

THE AUSTRALIAN

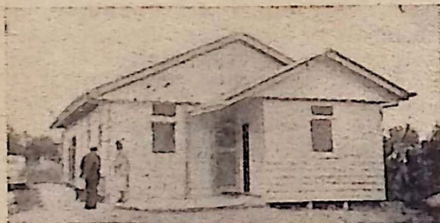
Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

TWO NEW CHAPELS

Tootgarook, Vic.

The church at the holiday centre of Tootgarook, Vic., rejoiced in the opening of a chapel and Bible school hall on Sat., Dec. 31, 1955. Although yet incomplete, it promises to be a very attractive and comfortable building. Work to date has been carried



out by a small band of local members, helped by visiting friends.

In a simple ceremony outside the chapel at 3.30 p.m., B. F. Huntsman, Vic.-Tas. Conf. Pres., handed the key to Mrs. Magilton (with her husband, a pioneer of the cause), who opened the building. With a capacity of 200, the chapel soon filled for the service which followed, led by Mr. Huntsman. Others who took part were Mrs. Ryall (soloiste), B. J. Combridge (speaker), T. R. Morris (greeting), C. G. Taylor (prayer), J. D. Watt (reading), while B. Cochaud spoke as secretary.

Basket tea was served in the Progress Hall (where the church had previously met), and at the evening

youth rally Steven Corlett projected the film, *The Stones Cry Out*. A duet was sung by Misses Watt.

On Sunday, Jan. 1, the morning service was crowded to overflowing, with 250 in fellowship around the Lord's Table. Mr. Baensch presided and B. F. Huntsman spoke. Another capacity crowd was present for the gospel service, when F. A. Youens spoke, and messages in song were presented by Mrs. Cole. It was an inspiring weekend for the church.

The help of many was appreciated, especially that of the small band of ladies, who conducted a stall on the Saturday, and presented the church officers with £50.

Visitors holidaying on the peninsula are assured of a warm welcome. Any who can help in a working bee over Australia Day weekend for completion of the chapel will be especially welcome. Contact Mr. Cochaud at McCrae P.O. if you can help. Meals will be arranged.

Caveside, Tas.

Over 130 people gathered for the opening of the new chapel at Caveside, Tas. The ceremony was performed and the meeting presided over by H. Crowden, now of Ulverstone, who was one of the foundation members of the church at Caveside, and from 1918 to 1935 had been the mainstay, under God's guidance, of the work. He told how he had been at the

opening of the old building over 40 years previously.

D. Holloway (Devonport-Ulverstone) gave the dedicatory address.

Many letters and telegrams of congratulations, and greetings were read. Members were present from Sulphur Creek, Ulverstone, Devonport, Invermay and Margaret-st., also the Home Missionary from the Methodist Circuit of Mole Creek-Chudleigh and Caveside district.

R. M. Wilson (Invermay) gave a stirring gospel address at night, prior to which he commended the local church on the opening of the new chapel, which cost approximately £2,500, and was opened free of debt. He said, "Which ever way I have viewed it from, it is full of dignity and beauty," and he also remarked that the architect (Ralph Spinks, of Launceston) was to be congratulated, as well as all those who had helped in any way.—V. E. Harvey, sec.



Ten Years in Carnarvon

After Ten Years

There have been some failures, as there are failures, unfortunately, even among those who promise so well in our home churches. But, looking from the vantage point of ten years, we can see that a work of grace has gone on, and that there are many young people who owe both their physical and spiritual well-being to the lives and labors of those who toiled through the years.

Violet came in at the beginning of our history here. Today she is married to a Christian young man and maintaining a home that is a credit to her. May was one of the very little ones in the early days, she is now in Perth at High School. So are Katy, Duxie and Ronnie. Whatever they may make of their lives, it is only the Mission that has given them the opportunity to be where they are today.

But how can the missionary labor of ten years be assessed? Much of the work may have seemed humdrum, routine, back-breaking. It is hard work. The pressure of needy cases has been so great that there has never been a sufficiency of staff, and workers have had to accept heavy loads. We are still short of workers today. But, looked at over the years, it is obvious that even the most menial task has been part of the building of Christ's Kingdom.

The Next Ten Years

We anticipate that in the near future less emphasis will need to be put on buildings and equipment, and more on the young people growing up in the Mission. The first and continuous emphasis needs to be upon spiritual things. This alone will equip our Mission young people for the problems and difficulties they will have to face in life.

Facilities and staff will be required for practical training. Boys must be equipped with knowledge and practical experience in woodwork, gardening, animal care and general farm work. Girls need training in cooking, sewing and general housework.

Another aspect of the work which will require a growing emphasis is that of the after-care of our young people. As they go out into the world they need adequate pastoral care, counselling, encouragement and guidance. The Mission needs to be their spiritual home, the Mission staff their best allies in the battle of life.

These ideals have always been before us, but the pressure of expansion and the shortage of staff have prevented their full achievement. In these matters the next ten years will count.—D. G. Hammer.

Christian Men Serving

The Vic-Tas. Properties Corporation and the Campbell Edwards Trust combined to purchase from the Victorian State Rivers and Water Commission seven buildings to meet the urgent needs of new Bible schools. Thousands of parents in rapidly growing new areas are calling to us to provide their children with a moral and spiritual basis of development.

On Monday, Dec. 26, 1955, nine men arrived at Eildon to begin dismantling these beautifully built prefabricated Swedish buildings. Others came on Tuesday, until there were 30 willing volunteers from Parkdale, Moreland, Coburg, Brunswick, Pascoe Vale and Bendigo, together with the the Christmas family of husband and wife and two girls, who had only arrived from England a fortnight before. Leading two of the groups were Frank Jones and Bert Barnden, both master builders and B.S. teachers. Joseph Plummer supplied tea and biscuits. Helpers came in cars, caravans and wagons, and even the children were given pincers with which to pull out nails. Experts took the roof off an eighty foot building in the time it took me to drink a cup of tea.

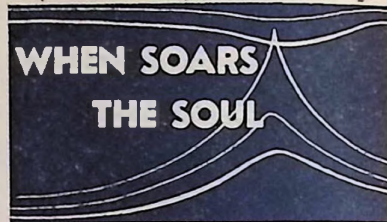
Section by section, partitions and walls were taken apart (a real joiner's job), to the admiration of the builders. Day by day the men worked and whistled, as they found the sections already marked by the Swedish makers where they were to fit. Then the transports came and loaded the buildings for their respective destinations. Despite appalling weather in Melbourne and elsewhere over the holiday period, the workers at Eildon were blessed with sunshine.

Christian men serving will complete the task of re-erecting them where they can best serve the new generation. Men like these are close to the heart of the Master who said, "We must work . . . while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work."—T. R. Morris.



Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Patterson will commence a ministry with the church at Warracknabeal, Vic., early this year. Mr. Patterson, who graduated from the College of the Bible in 1952, is a son of H. J. Patterson, M.A., minister at Hartwell, Vio.

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



Never give your hearts to this world or to any of the things in it. A man cannot love the Father and love the world at the same time. For the whole world-system, based as it is on men's primitive desires, their greedy ambitions and the glamor of all that they think splendid, is not derived from the Father at all, but from the world itself. The world and all its passionate desires will one day disappear. But the man who is following God's will is part of the Perseverance, and cannot die . . . If we are silly enough to refuse to admit that we are sinners, then we live in a world of illusion, and truth becomes a stranger to us.—1 John 2: 15-17; 1: 8 (Phillips).

Most of the members of the family had been compelled to leave home for distant places, to find spheres in which they could use their talents, and perhaps because they were too busy, they sent little news home of how they were faring. At last the son who had remained at home found it possible to leave the farm for a holiday, which he spent in visiting relatives who had gone away. When he returned home a family party was held, so that all interested might hear his news, and he held them entranced as he told of Cousin James here, and Uncle Fred somewhere else, and of all the others he had seen. "And did you go and see John?" asked one of the company. "Of course," he replied, "I saw a lot of John. John is getting on in the world." There was a moment's quiet, and then the grey-headed mother by the fireside asked, "Which world?"—From "Ezra's Table Talk" in "The Methodist Recorder."

Come ye aside from all the world
holds dear,
For converse which the world has
never known;
Alone with Me and with My Father
here,
With Me and with My Father not
alone.

—E. H. Bickersteth.

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NEW YEAR HONORS

WILL H. CLAY, M.B.E.

Members of Australian Churches of Christ and many other friends of Will H. Clay were delighted when it was announced in the New Year Honors that this well-loved veteran leader of Social Service in the brotherhood had received the M.B.E.

Though he was born in Birmingham, England, Mr. Clay was brought to Australia at the age of two, and it was in this country that he found a full and satisfying life-work. He has a splendid record of forty-four years' service in our Australian churches.

While his ministries at South Melbourne, Vic. and Subiaco, W.A. were outstanding, he soon showed after his appointment as secretary and superintendent of the Victorian churches' Social Service Department in 1926 that this was to be his major work. He has served as Director since 1950, and through the years has represented the churches on many public organisations.

Many will recall the Food for Britain Appeal which he organised after the last war, resulting in over 10,000 parcels being forwarded through the Social Service Department. But many would regard as his major contribution to the brotherhood the establishment of three splendid homes for the aged—the Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh; the Emmaus Rest Home, Murrumbena; and the Will H. Clay Nursing Home, Murrumbena.

He was President of the Victorian Conference, 1935-36, and it is fitting that B. F. Huntsman, present Vic.-Tas. President, should write: "Victoria congratulates W. H. Clay, M.B.E., on the honor bestowed upon him by the Queen. Victoria has benefited in a special way from his labors. While the honor is a personal one, it does recognise what has been done under his leadership, by a brotherhood co-operating together in social responsibilities."

Social Service leaders in other States have known the help and shared the enthusiasms of the Federal Director, and will readily join in the congratulations our brother is deservedly receiving. May there be yet much joy in service for Mr. and Mrs. Clay.

B. F. HUNTSMAN

B. F. Huntsman, Vic.-Tas. President, is a typical representative of those consecrated business men to whose selfless leadership our brotherhood has always owed so much. We honor him and all other

State Presidents as they enter the last quarter of a very busy year in the churches' service.

The Melbourne Age (7/1/56) featured a fine New Year message from Mr. Huntsman, which we are happy to reproduce:

"With the festive season over, and most workers now back at their daily responsibilities, we can now reflect perhaps a little more clearly on the ministry of living during 1956. Living is a ministry first to ourselves, for out of life's experiences comes a widening of the horizons. We do not live to ourselves—always there are others to be considered, to influence our future, consciously or unconsciously; and we can decide which of these influences will be allowed to dominate our living.

"The strangled life is one in which there is no great priority. Life needs a saving priority, 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.' But living is also a ministry to others. With the coming to Australia of many people a little different in color, speech and habits, and with the athletes of the world visiting us this year, we will have many opportunities of building goodwill towards others.

"Let us make 1956 a year of building circles of friendship, crowding out intolerance, hate, pride, insincerity and over-indulgence, and circling in love, consideration, truth, friendliness, temperance, and all that will help to make the heart of Australia Christian."

Mr. and Mrs. KEITH SKILLICORN

An honor of a different kind must go to these young Australian missionaries, serving with our British churches' Mission in India.

Readers will remember that charges were brought against a fellow-missionary, Jack Christie, and that much expense has been involved in a succession of inconclusive trials and other legal activity. The bitter experiences involved made Keith Skillicorn believe that Mr. Christie had been right in originally wishing to go to jail, rather than be involved in frustrating litigation. As a result, when charges were levelled against Keith himself, he refused bail, and was imprisoned as from December 14. "Suffering love is the greatest weapon God has given us," he affirms. "If we litigate against corruption we only accentuate it."

We urge the brotherhood to remember Mr. and Mrs. Skillicorn and their young family in earnest prayer. Mrs. Skillicorn writes, calmly dependent on the care of God and thankful for the many letters she has received.

FRED COLLINS, veteran preacher, searches the brotherhood's soul in this first article of a new monthly series

VOICES OF THE VETERANS (1)

A. C. Caldicott's article, "Restoration or Monumentation" (A.C. 20/12/55) will provoke thought in your readers' minds, and depression in the hearts of some. However we may read our statistics, the fact is undeniable that we are making little, if any, progress. A crumb of comfort may be picked up from the conclusions of Mr. Caldicott when we examine the Conference reports of each State, and similar figures for the several denominations, but there is little to be elated about. Having lived, and ministered, for some years in every State of the Commonwealth, except Western Australia; and having a fairly clear recollection of the history of Churches of Christ in something over sixty years, I may be pardoned for stating my reasons for the retrogression. It is not possible to give all of them, for some are major, and others minor.

Among the major ones, the growing

Lack of Interest in Evangelism

is undoubtedly one of the deadliest. The gospel service is relatively unimportant to perhaps half of our membership. At any rate, quite half do not attend. We have lost the vital quality of enthusiasm. This is due, in part at any rate, to the altered attitude of Christians to Scriptural verities. The urgency of the gospel no longer moves us, and we seldom beseech men to "flee from the wrath to come."

Ecclesiasticism has paralysed a majority of our churches. A full-time trained preacher is demanded in nearly every congregation, whether small or great. We admit that Australian people are more cultured than they were fifty years ago, and a majority of Australia's youth has some high school education; but the sad fact is that young men, without full theological training, are not often encouraged to exercise their gifts, and the rank and file membership deprecates the "lay preacher." Those who take the course of studies, provided by training classes in almost every State, find little opportunity to exercise their gifts, or become soul winners. A brother (now retired) told me that some years ago the Lismore circuit supplied fifteen preaching stations with speakers, who were trained chiefly by the minister of the central church. The

circuit system, so splendidly demonstrated by the Methodists, is one of the answers to the question, "How shall we stop the drift?"

I am not opposed to educating and training our preachers. Every man who contemplates a full-time ministry should get as much training as possible, but there are many men in our churches, some of them well educated and very capable, who could give effective witness if encouraged to do so. Those of us who urged the establishment of the splendid institutions at Glen Iris, Woolwich, Glen Leith, and elsewhere are disappointed that the great progress we predicted has not come. The Colleges are not to blame. Their work is of great value, but we do blame the churches which said, "The colleges will train the men, and they will do the work"; "We do not want to see every Tom, Dick and Harry on the platform." If Tom, Dick, and Harry cannot speak to edification, and are incapable of taking a course of training, they ought not to be there; but if they are acceptable preachers we are making a serious blunder by not using them.

Let us get back to the New Testament ideals—"No difference between clergy and laity," "All Christians are priests unto God," etc. Do not wait for fully equipped places of worship, and well organised congregations. Use everyone able and willing to serve. "Let him that hears, say come."

Suffering from Delusions

Another major hindrance is, in my opinion, the delusion that beautiful buildings, splendid equipment, Conference departments to take the initiative, ordination of ministers, well trained choirs, and elaborate planning are necessary before we can commence to enlarge our borders. I am not against any, or all, of these aids, but if we fail to use the means made ready to our hands, we will be routed by the enemy. When I look back on the days of my young manhood, and think of the almost complete lack of equipment prevailing, and the bewildering organisation of today, I am filled with amazement. Setting up the Lord's Table in a house, commencement of gospel meetings in a hall, and the use of earnest, perhaps untrained, preachers meant progress, and the establishment of a church. This

is precisely how the outstanding success of the work at Kilburn, S.A., was achieved. Scores of other places began in the same way. Space does not permit further illustrations. Let us get back to "the old paths." The finest opportunities in history are with us today. Housing areas, soldier settlements, new industrial suburbs, etc. Get after the children, and you will grow a church. They will flock to your outdoor Bible schools, "Happy Hours," Youth Fellowships, etc. It is not so much the theory of "our plea," as its practice; not the building but the people in it; not the intellectual presentation of the message, but the spirit of the messenger that matters. Let the Church plan, pray, push, proclaim, and postulate the gospel. Ignorant ranting will get us nowhere, but do let us once more convince the people of the reality of the Christian life by a living and active presentation of "the truth as it is in Jesus."



Since returning from overseas with his wife early in December, F. N. Lee, of the church at Thornbury, Vic., has been active in sharing information and inspiration received, especially in his whirlwind tour with Mark Rutherford of men's work in the United States. "The Christian-Evangelist" reports him as having addressed men's rallies in thirty cities of U.S.A., with more than 7,000 in attendance. He is eager to see a great impetus in men's work in our Australian churches as a result of his experiences. Mr. and Mrs. Lee have been warmly welcomed by their friends at Thornbury and elsewhere.

Warren Spinks, a 16-year-old member of the Margaret-st. church, Launceston, rescued three young people from a flooded river in Launceston during the Christmas holidays. The parents of one of the rescued children has donated a shield, to be known as the Warren Spinks Life Saving Shield, to be competed for annually by Senior Schools in Launceston.

Eric T. Hart is completing a successful ministry with the church at Toowoomba, Qld. It has now been officially announced that Mr. and Mrs. Hart have accepted a call to minister to the church at Leicester, England. They will prove a decided acquisition to the British brotherhood.

MISSIONARY NEWS

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

Overseas Notes

INDIAN NEWS.

Dr. Badiri has been engaged to help Dr. Patil at Dhond for a period of twelve months. The work at Dhond has been made more difficult because of loss of the services of Dr. Michael.

It is anticipated that an Australian doctor will leave for India later in the year.

Our Indian brethren seek our prayers in these changing and difficult days. Indianisation, whilst a necessity, nevertheless brings its own problems. The problems have not been made easier by the return of some of our older experienced workers in recent months.

Christmas cheer monies have been appreciated once again this year, enabling all districts to have some share. Despite the good rains and more seasonable employment there are still many under-nourished people in the villages. Relief is still needed for some of these folk.

Miss Vawser writes, "We certainly thank the Board for generous Christmas gifts. Honestly, you do go out of your way to make us realise your thoughtfulness of us all. We never doubt your consideration of us all. Truly, we will never be able to tell you how much we owe you all. At all times, just to tell you of our problems seems to be such a help."

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Heard have settled in again at Baramati, having charge again of the Boys' Home and the general evangelistic work. Other changes that have taken place are: John Bairagi goes back to the Primary school as Principal, whilst Miss K. Taylor, who was Principal of the school during the period Mr. Bairagi was away, takes over the direction of the women's evangelistic work. Miss H. Skuce has been transferred from the women's evangelistic work to share in the work at the Bhigwan station.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Munro are expected back from America about February, and will spend a short time in Australia prior to their departure for the Indian field. Mr. Munro has been studying at the Phillips Univer-

sity, Oklahoma, whilst Mrs. Munro has done deputation work in various parts. Mrs. Munro's support, as heretofore, will continue from America.

Mr. and Mrs. Colin Thomas and family arrived in Australia by the Strathnaver, and will locate in Melbourne during January. At each port in Australia en route to Melbourne they were met by representatives and relatives. A good trip was experienced and all the family are well. They also report that our missionaries are in good health. After their sojourn in Melbourne, this family will live in Bordertown district for a period.

Both the Field and the Board have expressed their thanks and appreciation for their twenty years of service to India.

ISLANDS.

The launch Grace, that was donated by a Victorian family for Island service, has rendered excellent service during the whole time of operation. It has now reached the stage where repairs are necessary and very costly, since all parts have to be shipped from Sydney and have freight and customs added.

Commenting on these problems, H. J. Finger, writes, "You may have noted there has been some expense for parts to replace some that have worn out. The engine is beginning to show signs of wear, and will have to have careful nursing from now on to keep it going satisfactorily. The engine has done a lot of work in the seven years we have had it, and has done about 1,700 flat out, which is the equivalent of 60-70 miles in a car doing the same number of hours in a car going flat out. We have had no grounds for complaint, since it has never failed us when out at sea. There will be other parts needed before very long, so expenses will continue."

As this launch will have a few more years' reasonable service before a new engine is installed, we will, for safety's sake, have to keep the launch in normal repair. As our general expenses are high already, and these costly repairs have not been anticipated on the budget, we would be open to receive special donations for this purpose. It should be recalled that we also have two smaller launches, necessary to the work, which also have to be maintained. Please mark special gifts "Launch Fund."

Island mails, which have caused concern for some time, are now more regular. A steamer service has been restored, and the plane service which was cancelled for a time now operates a feeder service from Santo to Noumea, where mails are carried to Australia by the French line. Our workers will not feel so isolated now mails are being received more regularly.

CHINA.

Christmas mail was received from Pearl Anderson in which she sends greetings to her many Australian friends. She reports that she is well and continues in hospital service. Often the Government takes her from the city work to outlying villages to hold classes for village girls. She enjoys this type of service, though it does cause some problems at her maternity hospital. She still continues the work for Chinese mothers and children, regardless of whether they can afford fees or not. Up to date, she says, "While there have been times of shortage, 'the Lord provides'."



"Stick to Six in Fifty-Six"

All leaders of the various Churches in Victoria have given their official statements favoring retention of Six o'Clock Closing. Their leadership in this important matter will be a call to all church people to pray, to work, to organise and give support financially, so that a resounding victory may be won on March 24, 1956.

The Ministers' Fraternal throughout the State have been requested to organise every corner of their respective districts, with the help of Temperance people, and calling in the assistance of many who, while not abstainers, stand strongly for Six o'Clock. Victory is assured if everyone does his part. If Victoria loses, South Australia would be immediately attacked, but if we win we can then urge the Government to restore many former benefits.

The Alliance has ample literature for distribution and will use other means of publicity as well. Please contact your ministers. Join up with your district organisation and help win a grand victory for righteousness at the coming Poll.

The Alliance needs your financial assistance for full publicity in the Press, by radio, through literature and other means.—Robertson McCue, Vic. Local Option Alliance.

R. GREENHALGH, N.S.W. Youth Director, reports

Hurricane Hits N.S.W. Youth Centre

The very splendid camp being held at the Illawarra Youth Centre was suddenly stricken on Friday, Dec. 30, by a hurricane hail storm. This storm climaxed a series of thunder storms in the State, many of them around the Illawarra area. Between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. the dark clouds began to gather, and suddenly the storm was on us. Visibility was practically nil, the hail was deafening. A water spout developed on the lake, and seemed to draw the lake water into the air to about 80 to 100 feet high. This cut a path through the water and when it hit the land toppled over some of the trees on the water front. Fortunately, we were just off its path. But with the first thrust of the storm, the tents were flattened and two irreparably damaged, being torn to ribbons. One smaller tent was damaged, but can be repaired. The Burwood cabin, recently erected by the Burwood church, was lifted off its foundations and twisted around, so that it is about twelve feet out of alignment. The cabin was torn from a 600 gallon tank, which was left standing. Next to the Burwood cabin was the partly constructed "Isobel" cabin, being erected to the memory of Mrs. Ada Reilly. This totally collapsed. On the opposite side was the C.T.B.Y.P.S.C.E. Cabin being erected by the members of the City Temple Brotherhood Society of Christian Endeavor. This was moved from its foundations about six feet. The campers had decided to give the afternoon to a working bee, and some of them, being plumbers and builders, were putting on the roof of this cabin. They were just on the ridging, when they had to stop because of the storm. It now looks as though this cabin and the Burwood cabin will have to be pulled down and re-built because of the damage to the bearers.

Application has been made to the Insurance Company, but there is a possibility that the cabins were not insured because they were under construction and not completed.

A piece of weatherboard from one of the cabins pierced the end of the Assembly Hall through the weatherboard and masonite lining. The same thing happened to the Wollongong cabin.

The experience was particularly terrifying for some, and we were most fortunate to have had Dr. Roy Millar of Burwood as guest speaker for the day. He was able to attend to

several cases of hysteria and shock, and we are most grateful to him.

The campers were splendid, and quickly rallied round to rescue whatever could be rescued. The immediate problem was accommodation; with tents ruined and cabins uninhabitable, this was a very real problem. Fortunately, the very brotherly churches of Wollongong and Warrawong came to our aid and offered accommodation for the number for whom we could not cater. Other local folk also made offers.

As a result of this lack of accommodation, camp had to be broken on the Saturday instead of the Monday.

The Camp was marked for excellent team work, co-operation and spiritual values. The evening devotions were presented in dramatisation, tableau

or mime fashion, and were original and powerful.

The Youth Centre is becoming increasingly popular, and it is hoped to have the cabins re-erected as soon as possible to cater for the youth groups who have the Youth Centre booked for group activities.

We owe grateful thanks to our Heavenly Father that there was no loss of life. We can see that this was more than possible. We are mindful of the protective hand of God as revealed in Job when material things were affected, but the Lord said, "But save his life" . . .

Because the Girls' and Boys' Camps are smaller these will not be affected by the lack of accommodation, as was the larger camp, and these will be held as planned.

THE MINISTRIES OF OUR



Programme for February Mrs. G. Stirling (Canberra)

THEME:

God's Garden Speaks to Us of Loyalty Through the Myrtle Tree

Silent Meditation with background music.

PRAYER.

Father, we would be loyal to thee, to thy Church, and to the great brotherhood. We would be loyal, too, to all that Jesus taught us in the New Testament. Grant us strength to prove our loyalty as we live every day according to thy plan, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

HYMN.

No. 608, "Sow in the morn thy seed."

SELECTED VERSES.

"In the beginning, God created heaven and earth" (Gen. 1: 1). "God saw everything he had made, and behold it was very good" (Gen. 1: 31). "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Ps. 24: 1). "I will lift

mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help" (Ps. 121: 1).

SOLO.

"Trees."

SPECIAL PRAYERS by two women for our brotherhood work.

MEDITATION.

Matt. 6: 24-34.

For a perfect picture of God's creative power, one has only to see the trees in Canberra. They are always lovely, in every season of the year. Autumn is the most colorful season. It is then that the trees wear their vivid colors of bright red, orange, gold and green. Springtime brings pale green shoots and perfect blossoms. There is even beauty in winter's bare branches, while in summer there is plenty of shade under the darker green leaves.

All this beauty belongs to God. He made it, and it isn't hard to believe it, either. "God created it, and it was very good."

God continues to re-create, year after year, providing all that is necessary for the trees to carry out their ceaseless and faithful round-the-year changes. Their loyal response to

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God's provision and care is unquestionable.

We, too, belong to him. He has created us, too, and put us in charge of his "garden." He has given his creation in to our hands as a sacred trust to use for the benefit of all mankind.

Are we loyal in the way we handle his creation?

Our country has been troubled for a long time with soil erosion, floods, famines, and over-worked soil. Much of this has been caused by man thoughtlessly uprooting trees, and not replacing the goodness in the soil. God has been loyal. He has not withheld any good thing, sun, rain, and germination. But God needs man's

loyal co-operation in order to produce the bountiful harvest.

It is so important to remember that "the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." We must use the earth well, as God wills, that all people will reap the benefit of his provision.

God's creation responds to his loving care and provision.

Do we, in our lives, respond in the same consistent way? Do we "seek first his kingdom"? Are we deeply concerned about helping others to know the fulness of life that God can give? Or do we go our own sweet ways, pleasing ourselves, fretting, and worrying about the big "I"? Is our loyalty to him and to his Church as faithful as that of the rest of his

creation? Yet we are of more value than many trees. We know ourselves, where we stand. Let us respond to him with all the loyalty we can muster, that others may see the beauty of our "colors" and the richness of our living, and want to live God's way too.

PRAYER.

MINUTES.

CORRESPONDENCE AND BUSINESS.

MISSIONARY LETTER.

HYMN.

No. 616, "True-hearted, whole-hearted, faithful and loyal."

BENEDICTION.

From Geneva, MARGARET RHODES shows how Christians are

PRAYING FOR UNITY

"The only path to the realisation of Christian unity is the path of prayer." These words of a Swedish pastor express the conviction which lies behind the rapidly growing observance of an annual period of prayer for the unity of the Church. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed Jan. 18-25, 1956. Christian unity may be sought for in the theological discussion and negotiation. But, as Olive Wyon says in a valuable little book,* "God alone can create unity; that is why prayer must be our principal activity." And because our very divisions have fragmented the vision of the one Church for which Christ prayed, that prayer must be for unity "as Christ wills and by the means he wills."

This was the spirit in which the late Abbe Paul Couturier, of Lyons, who came to be called the Apostle of Christian unity, worked and suffered. Through the transformation of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, founded in 1907 by two Anglican priests, he set himself to light a fire of charity in the hearts of all Christians, which would burn all barriers of hatred and suspicion, and shed upon their minds the light of the one Truth.

For some Roman Catholics, it is true, the Week is an occasion for prayer "for the conversion of all men to Christ within the fold of the Roman Catholic Church." Nevertheless, multitudes of Christians have accepted Couturier's basis and have made this Week of Prayer an event of devotional and ecumenical significance. Its ob-

servance was endorsed in 1940 by the leaders of the Faith and Order movement and continues to be vigorously commended by the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches.

It draws in Christians from the Reformed and Lutheran Churches, from many other Protestant bodies, from the Anglican Communion throughout the world, as well as from the Orthodox Church, and from Roman Catholic churches in France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Hungary, Ireland, the U.S.A.; from a leper colony in the South Seas and an Indian village in Mexico. The Roman Catholic literature has penetrated this year to Brazil, Iran, Iraq, Korea; the Faith and Order leaflet has been translated into various languages, including Thai.

Some account of the diverse ways in which Christians use this Week may be of help to others who wish to join in this great venture of prayer. In the United Kingdom its observance is already widespread, with public meetings held in many cities. It would be hard to over-estimate the importance which many Christians in East Germany attach to this occasion for united prayer, in the faith that "our walls of separation do not reach to heaven," as an East German pastor put it. One congregation in Berlin uses each evening during the Week for a period of prayer based on study of the great pioneers of Christian unity. There is already a well-established observance among many German Protestants of the Week of Prayer of the World's Evangelical Alliance at the beginning of January.

In Australia, as January falls in the height of the summer holiday season, the period between Ascension and Pentecost has been chosen as a more appropriate time. An unofficial committee was formed in 1955 with the approval of the various Churches, and it issues a leaflet and arranges mid-day services in the cities during that week.

In many ways Christians are awakening to the glory of the vision which is set before us, and to repentance for the sins which, by perpetuating divisions, deprive us of its realisation. And once their minds and hearts have been stirred by that vision, they will surely not be content to pray for unity during only one week of the year, but will pray faithfully and continually for the fulfilment of Christ's promise that there shall be "one flock, and one Shepherd."



The Light of Age

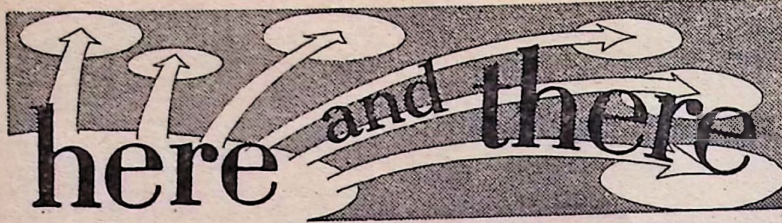
The light of age, the lamp of youth,
Our guide in righteous ways,
The sacred page aglow with truth
Will brighten all our days.

The Bible slakes the thirsty soul,
And cheers the weak and faint;
Its message makes the sinner whole
And edifies the saint.

Thy Word reveals thee as thou art,
As close as hands and feet;
The One who heals the broken heart
And makes our lives complete.

—P. L. Stone.

* *Praying for Unity*, Edinburgh House Press, 1955.



Church reports have accumulated over the vacation period, and we have given them as much right of way as possible in this issue. Reporters will notice that any items recording events more than a month old have been deleted. This principle will be upheld in future reports. For preference, send us fortnightly reports, while news is still fresh!

Reporters and advertisers are asked to note that, owing to the Australia Day holiday, copy for our Jan. 31 issue must reach this office no later than first mail Thursday, Jan. 26, instead of the usual first mail Friday.

Foundation stone of a new hall for the church at Fullarton, S.A., was laid on Saturday, Dec. 17, by the S.A. Conf. Pres., G. Whiting, A. W. Morris (Fullarton minister) presided, and Albert Anderson led the dedicatory prayer. The many friends present were served with afternoon tea under the trees adjoining the manse, proceeds going to the Building Fund. Conference departments and other churches were well represented, and several generous donations were received.

The Austral is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to the office staff, Miss Janice Watt (Tootgarook church) and Miss Joan Neville (North Williamstown church).

A mantel radio and wallet of notes were presented to Mr. and Mrs. S. Neighbour and son Graham by the church at Blackburn, Vic., at a farewell musical evening. Splendid attendances and decisions by three young men were features of Mr. Neighbour's last two services, and reports show that his work has brought the church to a very healthy state.

The Victorian Churches of Christ C.E. Committee arranged a Christmas tree and afternoon at Camp Waterman, Monbulk, on Dec. 17, when a number of church members and friends made their cars available to transport occupants and staff of the Oakleigh Guest Home to Monbulk, where a delightful afternoon was held. Guests and visitors were welcomed by D. W. Mansell (chairman, C.E. Committee), B. F. Huntsman (Conf. Pres.) and L. A. Trezise (Youth Director). A musical programme, afternoon tea and visit by Father

Christmas were enjoyed, and gifts distributed. The inmates of Emmaus Rest Home and W. H. Clay Nursing Home were visited on the same afternoon, when gifts were presented to the folk and afternoon tea served. Various C.E. societies were responsible for the refreshments, and all arrangements were in hands of Mrs. S. Cromarty (Sunshine Convener).

After just over two year's service as Assistant Trade Commissioner for Australia at Montreal, Canada, W. S. Lowe, M.A. (former minister in New Zealand and Australia) has been appointed as Acting Trade Commissioner for territory covering N. and S. Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Belgian Congo. The appointment came unexpectedly, following the serious illness and return home of the previous Trade Commissioner there. Mr. Lowe will be stationed at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, and is delighted that he will be in the same city as Dr. Garfield Todd, Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, who is an old friend of both Mr. and Mrs. Lowe, from New Zealand training days at Glen Leith College. The Lowe family, after two weeks' leave in England and on the Continent, expect to reach Salisbury by about Jan. 24. Mr. Lowe's new address will be Australian Govt. Trade Commissioner, Southern Life Building, Stanley-ave., Salisbury, S. Rhodesia.

During December, four young people made their confession of faith at Lake-st. church, Perth, W.A., and were subsequently baptised. One young woman also stepped out for renewal of lapsed membership.

Christmas Post day at the Brighton church, Vic., on Dec. 18, was a record, with 1,119 letters, parcels and calendars being handled, and more than £27 being received towards the Christmas Bowl of Remembrance. As usual, mail was handled by an efficient team of young people, under Youth Fellowship leader, N. E. Arnott. On the evening of the same day, the choir, led by Harold Plummer, featured Christmas carols for a large congregation, Mrs. C. G. Taylor being soloiste. Services at 9.30 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Christmas Day were successful, with 162 and 110 present, respectively. "Hidden Treasures" was screened at night.

B. F. Huntsman, Vic.-Tas. Conf. Pres., has passed on to us the request of the Australia Day Council that churches make some opportunity during services on Sunday, Jan. 29 to help develop in the community a spirit of national awareness and responsibility towards our country. Historical information, if required, may be obtained from the office of the Australia Day Council, 11 Bank Place, Melbourne.

V. C. Stafford, Director of the Federal Board of Christian Education, advises that the Board has removed its office to Graham House, 76 Graham-rd., Highett, S.21, Vic. The new telephone number will be announced later. In the meantime, phone messages may be left with the Victorian Youth Department, MF 3895.

Mrs. H. A. Hunt, wife of the preacher at Gardenvale, Vic., returned home on Dec. 24, after being in the Royal Melbourne Hospital with a broken leg, sustained when on her way to the Vic. women's monthly meeting. The leg is in calipers, and Mrs. Hunt will need crutches for a while yet. Elsewhere in this issue she expresses appreciation of her visitors and correspondents.

Interlude in Britain

Principal A. W. Stephenson

After our three-months' tour of churches, colleges and universities in U.S.A., we have arrived in Great Britain to enjoy fellowship with our brethren.

Our visits to Leicester, Chester, Manchester, then to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Falkirk have been brief. The weather has been very cold, but the welcome warm. At Leeds we found a city covered in 18 inches of snow. Christmas in London was a delight. We went to Hornsby church in the morning, where I preached. There were eight Australians present. We invited D. Main, of Port Kembla, to share Christmas dinner with us. It was a very happy afternoon for us, as we compared notes about our experiences in America and Great Britain.

This week we visited Overdale College, Birmingham, and met several leaders of the churches in the area, and conferred about the life of churches in this land.

The bright spots appear to be where the three American preachers have been located, and in a new housing area in Glasgow.

For the New Year week-end we go to Bournemouth. Then, on Jan. 4, we sail on the *Orcades* for Australia, reaching Fremantle Jan. 26, Melbourne 30th and 31st and Sydney Feb. 2.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

Mrs. Peak, Alan Gillies, Chris Good, Margaret Wilson, Claire and Trevor Wade, John Taggart, Ronald Hoffman, Georgetown, N.S.W.

R. Hasler, Fullarton, S.A.

Miss L. Ewers, Miss A. Powell, W. R. Louder and R. Bennetts, Kalgoorlie, W.A.

Betty Clow, Maryborough, Qld.

Barbara Tippett, Essendon, Vic.

Rama, Kilburn, S.A.

Maureen Dove, Merewether, N.S.W.

Dawn Morrison, Janice McLennan, Gregory Foot and Gordon Harrison, Launceston, Tas.

Collin Waddingham, Box Hill, Vic.

Dorothy Grace, John Neil and Keith Wright, Oakleigh, Vic.

Gwenda Watson, Bexley North, N.S.W.

Mr. and Mrs. Stones, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Follé, Camberwell, Vic.

Margaret Bugeajua, Joy Robinson, Ross Elliott, Russel Smith, John Thompson, Richard Kruse, Bruce Gaunson, Gordon Montgomery, Neil Williams, Graeme Franklin, Blackburn, Vic.

Membership

John Herring, from Wagga to Georgetown, N.S.W.

Mrs. Barnes, senr., from Inverell to Murwillumbah, N.S.W.

Mrs. C. Thorogood, from Inverell to Murwillumbah, N.S.W.

Miss K. Barnes, from Inverell to Murwillumbah, N.S.W.

Miss Ruth Barnes, from Inverell to Murwillumbah, N.S.W.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Barnes, from Inverell to Murwillumbah, N.S.W.

Miss M. Theyer, from Lismore to Murwillumbah, N.S.W.

Mrs. Curtis, from Gardiner, to East Malvern, Vic.

Miss Dawn Scott, from Gardiner to East Malvern, Vic.

Miss C. Moran, from Nailsworth, S.A., to Broken Hill, N.S.W.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Alsop, from Hawthorn to Camberwell, Vic.

Marriage

Dawn Christensen to Robert Rolls, Caulfield, Vic.

Glenys Southam to Kevin Hammer, Caulfield, Vic.

Edna Hall to Noel Smith, Albion, Qld.

Eleanor Arnot to Louis Horder, Launceston, Tas.

Joy Gray to David Merritt, Box Hill, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

Mr. Edwards, South Melbourne, Vic.

Elizabeth A. Pearson, Dawson-st., Ballarat, Vic.

Tasmania

Ulverstone (D. P. Holloway). — B.S. anniversary had fine attendances. Mr. Holloway spoke and presented prizes, and Mr. Arnott ably led singing. Good Companions held third birthday tea and W.M.B. successful break-up. Church is pleased to have Mrs. Crowden back after extended visit to S.A.

Margaret-st., Launceston (C. H. J. Wright). — Dec. averages were 11 a.m., 87; 7 p.m., 135; communion, 111. Y.W.F. and C.M.S. combined for Christmas break-up, with special service in chapel, at which J. Stephenson gave recital on new organ. I.C.E. held Christmas meeting on Dec. 18, to which all church members were invited. Ladies' Guild catered for table at the Annual City Mission Old People's Christmas Party. Church officers will make school hall available to Retarded Children's Association as a minding centre again during 1956. B.S. collected £40 for Indian Orphan support during 1955. Mr. and Mrs. Wright will be in charge of State Youth Camp on Bruny Island. Recent visitors have included Mrs. Hensby (N.Z.), Mrs. Potter (Qld.), and Mrs. Noble (S.A.).

Devonport (D. P. Holloway). — Attendance for December meetings was fairly good, with largest numbers present at morning meetings. During Christmas and New Year, church has enjoyed fellowship with number of visitors, including six from Dandenong, Vic, and four from Sydney. On morning of Jan. 1, J. Edwards (Dandenong) presided. B.S. was in recess over holiday period and commenced again on 15th. Cottage prayer meet-

ings were commenced before Christmas. Attendance has been good and much prayer-planning is being done for forthcoming mission.

Queensland

Ma Ma Creek-Gatton. — Services have been conducted by Lars Larsen, E. Rosenberg, A. Gould, Mr. Muller and C. Dunn. C.E. held annual break-up social when guest speaker was M. Mayes, B.A., ex-Presbyterian minister. Visitors were present from Toowoomba, Tent Hill and Laidley Baptists. E. F. Cole presided. A. D. Mortimer (Maryborough), accompanied by his wife, conducted teaching mission. L. Larsen made presentation on last night. Mr. Larsen presided at Christmas tree concert, programme being supplied by B.S. at Gatton, Ma Ma Creek, Mt. Whitestone and Fordsdale. Mrs. Larsen presided over musical programme held in conjunction with "Bring and Buy" stall organised by Gatton Women's Fellowship.

Albion (G. J. Andrews). — Y.W.F. had as their final meeting for 1955 a cake-icing demonstration. Men's Society enjoyed reading of A Christmas Carol. Christmas parties, Father and Son banquet, and cantata, The Nativity of Christ, were pre-Christmas features. United carol service was held in Clark Park on Dec. 18.

Mackay (D. H. Paddon). — C.Y.F. concert evening in Dec. took form of color slides photographed and screened by D. Gummo, items and a play, Be Sure Your Sins Will Find You Out, written by Mr. Barton. At end of concert, presentation of pocket Bible was made to Mr. Gummo on behalf of church, a farewell presentation prior to his departure to live in N.S.W. Mrs. Carr has left for full-time work at Norseman Mission. Gospel meetings are improving. Christmas tree was held. Preacher and family have moved into newly acquired manse. Interior has been painted by voluntary labor. Mrs. Anderson is again in fellowship, after being in Brisbane undergoing medical treatment.

Western Australia

South Perth (S. H. Wilson). — Excellent attendances marked Dec. 18 services. Carols by Floodlight was supported by almost 300 in evening, when B.S. choir sang. Mrs. R. Johnston (Shepparton-rd. church) was soloiste. Christmas Day 9.30 a.m. communion service, in conjunction with

B.S., had attendance of 130. Church roll now stands at 215, with total of 59 additions for 1955. Kinder Christmas tree and scholars' social wound up year's B.S. activities. During social, special Christmas play was presented by some senior scholars and teachers. R. Stevenson has gone to Carnarvon to assist in building drive on Aborigines Mission station. New Year's Day attendance was 90 in morning, when many goldfields and country visitors were present. Sympathy of church has been extended to Mr. Heyhoe in loss of his father, and to Mr. Wilkerson in loss of his brother. Mr. and Mrs. M. Lindsay are on leave from Sunday Island and were present on Jan. 1. Preacher and family are on vacation.

Kalgoorlie (F. H. Griffiths).—Confessions by two young men and women have been heartening to church. B.S. enjoyed placing gifts on Christmas tree for distribution to needy families. Kath Burdon, outgoing missionary to Bolivia, was given valedictory meeting, followed by social gathering. Mr. and Mrs. W. Lake were farewelled at after-church gathering. On transfer in Education Department, they leave for six months' visit to England, travelling with Miss Burdon on S.S. Oronsay. The Lakes' ministry has been much appreciated. Preacher has gone to Esperance for short holiday. J. Maloney, much loved member of church for over 50 years, is seriously ill in hospital.

New South Wales

Lidcombe (L. Wylie).—Improvement in church work is noted. At annual business meeting, following officers were elected: elders, E. Andrews, A. Stevenson, W. Armstrong; deacons, N. Dundon, J. Ferris, R. King, L. Badger, E. Walker, A. Carter, W. Armstrong, junr.; sec., T. Christison; treas., E. Walker. Fete conducted by Ladies' Guild and P.B.P. raised £72 for B.S. piano fund. K.S.P. went with Mr. Wylie as a delegation to Belmore during week of special services following opening of their beautiful new chapel, when Mr. Wylie delivered stirring message.

Padstow (E. Davis).—Young church is rejoicing as it enters new year. Christmas function attendances exceeded all expectations. Of recent weeks, six have been received into fellowship by letter of transfer, and a husband and wife, and two married women by baptism. Plans are being made for home visitation campaign. Church has growing B.S., with S. Craven as supt. and Mrs. E. Wilkinson, kinder supt. Vigorous open-air witness is made at railway station each Sunday evening.

Earlwood (G. H. Benjamin).—Mr. Oswald and Mr. McMillan brought stirring messages at morning services

during Dec. At gospel service on Dec. 18, film, *Son of Man*, was screened. Sale of work held by Women's Fellowship raised £134, which will be used to help reduce debt on building. Kinder party was much enjoyed. Combined coming of age and silver wedding anniversary party, of Barbara Donnelly and her parents, was held on Dec. 17 in church hall, many relatives and friends being present.

Georgetown (W. E. Hoffman).—Evening service on Jan. 1 was broadcast over 2HD. Mrs. Perry is making good progress in Newcastle hospital. Mrs. Street is home from hospital and doing well. Mrs. Raine is in Waratah hospital. Three carloads journeyed to the Gosford mission.

Broken Hill (N. Kingston).—Church is in good heart and fresh contacts are being made. Teenagers have enjoyed evenings at manse, and also had tennis evening, which concluded with supper at home of Sis. Hosking. Christmas carol service was held in chapel grounds on Christmas Eve, with over forty attending. Allan Hosking was welcomed home on Christmas Day, and church congratulates him on obtaining honors in his final examination for medicine. Fellowship was also enjoyed with his friends, W. Roberts and G. Crockett of Enmore, who have returned to Sydney. Sis. J. Hosking and M. Rogers attended Longwood Youth Camp during Christmas week, and John Ball attended Scout Jamboree in Melbourne. Brian Hosking is also home on leave from Sydney University, and presided at morning service on 8th, when Mr. Lind (Methodist) gave fine message, in absence of preacher who had received an urgent call to Qld. on account of illness of his brother. Mr. and Mrs. Clem Gers and family (Sydney) were visitors. Mr. Cederblad (Methodist) was evening speaker. H.M. offering was over £247, exceeding quota.

Merewether (W. D. Howard).—B.S. held Christmas tree. Baptismal service was held on afternoon of Dec. 18, when a B.S. scholar was immersed. Christmas Day services were well attended. Cardiff church joined in combined gospel service, and many visitors were present, giving attendance of 81. Service featured strip-film, choir, soloists and movie film, *The Cheat*. Entire service was amplified to surrounding houses. Speakers for the month have been W. D. Howard, J. R. Adamson, and T. G. Magner. Prior to Christmas recess, men entertained ladies of the church, who presented £100 to the Board from year's activities.

Cardiff (W. D. Howard).—At B.S. Christmas tree teachers were encouraged by large number of visitors.

Auxiliaries are in recess for holiday period. Church combined with Merewether for the gospel service on Christmas Day, members being transported between chapels by car. Speakers for month have been W. D. Howard, F. Weatherby and H. Robson.

Bexley North (J. G. Shaw).—Service of song and messages during Christmas season were appreciated. Preacher and family are now enjoying vacation in Victoria. Church enjoyed fellowship with country visitors, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hodgekiss and Albert Bush.

Beverly Hills.—Good Companions finished year with membership of 26, and average attendance of 24. Girls combined with boys' club in carol singing on Christmas Eve. They also held a "table setting" competition which raised £2/14/-. Explorers have membership of 19 and average attendance of 14. Club spent day at Youth Centre, Lake Illawarra, in helping with work there. They also did good work round and in the chapel, for which thanks is extended.

South Australia

Beverley (formerly York).—At recent meeting a new Constitution was adopted and one of the clauses changed the name from York to Beverley. This was necessitated by Governmental re-division of the district. Members have been encouraged by recent decisions made by some Y.P. Ladies have concluded very successful year and have helped church considerably with monetary contributions and gifts of furnishings. Some functions have been held and many are planned to raise funds for renovation of chapel. It is estimated that £2,000 is necessary, and all members are uniting in an effort to raise this sum.

Kilburn (H. G. Norris).—Y.P. enjoyed 21st birthday party arranged on Dec. 17 to honor Ron Richardson. Special Christmas services were held on 18th, commencing with gift Sunday in kinder dept. at 10 a.m., when children brought presents for sick children, and many parents attended. During afternoon J.C.E. staged Christmas Tableau and Mr. Norris spoke to children and visiting adults. Misses Dorothy Hackett and Marie Holdsworth were responsible for arranging the afternoon. Marie Holdsworth was soloiste at evening service. After-church fellowship was enjoyed with carol singing supported by T. Davy (xylophone) and D. Griffen (saxophone). Farewell was spoken to Mrs. P. Roberts and Mrs. Saunders who transfer to Prospect. Their services will be greatly missed. Prayer meeting was held at new residence of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Milne on Dec. 2. After devotional service, supper was

served and Mr. and Mrs. Milne were congratulated on attaining 26th wedding anniversary. Rama, a dark-skinned university student, confessed Christ at close of morning service on 25th. Mr. and Mrs. G. Wormald were welcome visitors and Mrs. Wormald and Mrs. Kelly gave messages in song. Christmas messages by preacher were greatly appreciated. J. Edwards is now agent for The Australian Christian, and his valuable help is acknowledged.

Victor Harbour (S. L. Patching). — Annual offering for H.M. was record, £30 being given. Ladies' Guild held annual meeting, and approx. 100 attended. A. Anderson gave an excellent address which included report on visit to the World Convention. Included in programme were number of new pictures of Indian Mission field. Offering of £10 was received for overseas mission work. Two persons recently confessed Christ and were baptised. There was a good attendance of mothers and children at annual Christmas tree for kinder and Cradle Roll children. Very successful annual social was held by officers and teachers of B.S. to mark end of busy year. Attendances at all meetings have been up to average and offerings very liberal. Working bees and special practice of Christmas anthems, supported by carol singing, prepared way for successful Christmas programme.

Prospect. — Christmas services were held on Dec. 18, with special singing by choir. Film, *The Greatest Gift*, was shown at evening service on Christmas Day. Jan. 1 marked conclusion of Mr. Jones' interim ministry, which has been greatly appreciated. It was a pleasure to have Mrs. Mansell worshipping again on Sunday morning, 8th, after having been unable to attend for four months on account of broken ankle.

Hindmarsh (J. E. Shipway). — B.S. Christmas Remembrance anniversary featured carols sung by school, as well as individual items. Miss Milne (University Training College) kindly came each Sunday afternoon and told kinder story. Services on Christmas Sunday were well attended, and appeals for the Bowl of Remembrance, Christian Rest Home, and Hindmarsh Town Mission were remembered. Offerings amounted to about £35. Mrs. Reg Price is making satisfactory recovery following a major operation in Memorial Hospital.

Naracoorte (D. R. Stirling). — Christmas tree for kinders was held on Dec. 17, and B.S. social on 19th. Mr. and Mrs. Stirling entertained church officers and their wives at evening in manse. Special gospel services were held on 18th and 25th and Jan. 1, when members of Men's Fel-

lowship assisted, and special messages in song were presented. Grace and Barbara Davie (at present spending a holiday with their brother) sang a duet. On Dec. 27, surprise birthday party was tendered to Mrs. V. Hoskin and Mrs. W. Pomery at home of Mrs. G. Burford. Mr. and Mrs. Banks, who were spending a week in Naracoorte, were present and a happy time of fellowship was spent. At gospel service on Jan. 8, three young believers were baptised. There was a record attendance of 111 at service, and at the close two youths made the good confession.

Fullarton (A. W. Morris). — At morning service on Jan. 1 there was a good attendance when P. Retchford (Pahran, Vic.) gave virile message. In evening, preacher spoke and Mrs. Lyndon reconsecrated her life.

Stirling-Aldgate Valley (G. R. Graham). — Attendances at respective kinder Christmas parties were best for years. Beth Norris had misfortune to break a leg recently. Y.P.F. journeyed to Mylor by car, thence hiked to Echunga and enjoyed carol singing and supper at home of Mr. and Mrs. L. Walters. Christmas Day morning service at Stirling was a combined meeting with the Valley. Many families and visitors attended largest morning service for years. Margaret Forby was welcomed home after several months in N.S.W. Valley choir assisted with carols at morning and evening services. Offerings continue to rise. R. Long, with aid of many helpers, has completed pouring of main foundations for manse. H.M. offering was over £41, apart from duplex. Completion of special series on diaconate was memorable day, when Messrs. Bartlett (presiding) and Brand (speaker), both elders from Croydon, spoke of work of elders. At Valley service at 3 p.m., these brethren also assisted and Mr. Graham received into fellowship a mother and son by reconsecration.

Victoria

North Williamstown (H. E. R. Steele). — Decorated and illuminated Christmas tree was placed in church grounds, and many gifts were received from members and public for underprivileged children. After-church carol service and programme was held in decorated garden of home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bryant on Dec. 18. Over 80 members and friends and numerous passers-by enjoyed the programme, which was compered by A. Haskell. Speakers during preacher's vacation have been, G. Aldersley, G. Dyson, A. Haskell and C. Jamieson. Mrs. Myerscough, senr., is seriously ill in local hospital.

Dandenong (L. G. Read). — L. Trezise and C. Young were speakers

during preacher's absence at Morwell. Ladies conducted successful fete in local Town Hall. B.S. held Christmas party. At morning service on Dec. 18, presentation was given to Miss B. Thomas, who is commencing mothercraft training. Good Companions held fancy dress break-up social on 19th. Mr. Philips has recovered from illness.

South Melbourne (S. Bannon). — Good Companions and Explorers held combined break-up, as did K.S.P. and P.B.P., when tape recorder provoked much laughter as several items were replayed. Kinder Christmas tree and break-up was held on afternoon and evening of 17th. G. Hearn was guest speaker at gospel service on 18th and church looks forward to his coming ministry. Church is saddened by recent death of Mr. Edwards.

Thornbury. — Youth Council and B.S. have carried out an excellent piece of work in raising funds to re-floor kinder hall, actual work of re-flooring being done by C.M.S. in a week of working bees. Kinder dept. again received gifts from Christmas tree, but B.S. brought gifts of money to the tree for presentation to Victorian Helping Hand League, to aid in construction of new day centre for mentally retarded children of district. £50/10/- was deeply appreciated by receiving parties.

Warracknabeal. — Ladies' Aid held Christmas social and Mr. Chivell screened interesting films. B.S. enjoyed distribution of gifts from Christmas tree. Working bees have improved interior and exterior of manse in preparation for arrival of new preacher and wife. Church is grateful to Messrs. Earl, Rogers and Harmer for conducting services during period without preacher.

Red Hill (J. Sutton). — Some members went to opening of chapel at Tootgarook on Dec. 31. W. Torney spoke at morning service on Jan. 1, in absence of preacher. Members went to Tootgarook for evening service. Several Y.P. went to Belgrave Convention. Morning service on 8th was well attended.

Drumcondra. — Visiting speakers have filled pulpit and films have been shown. Church made presentation to Nell Combridge prior to his marriage. B.S. anniversary speakers were Ken Masterton, Uncle John of 3GL, Mrs. Champness and Allan Ricketts. Ladies' Aid supplied vases for chapel. Mission Band entertained ladies from Miller Homes at Christmas party. Ladies' Evening Fellowship enjoyed barbecue at Mr. Noyes' home, also Endeavorers had barbecue at Queen's Park to finish year.

Essendon (M. Roberts). — Auxiliaries of church held final wind-up on Dec.

17, each auxiliary being responsible for item. Explorers formed choir for evening service on 18th and rendered carols. Mr. Roberts screened *The Christmas Story*. All auxiliaries are in recess.

Shepparton (D. A. V. Thomas). — Total Ladies' M.B. offering for year was over £30. Y.P. and preacher left on Dec. 26 to attend Cheshunt Youth Camp. Records of Handel's *Messiah* were played at evening service on 26th.

Hurstbridge. — At special service on Dec. 18, B.S. scholars formed a choir and sang carols, speaker being F. Chipperfield (Ivanhoe). Chapel has been extended by adding a kinder room.

Boort. — Church has been pleased to have Gordon Henderson home from C.O.B. W.M.B. gave Christmas treat to children. Thanks is extended to Mr. Jackel (Wedderburn) for showing moving sound picture of Christmas story. Many old members were welcomed to Christmas services. Mrs. Evan, senr., was presented with small token prior to leaving district.

Bayswater (R. Ryall). — At recent Sunday evening Mrs. McGregor (Aborigines Committee) gave an interesting talk on work of missionaries at Norseman and Carnarvon. Talk was illustrated with slides. B.S. held Christmas tree, but children brought gifts of toys and money for children of Korea and India, instead of receiving them. Christmas Sunday night service was a combined meeting in Methodist church.

Oakleigh (J. W. Lewis). — B.S. held social evening, and kinder party prior to Christmas. Carol service was held on Dec. 18, with members of newly formed choir taking part; this was also baptismal service; when three B.S. scholars were baptised. After-church fellowship hour was held in honor of Miss E. Scantlebury and Stewart Lunn (Gardenvale), and a presentation was made on behalf of church on occasion of their approaching marriage. Decision was screened at evening service on Jan. 1, and after-church fellowship was held to farewell Mr. and Mrs. T. Skerry and family who leave to reside at Newborough.

Bendigo (R. V. Holmes). — Excellent work by men of church during holiday period has resulted in two Stex huts from Eildon being dismantled, transported and stacked in church grounds. These will be re-erected and remodelled for B.S. halls at Spring Gully and Kangaroo Flat. Many visitors, including L. G. Burgin and family from Lygon-st., were present on Jan. 8, when right hand of fellowship was extended to two

Y.P. and a married lady recently baptised. Church enjoyed renewed fellowship with T. Sanders and family, en route to ministry at Frankston and studies at Glen Iris. H. Hargreaves is out of hospital but ordered to take things very slowly for the present.

Box Hill (W. A. Wigney). — Special Christmas services on Dec. 18 were well attended. Choir rendered good service morning and evening. At gospel service, pictures relating to *Story of the Nativity* were screened, interspersed with short explanatory Bible readings by preacher. After service, social hour was spent in school hall, when more carol singing was enjoyed. Christmas Day service was held at 9 a.m., when full attendance showed that change of time was appreciated. At gospel service on Jan. 8, a young man made his decision. Property adjoining church grounds has been purchased and building operations and extensions are proceeding. Present manse is being

sold and dwelling on acquired property is being modernised and converted into a manse, which is expected to be ready for occupation by end of Jan. New church hall is to be erected on property. R. Ward, who has been very ill, is now improving.

Woorinen (R. A. Banks). — At annual church meeting following were elected: sec., S. Harrop; treas., G. A. Mott; deacons, P. Harrop, E. Mott, C. Mott, W. Cockroft, A. Fleet, D. Watson, A. Voight; organiste, Sis. G. A. Mott. Members attended combined churches' farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Banks in Swan Hill Town Hall. At Christmas Day service, president's chair was presented to church in memory of late Mrs. Dawe. A young lady was received into fellowship. Speakers for Dec. were R. A. Banks, S. Harrop and W. Cockroft. Ladies' Guild, at Dec. meeting, farewelled Mr. and Mrs. Banks and made presentation to Sis. S. Harrop in appre-

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clation of her floral arrangements in chapel. Church ladies and friends tendered Dorothy Harrop an afternoon prior to her marriage, and presented a gift on behalf of church. Kinder and primary Christmas tree was held, during which kinder children presented gifts to be sent to Social Service Dept. for distribution.

Dawson-st., Ballarat (F. C. Hunt- ing). — Attendances at Christmas tree and B.S. social were excellent. During holidays many visitors have been welcomed, amongst whom were Mr. and Mrs. J. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Willis and family (Wagga, N.S.W.). Members have been saddened by Home call of Mrs. Pearson, and extend Christian sympathy to her loved ones, also to Mr. and Mrs. J. Rapkins in the loss of Mr. Rapkins' father. B.S. scholars assisted with broadcast of Sunday School of the Air on 3BA on Jan 8, when Owen Jones was speaker. During preacher's absence on vacation, pulpit will be filled by A. Graham and G. Reed. Gathering after church on 8th said "au revoir" to Mrs. Brown, moving to Geelong. Y.W.F. made a small presentation.

BIRTHS

BARTON. — On Dec. 7, at Warr- nambool, Vic., to Edith and Ken, a son—Roger Kenneth.

BROWN (Easton). — On Dec. 23, at Padua, to Hilda and Andrew, a daughter—Jeanette Glenda. Sister for Glenn.

FRASER (nee Relly). — To Keith and Phyllis, on Dec. 27, a daughter — Kerrie Ann. Present address, "Bethany," 4 David-st., Georgetown, N.S.W.

MACPHAIL (Williams). — On Jan. 4, 1956, at Brisbane General Hospital, Qld., to Yvonne and Iain, a son — Andrew Iain. Both well.

MONK (Gould). — To Betty and Bernie, at Pingelly, W.A., on Dec. 7, a daughter—Ruth Elizabeth. (RMB226 West Pingelly.)

DEATHS

BARNDEN. — On Dec. 20, 1955, at the Diamond Valley Community Hos- pital, Greensborough, Vic., Helen Patricia, dearly loved daughter of Howard and Elva, loving sister of Ross. Age 15 years.

"In God's care."

BARNDEN. — On Dec. 20, 1955, Helen Patricia, dear and loving grand- daughter of Mrs. Fred Barnden, loved niece of Marion (deceased), and John Leach, Cliff and Dorothy, Vi., Bert, Eric and Jean, Lois and Fred Strack,

We have appreciated letters and greetings from readers in various States. Typical of comments is the following, from Miss Enid M. Ryall, of the church at Carnegie, Vic.: "Our church magazine keeps me informed of conditions in the local, interstate and mission spheres, as well as en- riching my thoughts through the spiritual articles. I deeply appreciate the hours of work, thought and care that go into the compilation of The Australian Christian."

Mrs. Ruby I. Oliver, of 67 Rochester- rd., Balwyn, E.8, Vic., reminds those who are interested in the support of Bible women in India, that she would be glad to receive donations from regular subscribers, as soon as pos- sible, and that she would be glad to welcome new contributors to this worthy fund. During the past year, some, who have been faithful con- tributors over many years, have been called Home, and the gaps must be filled.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

H. E. R. Steele (preacher, North Williamstown church), 82 Surrey-rd., Blackburn, Vic. (permanent address).

Betty and Bill Moss, Mat and Helen. "Safe in the arms of Jesus."

COWPER. — On Jan. 6, 1956, Frank, of Lake Rowan, beloved husband of Elsie, loved father of Neppe (Mrs. C. G. Daff), Wynne (Mrs. W. F. Noth- rop), Alma (Mrs. K. A. Jones), Frances and Ken.

"He knoweth whom he hath be- lieved."

FAIRHURST (Sherriff). — On Dec. 29, 1955, at St. Vincent's Hospital, Ruth, the beloved wife of Harry W., mother of Maxwell, dearly loved sister of Hilda (Mrs. H. Norman), fond aunt of Jeanne and Cliff Northeast, Paula and Joy.

"The long day closes."

HAYWOOD. — On Dec. 19, at her home, 9 Burke-rd., East Malvern, Alice, dearly beloved wife of the late John, and loving mother of Mary (Mrs. Buller, dec.), Thomas (dec.), Alice (Mrs. Hancock, dec.), Emily, Clifford and Catherine (Mrs. Sunder- land); and loving mother-in-law of Elsie Haywood.

"Underneath are the everlasting arms."

HAYWOOD (Thomas). — On Dec. 19, at 9 Burke-rd., East Malvern, Alice, second daughter of the late Charles and Catherine Thomas, sis- ter of Charles (dec.), Elizabeth (Mrs. Petherbridge, Sydney), and Catherine (Mrs. Northeast, dec.).

"At rest."

SMITH. — On Dec. 8, 1955, at his home, 1048 Nepean Highway, Highett, Vic., suddenly, Frank Edward Joseph, loved husband of Ellen Mary.

"In heavenly love abiding."

IN MEMORIAM

BUCKINGHAM. — Treasured mem- ories of our beloved eldest son, Ed- ward Marcel (Ted), passed away (result of accident), Jan. 11, 1933, aged 22 years.

"We shall meet to part, no, never— On the resurrection morn."

—"Bangalore," Emma-st., Caulfield, Vic.

GOLDSWORTHY. — Treasured memories of our mother and father, who fell asleep, Amelia, Jan. 2, 1954; Reginald, Jan. 12, 1941

"Underneath are the everlasting arms."

—Inserted by their loving sons and daughters.

GOLDSWORTHY. — Amelia Mar- garet, passed away, Jan. 2, 1954; Reginald Henry, passed away, Jan. 12, 1941.

"Loving memories."

"Sweet peace the gift of God's love."

LACY. — In loving memory of my dear husband, and our dear daddy, Kenneth Edward, who passed away Jan. 18, 1955.

"God must have a beautiful garden, For he only picks the choicest blooms."

"Sweet is the promise."

LACY. — In loving memory of Kenneth, our loved son-in-law, who passed away Jan. 18, 1955.

"God has Ken in his keeping, We have him in our hearts."

—Remembered by Robert and Rebecca Gray.

LACY. — A tribute to the memory of my Christian friend and pal, Ken, who passed away Jan. 18, 1955.

1 Thess. 4: 16.

—Remembered by James Hort.

LACY. — In loving memory of dearest Ken, who passed away on Jan. 18, 1955.

"Memories in our hearts today, Mean more than words can say."

—Inserted by Estelle, Bill and nieces Dorothy and Jennifer.

MORRIS. — In loving remem- brance of my dear husband and our dear father, Vic. B. Morris, who passed to higher service, Jan. 10, 1952.

—Inserted by Dorothy, Betty, Alan and Ivy.

PRITIE. — Treasured memories of our esteemed Bro. Fred Prittie, be- loved senior member of the official board of the church at Lygon-st. Called Home Jan. 16, 1955.

"Behind the shadows standeth God."

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ENGAGEMENTS

BENNING—ROBB. — The engage-
ment is announced of Barbara Ann,
only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. W.
Benning, 310 Esplanade East, Port
Melbourne, to Robert James, eldest
son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Robb, 26
Arnold-st., North Carlton, Vic.

NORLING—PIEPER. — The en-
gagement is announced of Deirdre
Joan, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs.
C. A. Norling, Taree, N.S.W., to
Maurice Hilton Alexander, only son
of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Pieper, Ips-
wich, Qld.

OUTLAW—CURTIS. — The engage-
ment is announced of Jennifer,
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Out-
law, Glenunga, S.A., to John Charles,
son of Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Curtis,
Highgate, S.A.

RUBY WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay R. Smith
announce with gratitude to God the
40th anniversary of their wedding
celebrated at Mt. Erica Methodist
church, Windsor, by Prof. Albiston
on Jan. 12, 1916. Present address:
28 Thomas-st., Burwood, Vic.

AN APPRECIATION

I wish to say how much I appre-
ciate all visits, letters, and cards, I
received during my period in Royal
Melbourne Hospital. Special thanks to
Mrs. Anderson, Padre Young and
members of my own church at Gar-
denvale. Would all please accept this
as a personal "thank you."

—Mrs. H. A. Hunt.

APPRECIATION

The staff of the North Richmond
Bible school place on record their
deep appreciation of the untiring
efforts for many years of Miss Ida
Graham—called Home on Dec. 6,
1955. She loved the children and they
loved her. Both the staff and the
scholars miss her, but the fruit of
her labors will be seen for many
years.

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News of British Churches

In the Financial Calendar of the
British churches, whereby each Com-
mittee is allocated a month in the
year in which to make its appeal to
the churches, the month of May is
given to the Missionary Committee.

In addition to this, however, it has
become the custom for a number of
years past for the Missionary Com-
mittee to make a special Christmas
appeal. Families are asked to make a
collection at the table or social
gathering for missionary funds, and
this usually has good results.

A number of churches also hold
Christmas Fairs. The church at
Evington-rd., Leicester, has raised
£200 by such an event, and the
church at Burnley raised £50. It was
from Burnley that Mary Bannister
went out to Nyasaland, and the
church has always had a strong mis-
sionary interest.

A Christmas Fair at Rodney-st.,
Wigan, raised £200 towards the cost
of re-roofing the chapel and the
renovations made necessary by such
a major building operation.

A new chapel has been opened and
dedicated at Hindley, near Wigan.
Local members had some anxious
hours prior to the ceremony. Wide-
spread fog, persisting for some days,
dislocated transport over a wide area
and some of the furnishings were not
delivered until four hours before the
chapel was to be opened. Workmen
were on the site even as the congrega-
tion was assembling. The dedication
service was conducted by J. L. Colver,
General Secretary.

Not for many years have the
British churches undertaken such a
heavy programme of new buildings
and extensions of old ones. Whilst all
rejoice in this, it has one unfortunate
consequence. Heavy building costs
make appeals to the churches
necessary. At the present time some
half dozen churches are making
simultaneous appeals for financial
help towards the cost of new build-
ings, either for church or Bible school.

The Social Questions Committee re-
ports the adoption of the 30th leper
child under the BELRA scheme. Each
child is given two years' treatment,
with every possibility of a cure, the
cost being borne by the church or
school making the adoption.

Prospective overseas visitors are re-
minded that the Annual Conference
of the British churches will be held
Aug. 6-9. Conference has been in-
vited by the Manchester district
churches, and the Conference ses-
sions will probably be held in a
Manchester chapel or, at any rate,
in the near vicinity of Manchester.
Local committees are already at work

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making the initial preparations. Overseas visitors will be cordially welcomed.—G. J. Hammond.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Alice Haywood.
 Mrs. Alice Haywood fell asleep in Christ on the evening of Dec. 19, at the age of 85 years. When 15, she was baptised at Sth. Melbourne (70 years ago) and continued a faithful follower throughout her life, having membership with the Sth. Melbourne, Nth. Richmond and Balwyn churches. In latter years she has worshipped at Malvern-Caulfield. A constant reader of The Australian Christian, coupled with her early training, she was well founded in the plea and always followed with keen interest the movements of preachers and brotherhood work. She possessed a cheerful and happy disposition, which was the result of a strong unwavering faith, and in this atmosphere she nurtured her family. The hardships of two financial depressions and widowhood 45 years ago had not affected her faith. Thus, as she lived, she answered "the call" with quiet resignation and tranquility of spirit and mind, being in full possession of her mental faculties and senses until her earthly end. The graveside service was in the Melbourne General Cemetery. To her daughters, Emily, Catherine (Mrs. Sunderland), and her son Clifford, deepest sympathy is offered, as we all look for the day of the Lord's appearing and ultimate triumph.—W.J.T.

Mrs. Jessie Adams.
 On Wed., Dec. 28, Jessie Adams fell asleep in Jesus at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. With her passing, Brunswick church has lost one of its most faithful members. She first attended Glenlyon-rd., 45 years ago and was baptised and received into fellowship by R. G. Corlett (28/8/20) and has been a member there since that date. Though never enjoying robust health, she was faithful in attendance at both morning and evening services until the recent year, when failing health confined her to bed. Her house had an open door and many proved the extent of her hospitality. The large gathering assembled at chapel and graveside, and the many floral tributes, told how she had exercised a quiet, kindly and consistent ministry. Her husband and one son, Albert, predeceased her. Her son Victor attends Thornbury, and daughter Alice is organist at Brunswick. To the bereaved family we offer our sincere sympathy.—R.W.V.

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