-8; a social being held in B.S. hall on 7th. There were good attendances at Harvest Thanksgiving on 8th, proceeds going to C.O.B. and Try Boys. Evening service was preceded by youth tea and showing of slides. Three Y.P. took part in service. Recent interstate visitor was Miss E. Berry (Canberra).

Castlemaine (G. W. Barnett).—Good meeting on Easter Sunday, when a party of Y.P. from Lygon-st. were present. Max McColl, Ian Burgin, Don Atkinson, Max Burgin and Mr. Faull assisted in morning service. At evening service, Geoff. Betteridge was soloist and Ted Landen read. On April 8, Mr. Archbold (Sudan United Mission) was speaker at morning service. Church welcomed Miss Heather Johnston back from N.Z. Ladies held election of officers; pres., Mrs. Barnett; vice-pres., Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Jones; sec., Mrs. Methven; asst.-sec., Mrs. N. Read; treas., Mrs. A. Read. Leaders of Good Companions are Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Sainsbury. At church business meeting, all retiring officers were re-elected. Gifts from harvest festival were sold, and proceeds given

towards milk for India. Aged Sister Harris has passed away; sympathy of church is extended to the family.

Coburg (J. A. Luff).—A lady was baptised on Mar. 18, and received into church fellowship on 25th. There was one decision on April 1. Thanks is extended to all who assisted in Thanksgiving Display, which included a social and sale. Newly-formed C.M.S. is progressing. Church congratulated Lorraine Smedley on her 21st birthday, and her success in nursing finals. P.B.P. and K.S.P. held combined barbecue on Mar. 27. Five new members were enrolled for P.B.P. and four for K.S.P.

Collingwood (H. Cook).—Many members were interested in address given by F. Funston, on behalf of Local Option Alliance. C.E. visited Dr. Singleton's Home for Aged to hold meeting. Miss Val. Harmer (Horsham) has been recent visitor. Church appreciated her help in vocal trios during her stay. Members held picnic at Toorourrong Reservoir on Labor Day, and had an enjoyable time together. Annual business meeting was held on Mar. 15. Thanks is expressed to Miss B. Dusing, for her excellent arrangement of Easter story, held on Mar. 25. Mrs. Cook was soloist on Apr. 8.

North Balwyn (R. Dean).—On Mar. 17, B.S. picnic was held at Olinda Reserve. C.E. Quartet Party conducted a five-night campaign, by which church received an uplift, and several Y.P. re-dedicated their lives to Christ. Four Y.P., who had confessed Christ, were baptised on April 11. Over Easter, most of Y.P. were away at camp, including preacher, who went to S.A. Youth Camp. On Easter Sunday, Mr. Kretschmer conducted both services, assisted by his wife, who brought a message in song to morning meeting, and joined in a duet with her husband at night. Mrs. Pope (East Kew) was organist. On April 8, Miss B. Bates was speaker at 11 a.m., telling of work of Youth Dept. After the service she, with Miss Mitchell, had a session with B.S. teachers and youth leaders. R. Bust (C.O.B.) preached at night.

Northcote (W. Gale).—Preacher continues with his helpful and interesting messages. Church is indebted to the Town Hall authorities for continued use of Town Hall for church services. New building is making steady progress, and is expected to be completed by Sept. Church had another successful year financially, having raised over £5,000 for all purposes. Preacher is on annual holidays.

Pascoe Vale. — B.S. roll (incl. Cradle roll) now totals 96. Anniversary practice is proceeding under leadership of Mrs. Donaldson. Three Y.P. confessed Christ at mission at Essendon church recently. C.E., un-

der leadership of Mr. and Mrs. D. McNeil, has commenced, and attendances are averaging 20-24. Recent speakers have been J. Brown (Mission to Lepers, film); L. A. Trezise, who showed Audio-Visual film; and H. Hammon. Mrs. Donaldson and Mrs. M. Barnden have now returned after illness, and Mrs. Hunter is in hospital.

The Patch (D. Thoday). — Since inauguration of new church, progress continues steadily. Attendances are encouraging, finances satisfactory, B.S. has received seven new scholars. Messages are appreciated, and visiting around district brings larger attendances. On Apr. 8, Miss F. Kennedy and Mrs. Waterman attended both services. At evening service, Miss Kennedy showed slides of New Hebrides to a good congregation, and spoke of the work being done in those islands.

Bendigo (R. V. Holmes). — Many visitors welcomed on April 1, including morning speaker F. Funston (N. Essendon). Good Companions took major part in evening service on 8th under them *Girls' Club Takes Over*. G. Felton (deacon), who shortly leaves for Melbourne, was honored at a social evening. A kitchen tea was tendered Lois Thornton and John Langley (B.S. sec.). Successful competition in vocal and elocution section were conducted in school hall by District C.E. Union. 65 attended our Inter. and Senior C.E. birthday service on 10th, when K. Clinton (Hampton) was guest speaker.

Hamilton (R. W. Saunders). — Church was delighted to renew acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Williams, guest speakers at the Western District Conference. B.S. picnic at Lake Linlithgow was great success. Staff profited greatly by attending Hall's Gap Teacher Training Camp. Judith Butcher, Lynette Jones, Janice Marchant, John Leach, and John Baulch, have been added to B.S. staff. At special meeting of church, the building committee recommendation for construction of new B.S. hall in cement blocks, using voluntary labor, was adopted. Committee was asked to draw up plans and estimates of cost. Church enjoyed Harvest Thanksgiving on Mar. 25, and addresses by R. Saunders and H.M. sec., B. J. Combridge, who also in the afternoon, spoke to Coleraine-Casterton brethren. Thanksgiving offerings went to Manse Debt reduction. At a meeting on Mar. 26, church wished "bon voyage" to Sis. M. Ross, A. Burne and J. Goudie, who were leaving on a four-months' trip to U.S.A. In absence of preacher on leave, speaking appointments have been taken by T. Rivett, R. McPherson and R. Goudie. John Leach has succeeded June Goudie in conducting J.C.E.

Swan Hill (A. Avery). — During preacher's absence at Woorinen on April 8, services at Swan Hill were conducted by F. Leach and E. Mott. Mr. Avery conducted gospel service at Woorinen, after which a young girl confessed Christ. On 7th, the monthly fellowship was held at the home of Mrs. Rogers; there were about 30 present. Among visitors at services recently were Mr. and Mrs. J. Blucher (Morwell). Plans for youth week to be held in May, are well in hand.

North Richmond (C. Dow). — Mr. Eaton (S. Yarra) presided on Mar. 4, at morning service. At evening service, film *Family Worship* was screened. K.S.P. has recommenced after recess, and took part in sports. Team has been entered in Table Tennis competition. R. Dean spoke at B.S. anniversary afternoon of 18th, and P. Foster spoke at night. Miss M. Dean spoke at kinder afternoon on 25th, and C. Dow spoke at night. Attendances at these meetings were lower than previous years. One woman made her decision for Christ on Apr. 11. Combined church fellowship meetings are being held fortnightly, alternatively at Burnley and North Richmond. Visitors recently have included Mr. and Mrs. Williams (Kaniva), and Miss Val. Williams.

Blackburn (R. V. Amos). — During absence of preacher in Queensland, speakers were L. Chapman (C.M.S.) and J. Hodgins. B.S. attendances continue to reach 200 or more. Work has been started on alterations to chapel. Church and B.S. attendances have made the matter urgent.

Reservoir (R. E. Burns). — Christian Youth Club and church combined in holding kitchen tea in honor of Faye Doran and A. Stuchbery. Very well attended film service was held on Mar. 25, when *Journey into Faith* was screened. Annual Good Friday communion service proved a spiritual blessing to the 55 present. Message was given by preacher and solos rendered by Miss Lois Johnson. Offering of £8/10/- was received for Children's Hospital Appeal. Successful business meeting was held, at which new deacons elected were: Messrs. McGlashen, Clift and Welsford. Thanks was expressed to L. Raymond, who had to resign secretaryship on account of ill health. This office has been filled by G. Johnson. Appreciation was also expressed to Messrs. Wollmer, Baker and Whittacker, who did not seek re-election. Over past few weeks there have been three reconsecrations and one confession of faith.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

J. K. Bond (preacher, Wembley church), 101 Essex-st., Wembley, W.A.

Western District's Conference

N.S.W.

History was made between the three small western churches of New South Wales, when representatives met at Dubbo on Feb. 11, at 2 p.m., for the inaugural meetings of the Conference.

Good representations from Gilgandra and Dubbo were present, but unfortunately, owing to floods in the districts, the Mudgee people were unable to attend.

It proved a happy and profitable time of fellowship, with V. Dallinger as president and R. Greenhalgh (Sydney) as guest speaker. Several important items were discussed, among them a Western District's paper, a tape-recorded programme for radio work, and a concentrated effort in one of the three places each six months. This resulted in an evangelistic campaign of a fortnight at Dubbo with Mr. Crossman.

After 5 p.m. tea, a street meeting was held in the residential area, with good effect. At the evangelistic meeting, which followed, the chapel was crowded, closing a most inspiring day.—Mrs. Dallinger.

Central Northern Dist. Conference VIC.

W. Johnstone presided at the conference held at Kyneton on Mar. 3, when special interest was shown in the "stick-to-six" campaign. Conference donated £5 to the Local Option Alliance for the campaign, and another £5 was donated by the Women's Session. Funds were allocated to provide for teams of speakers to some of the smaller churches in the area. The president made special reference to the passing of Mrs. A. M. Parkinson (Castlemaine), paying a tribute to her Christian work in the church, in Conference, and in the community. Officers elected for ensuing year are: pres., R. Holmes; vice-pres., G. Barnett and C. Watson; sec., G. Goudie; treas., E. E. Duus. J. and G. Goudie rendered a duet.

At the Women's Session, the president, Miss J. Goudie, spoke of the esteem and affection which all felt for Mrs. Parkinson, who had been their capable and gracious president many times over the years. Conference donated £5 for support of Bible women in "Our India." Officers are: pres., Miss J. Goudie; vice-pres., Miss F. Vercoe and Mrs. C. Watson; sec., Mrs. C. Houston; treas., Mrs. Langley.

Guest speaker was Mrs. G. Jackel (Wangaratta) who showed lovely colored slides, taken during her trip abroad while attending the World Convention. W. T. Atkin spoke to the men's meeting chiefly on the evils of strong drink and gambling. At night he delighted all with his colored slides of Social Service work, and of the Guest Homes at Oakleigh and Murrumbena. Mrs. Parry, and Mr. Watson sang a duet.

★

"Laborers Together"

This was the theme of the Tasmanian District Conference, held at Devonport over the Easter period. Devotional services were conducted on Good Friday at 11 a.m. and 2.15 p.m., followed by the Home Mission rally at night. An offering of £40 was received for H.M. work. The Women's Conference also presented a cheque for £50, making total H.M. offering approx. £400 from 756 resident members.

Conference business session took place on Saturday morning, and the Women's Conference during the afternoon. There was an inspirational rally at night.

Visiting speakers occupied the pulpits at both Ulverstone and Devonport for the Sunday services.

At Devonport, at 3 p.m., the Bible School presented the Easter message. Following this, Mr. England spoke on behalf of the Bethany Committee. The Boys' Home is now situated at Lindisfarne, a suburb of Hobart, with Mr. and Mrs. Morffew in charge. K. J. Clinton was the guest speaker, and his challenging messages were much appreciated. E. L. Williams represented the Vic.-Tas. Executive.

Next Conference will be held at Hobart over the holiday weekend in March. Dr. Knight is the incoming President.

—D. P. Holloway.

★

North Queensland Family Camp

The three churches in Nth. Qld. sent representatives to a Family Camp at Magnetic Island during Easter, to the total of 31 campers and ten children. Twelve came from Mackay, over 200 miles away, and were delayed a day by floods, both coming and going; nine came from Charters Towers and were also delayed by flooded rivers. In spite of thus losing the first day's camping, a wonderful time was enjoyed by all, under the

leadership of Ken Fennell, and all went home with new friendships formed and a feeling of inspiration.

The Youth Centre at Nellie Bay has been built by the efforts of the Townsville brethren, and is being paid for by the three churches and the Qld. Y.P.D. These churches are 200, and 90 miles apart, and seldom have the experience of combined fellowship. Membership in each is below 30, consequently, only a few are available to do all that must be done in the life of the church. Over the last few years, a determined effort has been made by these few to inspire and hold the young folk growing to an age of decision. Much encouragement has been given by a little help from one Victorian church, one Victorian brother and the Federal Home Missionary Committee.

This was the third camp in the new Youth Centre, and was made more comfortable this time by the installation of electricity. It was divided into two groups; the children, five to eleven years being taken by Miss Eunice Nielsen, while the adults and senior teenagers had study groups and devotional sessions. Lord's Day services were uplifting particularly, and discussions were keen in the groups on the subject of Christian living.

Swimming, hiking, a bus trip, a camp fire, and a fancy dress concert, were thoroughly enjoyed. The men also gave a little time to chopping wood for the next camp in August.

Never in the history of our churches in Nth. Qld. have these three isolated churches come to know each other so well and make so many friendships. This is thanks to our Youth Centre on lovely Magnetic Island.—C. Beale.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

D. D. Stewart (part-time preacher, Mitcham church), 17 Moroney-st., Boronia, Vic. Phone, Bayswater 757.

G. Johnson (secretary, Reservoir church), 6 Cheddar-rd. East, Reservoir. JM 1904.

NOTICE

Would all church secretaries please notify the North Balwyn church, if and when any of their members move into the North Balwyn district; so that they can be contacted without delay. Sec. address: T. O. Turriff, 22 Panoramic-rd., North Balwyn, E.9, Vic.

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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

These Remained

Seven members of the Australian delegation to the recent World Convention have remained in Toronto to enjoy a year's residence "abroad." All are active in the life and fellowship of Hillcrest, and their zeal for all things Christian and Canadian seemingly knows no bound. This group consists of Miss Rae Gluyas, Misses Rosalie and Wendy Matson, Mrs. Munro and her daughter Glenda, and Messrs. Raymond Date and Alan Wells.

Most of this group met for the first time en route to Toronto and will remain fast friends for life. The girls and fellows have all found gainful employment in various positions in the city, and plan to remain until it is possible to finance the rest of their trip home around the world.

All the young people are active members of the College and Business C.Y.F. Rosalie Matson is president of this group (she came in 1954), and is also serving as President of C.Y.F. Central District in Ontario. She served two summer conferences as life-saver. Raymond Date is Treasurer of College and Business C.Y.F. Glenda Munro, Rae Gluyas, and Alan Wells sing in the church choir.

Rosalie Matson and Raymond Date are enrolled in Disciple courses at the College of Churches of Christ.—H. J. Simpson, "Canadian Disciple."

ENGAGEMENT

KENT-COATES.—The engagement is announced of Joyce Grace, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Kent, 51 Euston-rd., Oakleigh, to Graham Frederick, only son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Coates, Waverley-rd., Oakleigh.

IN MEMORIAM

SAUNDERS.—Loving memories of a wonderful father and pa, Frederick Charles, who was called home, April 21, 1954.

"Forever with the Lord."
—Inserted by his loving daughter Valma and son-in-law, Carl, and family, Elsternwick.

SAUNDERS.—Treasured memories of my dear husband, Frederick, who passed to higher life on April 21, 1954.

"Peacefully sleeping."
—Ever remembered by his loving wife, Elizabeth.

GOLDEN WEDDING

MILLS-CLAPHAM.—Walter and Elsie Mills have much pleasure in announcing the 50th anniversary of their wedding, celebrated in Sydney by the late Thomas Bagley, the then minister of Paddington church, N.S.W., on April 13, 1906.

Present address: 25 Chester-rd., Annerley, Qld.

April 17, 1956

OBITUARY

Charles Arthur Grundy.

The church at Murray Bridge suffered a severe loss when Charles Grundy passed peacefully away on March 31, 1956, at the age of 67. Mr. Grundy was born at Goolwa, S.A., in 1889, and spent most of his boyhood between there and Murray Bridge. It was at Goolwa that he joined the church, under the late Gerswin Bennett. Later, he transferred to Murray Bridge, where he was a foundation member. After his marriage in 1914, he settled at the Bridge, and had been in the church there ever since. For many years he had been church organist. He was one of the key workers behind the steady progress of the church. During the last two years he gave a great deal of his time and labor in the building of the youth hall. The church will miss his gracious Christian spirit and helpful advice. To his wife, Mrs. C. Grundy, and daughters Dawn and Nath we extend our deepest sympathy. May the peace which passes all understanding fill their hearts and lives is our prayer.—P.R.W.

Mary Hopetoun Millar.

The church at North Essendon lost a valued member and deaconess, when Mrs. Mary Millar passed away very suddenly in her sleep at the early age of fifty-five. Born at Sunbury, Mrs. Millar lived most of her life in Essendon. She gave herself freely to church and community activities. Her wonderful gift for friendship was never demonstrated by the very large number that came to pay their respects on the day of the funeral. Her first interest was her home and family. She saw in them God's gift and her opportunity for lifting the normal home relationships to a

spiritual fellowship. She was easy to talk to about serious things because she faced life realistically. She lived her life with cheerfulness, but it was a cheerfulness based on a strong faith in her Lord. She had a warm interest in people and helped to carry the burdens of others and to solve their problems. Mrs. Millar is survived by her husband, Mr. Harold Millar; daughter, June, and son John. Finding real comfort in the fellowship of Christ in their grief, those who mourn her passing will be encouraged by her faith to live with her in his eternal presence.—A.E.W.

(other obituaries on page 239)

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April 29. Speakers: 11 a.m., K. A.
Jones (Conf. Pres.); 3 p.m. (P.S.A.)
A. E. White, Nth. Essendon; 7 p.m.,
H. J. Patterson (Hartwell). Fellow-
ship tea at 5 p.m. in the school
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ESSENDON BIBLE SCHOOL AN-
NIVERSARY. May 6: 3 p.m., R. V.
Longthorp; 7 p.m., H. Beitzel. May
13: 3 p.m., L. G. Bond; 7 p.m.,
M. Roberts. Conductor: R. Tippett.

BRUNSWICK BIBLE SCHOOL AN-
NIVERSARY. April 22: 3 p.m., R.
Muller; 7 p.m., H. Sedgeman.
April 29: 3 p.m., D. Hibburt; 7 p.m.,
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OBITUARY

Mrs. M. Bell.

On Feb. 27, it was my sorrowful
duty to lay to rest our beloved sister,
Mrs. Margaret Henrietta Jessie Godson
Bell, who died suddenly on Feb. 24.
Our sister was buried in the Ultima
Cemetery, Vic. At 60 years, Mrs. Bell has
left behind her a rich legacy, in years
of devoted church work, unsurpassed
devotion as a mother to her four chil-
dren, and a friend to all who knew
her. The memory that remains is one
of loyalty and love to her Lord and
her family. Mrs. Bell was held in
high esteem, and this was evident by
the large number who attended the
service at the graveside. Friends came
from as far away as Bendigo and Red
Hill. The brotherhood is indebted to
souls like this, who have held the
torch aloft, even when the ranks are
thinning.—Allan A. Avery.

Alice Maud Robinson.

The passing from this earthly scene
of Mrs. Alice Maud Robinson has re-
moved from the church at Lygon-st.,
Melbourne, one of its oldest and much
loved members. Although for the last
few years this old saint of 88 years
was unable to attend the services, she
was ever with the brethren in spirit,
and always diligent in her enquiries
concerning their church activities. It
was a regular pleasure to some to
visit her in her home, where she loved
to partake of the Lord's Supper on
the Lord's Day afternoon. Mrs. Robin-
son had been a member of Churches
of Christ for almost all her long and
beautiful life, and came to Lygon-st.
40-odd years ago. She loved the place
and its people until the end. Her
physical decline was obvious over a
period of several months, but all were
constantly amazed at the clarity of
her mind and the cheerfulness of her
spirit. She just "fell asleep" in Jesus.
The death of an old Christian, whose
life was so steadfast and whose eter-
nal hope in Christ was so bright,
leaves a sense of victory with those of
like precious faith and hope who
remain.—L. G. Burgin.

Dr. Clement Armour Verco.

The passing of Dr. C. A. Verco on
March 29, the day following his 80th
birthday, removed from the life of the
church in Australia one of the most
beloved of its members. Doctor gave
his life to Christ as a lad in Adel-
aide, and was baptised at Kermode-
st., North Adelaide. As a young man
he came to Sydney, where he took his
degrees in medicine at Sydney Univer-
sity. He attended Enmore church, and
there met Isabel Hunter, who later
became his wife, and mother of Doreen
and David. Mrs. Verco died about
twelve years ago. Doctor served the
church in many ways. As Confer-
ence President, member of the Preach-
ers' Provident Board, State Advisory

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Board and Registrar of the Property Management Committee he gave valued service. For many years he was an officer of the Enmore church, and later was appointed an elder of Chatswood. As Knight of the Order of St. John he made a big contribution to that organisation, and the very large representation of the Order at the funeral service testified to the high esteem in which he was held. Chatswood chapel was crowded for the service at 9.15 on Saturday morning, 31st, conducted by his lifelong friend, Ira A. Paternoster, assisted by Principal Stephenson, Conf. Pres., and Athol Cust, representing the St. John Order and the Chatswood church. To Miss Doreen and David, and to other relatives, sincere sympathy is extended. —I.A.P.

H. Park.
 The passing, at the age of 69 years, of Harry Park, on March 3, 1956, at his home, 42 Curtin-st., Flora Hill, Bendigo, Vic., will revive memories in the minds of many who knew him as a fine Christian gentleman, who loved his Lord and his fellowmen. Mr. Park was born at Shepparton, Vic., and at an early age went to Ascot Vale with his parents, the late James and Margaret Park. Mr. Park endeared himself to all who knew him, and strove at all times to convey to the people with whom he came into contact the Christian way of living. He is survived by his widow, Lucy Park, two daughters, Nancy (Mrs. E. Broad) and Jean (Mrs. J. Hosking), two brothers, Steve (Ascot Vale) and Jim (Sydney), and three sisters, Lil (Mrs. H. Knight, Dover, Tas.), May (Mrs. Purves, Qld.), and Violet (Mrs. Owens, Dover, Tas.).

Mrs. A. Madel-Cole.
 The church at Collins-st., Hobart, and the Australian brotherhood have been saddened by the sudden Home call on March 17, of Mrs. A. Madel-Cole, who had served the church in many ways, and was much esteemed for her works' sake and generosity. Our late sister represented Tasmanian Churches of Christ at the Buffalo World Convention, and served as President of the Federal Women's Conference held in Hobart, Oct., 1950. Having had many years' membership, she helped in various capacities as B.S. teacher, choir member, and leader in Dorcas and other ladies' auxiliaries. She had gone for a short holiday in Ulverstone, where she was taken ill and died in the Devon Hospital at Latrobe within a few days. Some years ago she met with an accident which resulted in the amputation of an arm. Later, whilst in America, she was injured in a motor accident, which impaired her vision. Latterly, though not at all well, she had attended, when possible, the services of the church, where she set an example of simple trust in the Lord she loved.

The service at the Hobart Crematorium was conducted by H. Street, and attended by relatives, friends and officers of the church. We at Collins-st. will miss her, but she will live in our memories.—J.P.

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