

Murray

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Vacation Church School, Berwick, Vic.

The challenge for more and better Christian education brought about the Vacation Church School, held at Berwick, Vic., May 21-25. The school was held in conjunction with the Presbyterian church and the Church of England. Teachers and scholars from the three churches took part, resulting in a greater sense of co-operation.

The School was held each morning from 9.15 to 12.15, the leaders meeting at 9 a.m. for prayer and planning.

The School's theme was Friendship, and the children were led to see Christ as their Friend. Friendship was expressed in their offering of £6 to the Children's Home at Oakleigh.

There were kinder, primary and junior departments. Activities emphasised participation of children, who expressed themselves in worship, study, recreation, and creative activities.

Although weather was poor, there was an average attendance of 42,

and a total registration of 56 (Berwick State school has about 120 children). The keen interest of parents was shown in their attendance at the final Friday night meeting, when 70 people saw samples of work done.

Thanks are due to Miss B. Bates (Victorian Youth Department), the teachers, and the churches of the area.—R. V. Chamberlain, Berwick Church of Christ.

Tasmanian Visitation

The Tasmanian District Conference Executive and H.M. Committee, in an effort to promote a greater interest in H.M. work and in brotherhood activities generally, have planned for a series of visits to all churches in the State. The first of these visits were made during the Queen's Birthday weekend, when Highcroft, Nubeena, Kellevie and Collins-st. churches were visited. Good meetings were held at all places. R. Edmunds, C. Orr, A. Orr, and E. Stevens were the respective speakers.

While in Hobart on the Saturday, opportunity was taken to participate in a working bee at "Bethany," and, in the evening, to confer with the officers of the Collins-st. and West Hobart churches regarding the extension of the work in Hobart to new areas.

A meeting was also held on the Sunday afternoon at Dunalley with the circuit committee of the Highcroft-Nubeena-Kellevie circuit, to discuss circuit matters.

Thanks is extended to all who assisted in transport and hospitality.—Allan T. Orr, Sec., Tas Dist. Conf.



This Ballarat picture is typical of child-participation; emphasised at Berwick.

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

OPEN FORUM

APPRECIATION OF E. C. HINRICHSEN

Transferred, transformed, I look away to him standing on the summit of Mount Zion, beholding the vision glorious (1 Cor. 2: 9), clothed in the robe of Christ's righteousness, mingling with a great company of the redeemed. Again, let me refer to Dan. 12: 3. What a reward is his! We have sustained a great loss, but not comparable to his great gain.

Our first contact was at the World Convention, Washington, 1930. A rich and deepening fellowship increased with the years. It was my privilege to be with him in several missions, with Vic. Morris as song leader. Inverell mission, where I did not miss a service in six weeks, finished with 70 additions (33 the last two Sunday nights) and a thankoffering of £556. Many of these converts are great helpers in the church today. For 20 years prior to the mission, Inverell had received a weekly subsidy of £3 from the H.M.C. The result of that mission cannot be tabulated.

After my accident he motored 600 miles to visit me in hospital; on another occasion he drove me home after a mission, 285 miles. I cherish many of his letters. Vale, dear Brother Hinrichsen, we will look forward to a happy reunion.—Alfred Winter, Dirranbandi, Qld.

BRITISH TRIBUTE

When I passed on the news of the decease of our beloved Brother E. C. Hinrichsen, we all stood in reverence and deep emotion to recognise one who had done splendid work at the church in Derby, some years ago. His six weeks' tent mission here caused a tremendous stir.

It was my joy and happy experience to be in charge of "publicity" for his mission in Wigan, Lancs., and each week we distributed some 10,000 invitation cards.

For six weeks, we saw night after night some 500 to 600 people coming to hear the message of redeeming love, presented in a truly magnetic manner by our late brother. He had a personality which compelled attention, and his presentation of the gospel was prophetic and biblical. There was no mistaking where our brother stood relative to the facts and promises of the gospel of Christ.

His visit to Wigan made a tremendous impression on the town, and we had some 127 converts, also a great impetus to the work in the district churches.

To labor year in and year out, for so many years — almost nightly — would certainly be a big strain on

his mental and physical resources, yet he spared nothing; his only concern being the winning of souls for the Master, whom he served so loyally and devotedly. The fragrance of his memory will live on in the hearts of many over here (as in your land) and all will "rise up and call his name blessed."

Now that the Lord has called our brother to a well-earned rest, we know that his example in evangelism will create a desire in many preachers to try to make up for the loss sustained to your churches. If we can not only retain, but revive, in many quarters, the direct, forthright, and instructive method of preaching, then our efforts will prove to be the best possible way to memorialise his preaching.—Walter Lister, Derby, Eng.

"CLOSER CONTACT WITH BAPTISTS"

I read with great interest the writing of A. W. Popp (A.C., 3/4/56) on Closer contact with the Baptists. I feel that every true Christian would support the movement of uniting as one in God. Although there is much I do not understand, or even know, in God's Word, there's one thing I do know, that there is truly a God, and that Jesus Christ gave his all, that whoever would hearken to his voice, obey and serve him, would have life everlasting.

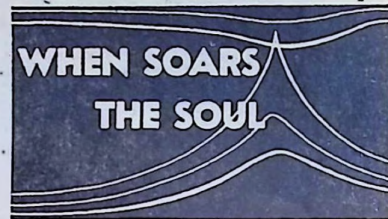
John 1: 1, 2 makes clear the deity of Christ, and I feel that Eph. 4: 4-6 covers much, "One Body, one Spirit, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." To me there is only one true God, one true church, "The Church of God." If we are, as we claim, true Christians, having accepted Jesus as our personal Saviour, and fully given ourselves to him, loving him as he loved us, we cannot do anything else but all be united in the church of all churches, "The Church of God."

I feel every Christian acknowledges the fact that the Church is a collective body of Christians, an assembly of Christians united together for the solemn worship of God.

So why not open him, his Word, "the Bible," as revealed to us; stand by "him," "that," and that alone (Matt. 7: 24, 25)? What firmer foundation could we stand on? Let us do our share to fulfil our promise to him.—E. K. Potter, Nhill, Vic.

The church at Woorinen, Vic., has decided to purchase the building at Ultima for removal to Woorinen, where it will be used for youth work and other meetings.

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



When ye pray, don't be like the play-actors. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at street corners so that people may see them at it. Believe me, they have had all the reward they are going to get. But when you pray, go into your own room, shut your door and pray to your Father privately. Your Father who sees all private things will reward you. And when you pray don't rattle off long prayers like the pagans, who think they will be heard because they use a lot of words. Don't be like them. After all, God, who is your Father, knows your needs before you ask him.—Matt. 6: 5-8 (Phillips).

Brother Lawrence wrote: "Lift up your heart to him, sometimes even at your meals, and when you are in company; the least little remembrance will always be acceptable to him. You need not cry very loud; he is nearer to us than we are aware of." Thomas Kelly, fine modern Quaker, says: "An inner secret turning to God can be made fairly steady, after weeks and months and years of practice, and lapses and failures and returns . . . Begin now, as you sit in your chair, to offer your whole selves utterly and in joyful abandon, in quiet glad surrender to him who is within . . . Walk and talk and work and laugh with your friends. But behind the scenes, keep up the life of simple prayer and inward worship. Keep it up throughout the day. Let inward prayer be your last act before you fall asleep, and the first act when you wake. Admit no discouragement, but ever return quietly to him, and wait in his presence."

*This sanctuary of my soul,
Unwitting I keep white and whole,
Unlatched and lit, if thou shouldst care*

To enter or to tarry there.

—C. H. Sorley.

*He prayeth best who loveth best
All things both great and small.*

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

CHRIST AND A COWBOY

"We found a message on the cross we've had to bear." The man who said that is a Hollywood cowboy star, who, for two years, watched his Mongoloid baby girl struggle desperately for life, and then die. It was a bitter experience for Roy Rogers and his wife, Dale Evans, themselves idolised by millions of other people's children round the world. But they are Christians, and their faith stood the test. Slowly they began to see that their success as movie stars, and the blind adoration they received from children, presented them with an unparalleled opportunity to help handicapped children, and their sorrowing parents.

Dale Evans did it through a moving little book, *Angel Unaware*, which told the story of their Robin's brief life, as seen through her own eyes. Together she and Roy Rogers give away thousands of dollars of their branded merchandise (which they must buy from manufacturers), to sick and underprivileged children. They visit hopelessly ill children wherever they go on tour, and make thousands of hospital visits, even paying for stretcher cases to be brought to their dressing-room. Rogers has made nearly six thousand long-distance calls to ill children he could not visit. He has challenged American children to pledge: "When I see a boy or girl who is mentally handicapped, I will not laugh or jeer. But I will understand that God has not given this child the same wonderful gifts he has given me. When I play with a boy or girl who is mentally handicapped, I will be patient, and I will try to help the child." At youth gatherings he leads boys and girls in a special prayer for disabled children everywhere.

Their story is well told by Elise Miller Davis in *The Answer is God* (published by Peter Davies, Ltd.; Australian price, 18/9). The Western-type colloquialisms jar at times, especially in the opening chapter, but it is a life-story well worth reading through to the end. For these two had both known tragedy and heart-ache long before the coming of their Robin. Rogers lost his loved first wife, soon after the birth of their third child; Dale Evans, after a first runaway marriage in her teens, had been left to rear her son, Tommy Fox. Their marriage was originally resented by the Rogers children, and winning them over proved no easy task. Yet it was that which was the beginning of their Christian experience.

One day, Dale Evans was confessing to her son Tommy her failure with the younger Rogers children. "I've tried everything there is to try,"

she said. "And there's everything in this house to make people happy." "No, Mother, you're wrong," was the surprising reply of her son, now grown a strong young Christian. "The loving spirit of the risen Christ, and the wisdom of Almighty God are not in this house. Why don't you start the children in Sunday School? That would be something new for you all to do together, as you say. And all kids need the kind of security that only real faith can bring." Almost in desperation, she went with the children to Sunday School. Surprisingly, she and they enjoyed it; soon she had joined the church, and an uneasy Roy Rogers, who had never owned a Bible in his life, found one on his bedside table. What he read there, and what he saw in the lives of his wife and children, finally brought Rogers to the point of making "up my mind that, when the 'King of the Cowboys' was long forgotten, my kids would remember me as the man who took them to church and taught them to live close with God." In Sept., 1952, before fifteen thousand people who had crowded into Madison Square Garden to see the World Championship Rodeo, he and Dale Evans risked their professional future by introducing a religious number in their opening programme. Before they sang, Rogers told the crowd, "The most important thing that ever happened to our family was when we started going to church, and began practising what we learned there."

Their Christian witness did not harm their careers. A year later, Ralph Edwards, of the famous T.V. programme, *This Is Your Life*, told viewers that he had received more requests for the portrayal of the cowboy's life than for that of any other person in the world.

Roy Rogers is no theologian, but what he says has the ring of experience: "The power of prayer, the feeling of spiritual blessedness and the love of Jesus have no price tags . . . The most important thing about faith is — *it works!* . . . Dale and I finally learned that we couldn't have complete faith until faith completely had us." There is a Will Rogers ring about his comment on unpunctuality: "Rustling the next fellow's time is as bad as rustling his cattle, and being late is nothing but a varmint's brand of meanness."

But the really memorable thing about this book is the way both Dale Evans and Roy Rogers found their "message on the cross," and are gallantly sharing it. Many who have never found the message on their own cross will be challenged by this book. And all will be helped.

"The clay is not left to itself. God's fingers are on it always," concludes JAMES MACKAY, in this searching look at . . .

THE MARRED VESSEL

When Jeremiah, greatest of the Old Testament prophets, emerged all too soon from carefree adolescence, he found himself endowed with a dreadful gift — the gift of vision. He could see what no one else seemed able to see. He was a man with eyes in a country of the blind. He hated the gift, and pleaded again and again with God to take it from him. He was young, sensitive, tremulous and soft-hearted, and the awful isolation, ridicule and danger of the prophetic life were a terrible cross to carry; so terrible that again and again he cursed the day he was born: "Cursed be the man who told my father crying, 'A son is born to you!' and giving him joy." He did not want to be a prophet of doom, but he could see that doom was coming, and he knew he must tell the truth or deny God.

His eyes had opened on a world boiling like a pot with frightful dangers, dangers that he knew would engulf and destroy his own people. Just as Edward Grey saw the lamps going out all over Europe in 1914, so Jeremiah saw desolation descending on the world of his own day:

I look out on the earth — lo, all is chaos,

I look at heaven — its light is gone.
I look on the mountains — they are reeling.

And all the hills are swaying!

I look out — lo, no man is to be seen,

The very birds have flown.

He tried to warn his people of their danger, to get them to repent and turn to God. Perhaps, if they repented, the calamity might even now be averted; or even if it couldn't, God would be there with them to help them when it came. "Take warning, O Jerusalem," he cried, "or God will break you, lay you waste, leave you uninhabited." They laughed at him, they ridiculed him, they threw him into the duck pond or its equivalent. The suave, time-serving prophets and priests, playing for popularity, told them to ignore him as a wild fanatic. Everything is all right, they said. Everything is all right, so the people went dancing more carelessly and gaily than ever on the volcano that was rumbling beneath their feet.

The Clay That Spoke

Compelled by the clearness of his own vision to admit that Judah was doomed to destruction; compelled also

to admit, though he tried very hard to find excuses for them, that his people deserved it, Jeremiah was faced with the awful problem of the failure of God. Admitted the nation had forsaken God, that not one honest man could be found in Jerusalem, what then? Had God failed? Did all his promises mean nothing? Had he no better answer to their sin than to rub them out in suffering, misery and shame? It was with this problem tearing his mind in pieces that Jeremiah went down to the potter's house, perhaps in that very Potter's Field that Judas afterwards bought with the thirty pieces of silver, and there, as he watched the potter

sitting at his work,

And turning the wheel with his feet, the great revelation broke upon his tortured mind.

I don't wonder that Jeremiah was fascinated by the potter. Nothing that I have ever seen is so like creation as that lump of clay rising into its fore-ordained shape on the wheel; chaos rising into beauty before one's eyes. As Jeremiah sat watching a vessel rising as if by magic on the wheel, suddenly the potter uttered an exclamation of disappointment, snatched the half-formed vessel from the spinning disc, crushed it into a shapeless lump again, kneaded it anew in his hands, and then, placing it once more on the wheel, proceeded to fashion it into another vessel — and the staggering, the incredible, thought broke into the prophet's mind with blinding brightness, that what the potter did with the clay God could do with nations and men. It was a true revelation, one of the most daringly hopeful revelations that has ever come to man. Its greatness lies in the fact that it faces the ugly things and does not explain them away. It admits that things go wrong, but it asserts that even when things go wrong, they are still in the hands of God, and he does not fail nor spill.

Not What God Planned

Look at our own world in the light of Jeremiah's revelation. The marred vessel is a fact. We cannot believe that God intended the world to be as it is today. The biologist may deny what the theologian calls the Fall of Man, but the facts remain the same. The world has lost its way. Things are here that ought not to be here. I came across a story the other day that Sir Oliver Lodge told in his

Halley Stewart Lectures. It happened in Paris, but, as he said, it might have happened in any city. "In the piercing cold of Tuesday night (December 28, 1935), when the canal was packed with icefloes, two half-starved and shivering members of the city's underworld fought to the death for shelter from the biting wind beneath a strip of tarpaulin that was used in the daytime by some stonebreakers. The fight was witnessed by some twenty other dregs of society, who came shivering every night in their rags to make their beds on sacks and heaps of rubbish behind casks and other packages which litter the bank of the canal and afford some shelter from the piercing cold. Nobody thought of interfering until one of the two, known to his comrades in distress merely as 'Georges,' fell stabbed through the heart. The other then wiped and put away his knife, and crept beneath the shelter of the tarpaulin for which he had fought." We cannot believe that God intended a world in which things like that could happen, in which there could be world wars, Belsen Camps, napalm bombs, atomic and hydrogen bombs, and all the other horrors that have filled mankind with fear. No, this certainly isn't the world that God intended to make. Something has gone seriously wrong. The vessel is marred.

The fault is in the clay, in the human material with which God works. After a lifetime of historical study, Professor Herbert Butterworth of Cambridge warns us that "it is essential not to have faith in human nature. Such a faith," he says, "is a recent heresy and a very disastrous one." Looking into our own hearts, we know he is right. We have all failed, failed to be what God wanted us to be, what he was willing to help us to be. When we are honest with ourselves and not looking for excuses, we have to admit that the fault was not in our circumstances, but in ourselves. We may have had much against us, but still we might have done better. We need not have been quite so thoughtless, so unkind, so self-centred as we have often been. "God help thee, Elia," cried Charles Lamb, as he examines his own heart. "God help thee, how art thou changed. From what have I not fallen!" That is the language of every honest man and woman. God wanted to make me perfect, but I wouldn't let him. God wanted to

make the world perfect, but the millions of people like me wouldn't let him.

What then? Must the world go on from bad to worse? No, says Jeremiah. Though the vessel was marred, it was marred in the hand of the Potter, and his hand never let it go. You see what a difference is here between materialism and belief in God. If you say the world is a blind machine or "a fortuitous concurrence of atoms," you cannot say it has gone wrong, for the atoms are just as right whirling one way as the other, and a blind machine has no right or wrong, good or bad. But also, if it has gone wrong from your point of view, there is no hope of putting it right, for it is a blind thing that has no sense of what ought to be. But if you say that the clay has gone wrong under the very hand of the

Potter, you bring in a great many problems — the problem, for example, of why a world could go wrong in God's hands; but though you bring in problems, you also bring in hope. For if the world is still in the hands of God, his creative power can put right what has gone wrong, and make something worth while of it yet. That's what Jeremiah says God not only can do, but does: when the vessel that he made of the clay was marred in the hand of the Potter, he made it again another vessel.

The Hand Still There

There is one thing that God can no more do than the human potter. He can never make the marred vessel again. He may make one exactly like the one he first intended, but the vessel that actually twisted on the wheel

has gone for ever. What this world would have been, if every man and woman in it had obeyed God perfectly from the beginning, can never be known now. That possible world and millions more with it have gone for ever. But the eye of God is always on his creation and his hand never lets it go. His creative love meets life at every step, bringing good out of evil and turning the wrath of man to praise. Sometimes as we look at our modern world and see evil things that we thought were dead a thousand years ago, raising their ugly heads out of the slime, we are tempted to think that all is lost, that beauty and truth will never come again. That's because we forget God, in whom everything lives and moves and has its being. The clay is not left to itself. God's fingers are on it always.—"The Christian World."



(Notes supplied by A. Anderson, Sec. Foreign Mission Board.)

Result of Newspaper Evangelism

(Compiled from notes supplied by B. V. Coventry, Sec., C.O.M., India.)

Some years ago, missions in India commenced Bible correspondence courses in India.

In an attempt to make such courses more widely known, advertisements were inserted in some of the leading newspapers.

Our own Mission, in the past, has only made occasional contributions, but, commencing this year, regular annual contributions will be made. Conference considers that this method of advertising, and the consequent results, ranks it as one of the finest evangelistic efforts of the present day.

To students undertaking the courses on the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, and, for more advanced students, on The Life of Christ, Marathi Bibles and New Testaments are available at half price. This has been made possible by a grant from the American Presbyterians. To date, 118 copies of the Word of God have been mailed. Up to a short time ago, 4,236 had undertaken courses on the Gospels and the Book of Acts in Marathi, and 1,803 had completed the course.

The same studies in English had

been undertaken by 13,234 students, and of these, 7,120 had completed the studies undertaken.

During the three to four years that these courses have been operating, they have been completed by people of all walks of life, from lawyers, doctors, business people, to humble village people. Also, a number have been led to Christ through these courses, such as the one whose testimony is below. This is only an excerpt from the letter that the young man (a 20-year-old B.Sc.) wrote to the Light of Life Bible Correspondence office: "As you will know from your records, I have completed Light of Life courses on Life of Christ and Acts of Apostles. Because I have understood my soul's need, and I now believe in Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord, I now intend to concentrate to his service my mind, my heart, and my strength. I wish to be baptised. I am a Brahmin by birth. So kindly let me know the address of a church in my district, and the usual procedure that I shall have to follow."

Christian Service Weighed

Ruth Roberts, Bhigwan

Prior to, and in the days of, Mr. and Mrs. Escott, the gospel was proclaimed here and in the surrounding villages, and although little can be

seen for it, it may be that God will show us the increase. "So, then, neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."

Because of a shortage of water here, one of my Christian friends made some enquiries from some of the railway officials as to whether I could obtain water from the engine as it passes through. He replied, "Oh yes, because the Mission and its dispensary is useful to us, and we feel it is in our interest to encourage its continuance."

I raised my eyebrows at the cold word "useful," and was reassured by this same Christian friend that we, also, in our unregenerate state, never had a thought except for our own interests, and even now, we fall far short in our concern for others. I received the explanation as a good one, and, while not comforted by the situation, I marvelled at the love of God on such cold, ungrateful hearts as mankind possesses.

Truly, as God himself says, "I will take away their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh." "Herein is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins—not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

In this same coldness, indifference and material outlook that one meets in going from house to house, and from village to village, at the mention of the name of Christ, many people fade out of sight, and others may politely settle down to listen, with a look of patient endurance. For many, the name of Christ to their ears is like the effect of an electric shock — something neither welcome nor pleasant.

THE MINISTRIES OF OUR

WOMEN

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

What of the North?

Mrs. Dorothy Potter, Women's Home Mission Supt., Qld.

Do you ever think of the women of North Queensland? It is quite a while since I visited our northern women, but I can still remember the lovely time we had together. I can remember their hospitality, and the appreciation of the news which I could give them of the work of other gatherings of women. A little while ago our Pastor-Evangelist, who often makes a trip to the north, brought a message from the women: "When is someone coming to see us? We feel so isolated!" Since then, our Women's Conference President has visited the northern churches, and had meetings with the women. We, who live in the metropolis, cannot realise the isolation which they must at times feel. Townsville is 832 miles from Brisbane, and Charters Towers 83 miles further on.

This is a city dweller's assessment and appreciation of the great work that is being done by the women of the country churches, particularly those which are isolated. There is scarcely a church group in Queensland in which the women are not organised in some way. Even in those churches which have frequent periods without a full-time ministry, the women usually continue their meetings and work. In some country areas, where the women can only come together as a group once or twice in a year, they have organised systems of collecting money and goods for local and brotherhood work. When the Queensland Women's Conference Auxiliary introduced the Budget System, its quick adoption into practically every church was made possible by the fact that there was always either a ladies' meeting or group, connected with the church, to call the women together.

In the far north at Charters Towers, the women kept their Women's Fellowship in existence, and even though at one stage regular meetings were not held, the members continued regular contributions to various funds, and would come together at the shortest notice, when summoned. Their catering recently, for the welcome to Mr. Fennell, was equal to anything the ladies of the City could do. Long before the preacher was appointed, the ladies

of the Charters Towers church had resumed their regular meetings.

In Townsville, the women have played a big part in all recent developments. Though only a handful, they have handled the catering for church functions with up to sixty persons present, and on several occasions have catered for as many as fifty persons at the Magnetic Island



Mrs. Dorothy Potter

Camp, including the Federal Conference visitors and members of the C.E. National Convention. For the many working bees that have been necessary to erect both church and camp buildings, the women have always been on hand to provide meals for the male workers, and in between have handled timber, drawn out nails, and wielded paint brushes. Townsville and Charters Towers have both been without a preacher for a number of years, but, thanks to help received from the Federal Home Mission Committee, now have Mr. Fennell.

The women of the Mackay church, again only a very small group, never failed to meet any demand the work of the church made upon them. No one attending functions, for which they provided, would ever have guessed that there was no regular meeting behind the smooth service

that was rendered. They are now meeting regularly, numbers increasing at each meeting. They are indeed grateful for the help of the Federal Home Mission Committee and the Thornbury church, Vic., enabling them to have Mr. Paddon as their preacher. It is a wonderful sacrifice for a group of people at Thornbury to contribute £5 a week to help another cause.

In Rockhampton, the women were organised from the inception of the work in 1928, and their work has been vigorous all the way through. The local work has had constant aid from their funds, as have all Departments of brotherhood work. On three occasions they have catered for Half-yearly Conferences, and delegates have testified to their hospitality. It is pleasing to note that the birth of the new work at North Rockhampton meant also the creation of a second women's meeting in that City. A feature of the Rockhampton women's work has been the devotional and inspirational meetings that have been regularly maintained. They have also organised a women's monthly Prayer Meeting, similar to that which is held in Brisbane. I have heard just recently of a lady in Rockhampton, who, on account of her employment, cannot now attend the meeting, but she has a box in which she drops her gifts of money, and when the box is full, hands it to the Women's Fellowship.

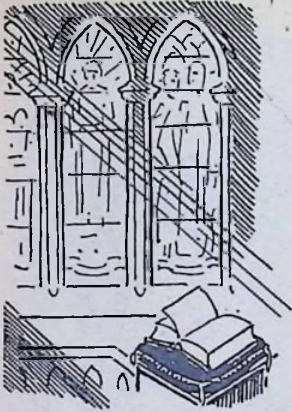
I want also to include some of the work being done by women in our Western churches.

In the town of Roma, 300 miles west of Brisbane, there is a church with a small membership, which has frequent and lengthy periods without a full-time ministry, but at no time, not even when the work was at its weakest, did the women discontinue their organised work. At every point the officers have been able to call on the women to finance the maintenance of the chapel and furnishings, its extension and improvement; and the present furnished manse is the gift of the women.

In country circuits of scattered churches, such as Chinchilla and West Moreton, the women have found ways and means of co-operating to assist their local churches, and to give substantial help to Home and Overseas Missions, to Aborigines work and to Social Service. In West Moreton, a District Women's Conference has been a permanent part of the circuit organisation, almost from the commencement of the work, and some of us can recall occasions when the walls of the Rosewood chapel were too small to display the quilts and garments that the women had made for the Mission Fields. Previously, there had been only one circuit meeting, but now each church is organising a meeting.

THE LIVING WORD

Studies on the planned Sunday morning readings



Sunday, July 1

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 11: 31—12:

Summary.

This passage begins with the migration of Terah and his family from Ur to Haran, where Terah eventually died. Then God spoke to Abraham in a wonderful way, with the result that Abraham continued his travels, moving from Haran to Canaan. God made two grand promises to his servant: (1) He would inherit a land of his own, and (2) he would found a nation of his own. Both promises were splendidly fulfilled.

Explanatory Notes.

"and Terah took Abram" (v. 31).— At this time the name used by this great man of faith was Abram. In 17: 5, we are told of the change of name to the form "Abraham." "The change of the name is a sign of the covenant, a token that the patriarch enters on a new period of his life, in which he is to enjoy higher privileges" (Bennett). For the moment, then, we use the name "Abram," which means "exalted father."

"Sarai, his daughter in law" (v. 31). — The name Sarai was later changed to Sarah. See 17: 15.

"unto a land that I will shew thee" (v. 1). — "The land is not named, as an additional test of the faith already severely tried by the command to leave home and kindred" (Bennett). "This reservation made obedience, in some respects, more difficult (Heb. 11: 8), in other respects easier—as indeed is the case in all such calls, it is better not to see all the difficulties" (Dods).

"in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed" (v. 3). — "This promise is repeated to Abram (18: 18), and to Jacob (28: 14)" (Bennett). With v. 2, this constitutes a great and remarkable promise. The terms of the promises are far-reaching, as we see from the con-

tents. (a) A great nation; (b) a great name; and (c) a great blessing, were all promised to Abraham.

"the souls that they had gotten in Haran" (v. 5). — "That is, 'persons'; their households, slaves and other dependants" (Bennett).

"the Lord appeared unto Abram" (v. 7). — The promise is renewed. The land has been entered, and an altar is built to God (v. 8).

Suggested Theme.

"WHEN GOD'S HAND IS ON THE DOOR."

Introduction. — God rests his hand upon us, to guide us, and to strengthen us. Sometimes he opens a door for us, and bids us go through it (like Abraham did of old). As we become aware of his pressure and persuasion, we feel that, no matter what lies in front of us, because the Father opens the door, all will be well. Notice that he gives us a

I. DEFINITE PATHWAY. — He leaves us in no doubt as to what he wants us to do, or where he wants us to go (vv. 31-2, 4, 9). If we will let him, God will lead us to the place where he wants us to be. Observe, too, his

II. DIVINE PROMISES. — As we pass through the door he opens, we are giving the assurance of his help. He promises guidance (v. 1), a great future (v. 2), blessing (v. 2), and an honorable name (v. 2). See, too,

III. DESIRED PRACTICE. — Abraham did the wise thing. When he passed through the door which the Lord opened, and believed the promises which were made to him, he worshipped (vv. 7-8), and he praised (v. 8). Those who obey God's commands find it easy to pray and to praise.

Conclusion. — God never leads us along a wrong road. He chooses the best path, gives us his presence, and longs for our praise.

NEW TESTAMENT

Hebrews 11: 1-16.

Summary.

Hebrews 11 is a very wonderful chapter. It begins with a discussion of what faith is, and then goes on to give a number of examples of faith at work in the lives of men. Those chosen to illustrate this truth are Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah (vv. 4-12). The writer then closes the present section by pointing out that faith demands what earth cannot give (vv. 13-16).

Explanatory Notes.

"faith is the substance of things hoped for" (v. 1). — "What is faith? It is that which gives substance to our hopes, which convinces us of

things we cannot see" (Knox). In the R.V. the word "substance" is given as "assurance."

"things not seen" (v. 1). — "The expression comprehends more than 'the things hoped for.' The latter has reference only to future good; but the former embraces all the invisible realities of the universe, past, present, and future, about which the Holy Spirit has borne witness. The word rendered 'evidence' is also used in different senses. It may denote (1) the proof or demonstration, by means of which any proposition is shown to be true or false; and (2) the conviction or full persuasion wrought in the mind by means of this demonstration" (Milligan).

"by faith Abel offered" (v. 4). — "Cain and Abel had brought offerings, but of different kinds. Wherein, then, did the superior excellence of Abel's offering consist? Not in its greater intrinsic value, for Cain's offering may have been quite as costly as that of Abel. Evidently, as the author suggests, in its being offered in faith, and in obedience to the command of God" (The New Testament Commentary).

"Enoch was translated" (v. 5). — "Enoch was transferred from this to the other life so that he did not die" (Barclay).

"not having received the promises" (v. 13). — "They had not received the fulfilment of them" (Century Bible).

Suggested Theme.

"A FAITH THAT SHINES."

Introduction. — Faith is an indispensable quality in happy living. What we need, in a world like this, is a faith that shines—radiant and bright. Such a faith is revealed in Hebrews 11. Notice,

I. FAITH'S DESCRIPTION (vv. 1-3). — That faith is shown to be positive (v. 1), personal (v. 2), and powerful (v. 3). That kind of faith always shines, and sings. Consider

II. FAITH'S DEMONSTRATION (vv. 4-12). — That faith is revealed in the lives of some whose names are recorded in the "hall of heroes." (a) Faith offers God the best—Abel (v. 4). (b) Faith orders life to God's plan—Enoch (v. 5). (c) Faith observes God's warnings—Noah (v. 6). (d) Faith obeys God's commands—Abraham (v. 8f.). See

III. FAITH'S DESTINATION (vv. 13-16). — That faith is (a) a sustaining power (v. 13), (b) a driving power (vv. 14-15), and (c) a heaven-inspired power.

Conclusion. — This kind of faith, sufficient for time and eternity, shines, and satisfies, and sings!

here and there

A. R. Mudge, elder of the church at Carnegie, Vic., is manager of the Victorian Football Association team, at present in Perth, W.A., for the A.N.F. Carnival. Mr. Mudge is a son of Mrs. and the late S. H. Mudge, well remembered for helpful ministries in our Australian churches.

The President of the Victorian-Tasmanian Conference (K. A. Jones) has received a letter from Robertson McCue, Secretary of the Victorian Local Option Alliance, expressing the "thanks of the Alliance for the whole-hearted support given by your Church, your ministers and your people during the recent Liquor Hours Campaign. The united and enthusiastic support thus given led to a great victory for righteousness, and has encouraged the whole Christian community."

Third annual Project Day of our churches in Toowoomba, Qld., was held on May 12, with three schools competing. When this venture was commenced in 1954 there were under 200 entries. This year the number of entries reached 625, comprising posters, maps, scrap books, project books, coloring cards, models, essays, recitations, solos, duets, memory scripture, prepared Bible reading, choirs, quizzes and teachers' lesson presentation. Judges this year were K. D. Horne and Mr. and Mrs. K. Hack, of Qld. Y.P.D. C. E. Gray Memorial Shield was won by Margaret-st.

Possibly the most famous "lay" movement of our time is the German Evangelical Kirchentag, which each summer attracts hundreds of thousands to a five-day evangelistic rally. Dr. von Thadden, its founder, expects that some 60,000 men and women, including about 5,000 from abroad, will attend the seventh annual Kirchentag, to be held this year from Aug. 8 to 12, at Frankfurt am Main. "Be ye reconciled with God" will be the theme of the gathering, and it is hoped that, among the half a million people expected at the concluding mass open-air rally on Aug. 12, there will be 15,000 from the East zone of Germany.

On June 5, the School of Religion of Butler University, Indianapolis, U.S.A., gave a banquet in honor of Professor and Mrs. William Robinson and Professor and Mrs. A. C. Watters. These two distinguished teachers

have been members of the faculty at the School of Religion for five years. All four will sail from Montreal for Great Britain on July 17. The guest speaker at the banquet to express the appreciation of the School of Religion was Dr. Jesse M. Bader, General Secretary of the World Convention, who has known both families for many years.

We have been advised of a man who has recently attended Prahran and Ormond churches, Vic., claiming membership with Churches of Christ, and receiving monetary assistance. Church members are warned to disregard his appeals for help, as statements made by him cannot, after inquiry, be substantiated. The man, in his early thirties, is about 5 ft. 10 in. in height, has fair hair, dresses in sports attire, claims birth in South Africa, speaks with an English accent and uses the name Ian Annetts (no relationship with H. A. Annetts, Middle Park church).

Church members at Taree, N.S.W., were called together for a special church business meeting on the evening of Tuesday, May 22. Roy Saxby chaired the proceedings, and the chairman of the New Building Committee (G. D. Saxby) ably presented a report on behalf of the committee. The plan outlined was for the erection of a new brick church building in Victoria-st. (the main street of Taree), the removal of the present weatherboard structure for a B.S. hall at the rear, the erection of a new kindergarten hall of larger dimensions to accommodate increased enrolment, a new brick garage, and a kitchen on the rear of the proposed B.S. hall. Money in hand will be supplemented by additional loans of approx. £6,000, to be redeemed in three years. Kinder hall and garage are being begun immediately.

Ministers of some 200 Congregational churches in U.S.A. exchanged pulpits on April 8 with an equal number of ministers of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. This nation-wide pulpit exchange (described as "the most extensive get-acquainted programme ever attempted by Protestant bodies in America"), was a preliminary to union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church in June, 1957, to form the

United Church of Christ. The new body is expected to rank as the seventh largest Protestant denomination in the country, with a combined membership of more than 2,000,000.

A working bee at Bethany Boys' Home, at Lindsfarne, Tas., was organised to coincide with the Home Mission Committee's deputation to Southern Tasmanian churches during the June long weekend. Thus a number of members from the north were able to add their skill to the fine work being done in modernising the home for the boys, and, at the same time, to enjoy the fellowship of a united effort in a common cause.

Six Swedish Baptist leaders, after a recent twelve-day visit to the Soviet Union, have reported that there are now some 6,000 Baptist missions in the U.S.S.R., with a total registered membership of more than 500,000, and that Baptists are increasing at the rate of about 10,000 a year. They were "particularly impressed on the tour by the overflowing attendance at mission halls, and the evidences of a surging interest in religion, particularly among youth."

We join with the church at Chelsea, Vic., in prayers for the recovery of Colin Le Ceuteur, injured in a plane crash at Buchan on June 7.

Two Presbyterian churches in New York—one predominantly Negro, and the other white—exchanged congregations recently—in a demonstration of "the other side of the story of racial dissension and tensions." More than 100 members of the Madison-ave. Presbyterian Church journeyed up to Harlem to worship in the small brick Church of the Master. The building normally seats 250, but had to throw open an annexe to accommodate the 400 persons attending the service. Meanwhile, about the same number of the Harlem Negro congregation travelled down to the Madison-ave. Church, where they formed part of the 800 worshippers. An exchange of white and Negro congregations was first made last December in Brooklyn. Organisations in Omaha and Detroit are planning to hold similar exchanges in the near future. Favorable replies re similar exchanges have come from five other cities, including Miami, New Orleans and Atlanta.—E.P.S.

Dr. Lin D. Cartwright, editor of "The Christian-Evangelist," St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A., will spend thirty days in Great Britain, beginning July 20. He expects to spend most of his time in Edinburgh, at the Library of New College, working on a new book which he is writing. While in Great Britain he will attend the Annual Conference of the British Churches, which will be held from August 5-10, in Manchester, England.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

- Roma Board, Keith Miles, Neil Hambly, E. R. Thomson, Mrs. R. Rendall, Carnegie, Vic.
- Charlene Baumann, Robyn Vaughan, Lidcombe, N.S.W.
- Gwen Griffiths, June Shaw, Hamilton, N.S.W.
- N. R. Albury, Warragul, Vic.
- Mrs. Raines, Miss Daphne Jacobsen, Miss Coral Evans, J. Clanfield, L. Stitt, Bundaberg, Qld.
- Beverly Tamplan, John Kennedy, Middle Park, Vic.
- Margaret Freebairn, Owen, S.A.
- Dawn Watson, Roger Wall, Maurice Smith, Chinchilla Circuit, Qld.
- Roy Lee, Ross Allen, Drumcondra, Vic.
- John Muller, George Steele, Box Hill, Vic.
- Rance Barber, Ian Allsop, Cambridge, Vic.
- Mrs. Brown, Mrs. T. Brown, Eleanor Brown, T. Bryant, Faye Deberaux, Mrs. Grace, Mrs. Mason, F. Neil, Oakleigh, Vic.

Membership

- Miss H. Shanks, from Aldgate Valley to Fullarton, S.A.
- Mrs. W. Williams, from Stawell, Vic., to Bundaberg, Qld.
- R. Eglinton, from Long Plains to Cheltenham, S.A.
- Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Berlin, from Marburg to East Ipswich, Qld.
- Max Roberts, to Lidcombe, N.S.W.
- C. Perkins, from Wiley Park to Lidcombe, N.S.W.
- Mr. and Mrs. G. Underwood, from Hawthorn Baptist to Bendigo, Vic.
- Mrs. L. Baynes, from Boronia to Portland, Vic.
- Mr. Streader, from Lygon-st., Vic., to Oakleigh, Vic.
- Mrs. Streader, from Gardenvale, Vic., to Oakleigh, Vic.
- Mr. and Mrs. K. Clencie, from Maidstone to Box Hill, Vic.
- Neil White, Barry Cuthbert, W. Thomas, East Preston, Vic.

Marriage

- Lois Broster to Ken Harkness, Owen, S.A.
- June Pieper to Alan Hilford, East Ipswich, Qld.
- Norma Hicks to Nev. McArthur, Shepparton, Vic.
- Mae King to Syd. Wood, Lidcombe, N.S.W.
- Daphne Dickfos to Keith Lock, Toowoomba, Qld.
- Verna Barber to Noel Brown, Cambridge, Vic.

Fallen Asleep

- Mrs. Bailey, Warragul, Vic.
- T. Pym, Avon, S.A.
- Arthur Mason, Norwood, S.A.
- Mrs. W. Jones, Ararat, Vic.

Tasmania

Collins-st., Hobart (H. W. Street). — Meetings continue to be well attended. On May 19-20, Misses Bonnie Bates and Esther Mitchell conducted weekend conference for B.S. teachers. This concluded on Sunday evening with special film service. Miss Bates addressed members at morning service. Attendances for day were 90 and 95. On 27th, E. Morrison (Invermay) was guest speaker for day, and at Youth Fellowship tea. Attendances were 110 and 80. The home of Mr. and Mrs. B. Bradshaw was opened to Youth Fellowship for an enjoyable hour after evening service. On June 3, E. Stevens (Devonport) spoke on behalf of H.M. Committee. Recent visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. Wilks (Princeton University, N.J., U.S.A.). Members were concerned to learn that Mrs. Ward and P. Stacey have been in hospital, due to accidents at work. Mrs. Rowe is in Royal Hobart Hospital.

Queensland

Roma. — Evening service on May 30 was conducted by Y.P., and two strip films were shown. Meetings are well attended and fine spirit prevails. Morning service on June 3 was broadcast over 4ZR, being conducted by A. S. Cooke. B.S. picnic was held on Queen's Birthday holiday, approx. 80 being present. Alex. Waldron is at present in Roma Hospital, following operation. Miss Arnold is in Brisbane, convalescing after recent illness.

Bundaberg (F. D. Craig). — B. Munro's visit was uplifting. During May, average number breaking bread passed 100 mark, and there were five

confessions. One was received into fellowship on transfer. Y.P. camp during school vacation attracted nearly 60. Y.P. tea and social, arranged by W.M.B., was enjoyed by all on May 26. Recent visitors have been from Toowoomba, Wynnum, Ann-st., Brisbane, and Maryborough. Interior of chapel is being painted. Preacher has been released to conduct mission at Annerley in Sept.

East Ipswich (R. Hilford). — On May 20, J. Wiltshire reported to church concerning activities of Fellowship Committee. Visit of B. Munro drew capacity meetings. Mr. Munro addressed C.M.S. on 21st, when about 70 attended, including representatives from Brisbane and West Moreton churches. At evening service on 27th, seats had to be placed in aisles to cope with attendance of 158. Ross Neilsen has completed his University exams, and is returning to his home in Mackay. Whilst at Ipswich he has been a B.S. teacher, and his fellowship has been appreciated. C.Y.P. and B.S. combined for an evening on 30th to honor June Pieper and Alan Hilford, prior to their marriage. Mrs. D. Risson is at present in hospital. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. McIntyre on death of her father recently. Visitors have included Mr. and Mrs. Wardell (Naracoorte, S.A.), M. Pieper (Taree), Sis. D. Norling (N.S.W.), and Mrs. W. Mudford (Gilgandra). Church was pleased to have Mr. Rowe reunited in fellowship after recent illness. On June 3, M. Pieper (Taree) conducted gospel service.

Wambo-16 Mile (H. C. Wheat). — Step forward has been opening of new B.S. at Beelbee, with 25 scholars. By means of organised transport and alteration in time of service, a further 17 scholars have been added to Wambo-16 Mile B.S. Work at Kogan continues to progress, and great interest is being maintained in newly formed Youth Club. Recently, members of Wambo-16 Mile church journeyed to Pelican, to witness baptism of three Y.P. in creek there. Afterwards, combined morning service was held on banks of creek. Visitors were also present from Darr Creek, Chinchilla, Brigalow and Gympie. Wambo-16 Mile churches have now combined under one board of officers, and will be known as Wambo-16 Mile church. Plans are being made for erection of large hall at Wambo. On May 24, film evening was conducted by H. Powell, and collection taken was donated to Hall Fund. Church has appreciated recent visits of Mr. and Mrs. Burdeu, K. Horne and B. Munro.

Toowoomba (R. C. McKenzie and G. Gibson). — B. Munro visited, May 11-14. On Mother's Day, he spoke at five services in Toowoomba, one at Moola, and also at mothers' tea, arranged by the C.M.S. He spoke at ladies' meeting on afternoon of 14th, and to combined meeting at night. All services were well attended, and extra seating was needed at gospel service, when Girls' and Boys' Life Brigades held monthly church parade. Afternoon services, honoring mother, were conducted at Harlaxton and Crown-st., speaker being L. Enchelmaier and Mrs. L. Pedler. At mothers' tea, gifts were presented to oldest mother (Mrs. Gibbs, 94, from Brodribb Home), and to mother of youngest baby (Mrs. J. Seip). Guests at mothers' tea were again ladies from the Brodribb Home.

New South Wales

Lismore (A. C. Caldicott). — Visitation evangelism is in full swing, visiting one night a week. Since Macnaughtan-Robbins mission, splendid attendances have been maintained. 160 communed on June 3, on occasion of homecoming of Mr. and Mrs. B. K. Munro, missionaries on furlough. Seventeen of Munro family were together for first time. Mrs. Munro, who flew from Sydney for the occasion, thrilled Lismore church with her message. Persistent efforts are being made to do something for the 1,000 aborigines in Lismore area.

Taree (M. H. A. Pieper).—Following upon morning service at Taree on May 27, which commenced at 10 a.m., preacher journeyed to Wingham for 11 a.m. service, when right hand of fellowship was extended to mission converts. In preacher's absence in Qld., on June 3, H. H. Cox spoke at Wingham in morning, and N. Fraser (visiting from Hamilton) spoke at Taree at night. A. W. Billingham gave message at Taree in morning, when two members received right hand of fellowship; and conducted gospel service at Wingham at night, when a further decision was made.

Hamilton (C. J. Mackenzie). — Quarterly convention was held in crowded chapel, with Principal A. W. Stephenson guest speaker. On May 20, Lawrence Love spoke to combined Church of Christ members at Hamilton, and once more the building was crowded. Film, *Till Death do us Part*, was screened at gospel meeting. Men's Training Class is proving popular. Junior Camp was held at Lake Macquarie during school holidays. Mr. and Mrs. Preese were welcomed back after holidays. Mr. Davidson (Kurri) spoke on 27th. Two were baptised and received into fellowship on June 3. Campers' reunion was held during holiday weekend, and many Y.P. visiting Newcastle

assisted in church services. Rhonda Hill, Wendy Bolter, Beverley Reid and Pam Quinan gave testimonies, and Pam brought a message in song. Visitors for month included Mrs. Love and Linda, Mrs. Stephenson, June Liebert, Mr. and Mrs. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Talbot and Robert. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Monson were welcomed back after honeymoon. Sickness has prevented many members attending services.

Beverly Hills (G. R. Benjamin).—There have been good attendances, with increasing numbers of Y.P. at evening services. Five Y.P. were baptised on June 10. B.S. attendances have increased so much, that a nearby garage has been rented to accommodate some of the scholars. Chapel is being painted, inside and out, by voluntary workers on Saturdays, and work is nearing completion. Thanks is expressed to ladies for supplying refreshments.

South Australia

Fullarton (A. W. Morris). — On June 10, a member of Christian Rest Home staff was received into fellowship by transfer. At evening meeting, Miss M. Patrick was soloist. W. Craddock was taken to hospital for treatment during week.

Kilburn (A. J. Ingham). — K. Crosby (Prospect) was speaker at morning service on June 10. B.S. enrolled nine new scholars, and had attendance of 254. Good Companions and Young Explorers held parade at night, when special youth service was conducted. Interim ministry of Mr. and Mrs. Ingham is much appreciated.

Long Plains-Owen-Avon Circuit (M. D. Williams). — Owen B.S. anniversary was held on May 13, G. Whiting (Youth Director and Conf. Pres.) being guest speaker. Kinders and senior school sang well. After address at night, one young woman made good confession, and was baptised and received into membership on morning of 20th. Y.P. led and participated in evening service at Long Plains on Youth Sunday. Y.P. of Avon and Long Plains were visitors to missionary meeting of Owen combined C.E. Society on 18th. Circuit was well represented at quarterly rally of Northern District Churches C.Y.F., held at Balaklava on June 1. A. Pigdon (Gawler) was pres., and G. Rose (Port Pirie) guest speaker. Youth Director helped in programme. Many travelled well over 100 miles to be present, and 160 attended. Sympathy is extended to wife and family of T. Pym (Avon) who passed away on June 5.

Norwood (P. Woolford). — May 6 commenced Family Week, with youth

rally and family social during the week. On 13th, special emphasis was placed on family aspect of worship. After evening service, *The Family Altar* was screened. On Queen's Birthday weekend, Y.P. joined with those of Murray Bridge at Longwood. This proved a very successful camp, rich in fellowship. On June 3, church lost one of its most faithful members in Home call of Arthur Mason.

Victoria

Newmarket (D. W. Hibburt, B.A., Dip.Ed.). — F. Morgan and Miss Turner spoke at children's anniversary services on May 27. Singing was conducted by Mr. Ferguson. G. Gardiner is able to attend again after illness. Sympathy was extended to Mrs. V. Boxhall in passing of her mother.

Ascot Vale (C. Perkins). — 65th anniversary services drew a large number of past members back, and a great day of fellowship was enjoyed. Ladies of church, under leadership of Mrs. B. Sterling, provided hot meals for 130. At luncheon, B. Sterling, sec. of church, presided, and Dr. W. A. Kemp and W. Brown spoke of past history. At morning service, D. R. Moncur, presided, and past members, Dr. Kemp and Reg. Jones, read Scriptures. Les Snow delivered an encouraging address. F. T. Morgan was speaker at afternoon service. Evening speaker was H. J. Patterson. Church thanks all who gave of their time and talent during the day. G. Ogden (North Williams-town), Miss Gray (Thornbury), and Miss M. Kirby (Hampton) rendered messages in song. Many greetings were sent by past members unable to attend, including a special greeting from past minister, H. Gross.

Bentleigh (J. Wiltshire). — On June 6, members had honor of receiving, for welcome-farewell meeting, two young workers from N.Z., accepted missionary candidates of United Aborigines Mission, en route to W.A. A good company, including friends of the U.A.M., heard Miss McDonald and Mr. Scott testify. Federal U.A.M. pres. (C. G. Sandland) presided. Supper was served at close. Y.P. teas each month make valuable contribution to Y.P. work. Size of Bible class embarrasses accommodation available.

Carnegie (A. R. Lloyd).—Monthly church parade of all auxiliaries was held on evening of June 3, and three were baptised. Temple Day appeal now amounts to £636. Delegation attended mission at Oakleigh chapel on May 31. Working bees by men are held on Saturday mornings to paint exterior of chapel. New carpets in aisles of chapel add to improvement of interior. These were provided by

Ladies' Aid. After gospel service on June 10 there was a session of hymn-singing, led by Ian Field. P.B.P. provided supper.

Drumcondra (R. Banks). — Plans are in hand for 12 months' evangelistic campaign, which will commence with every-member-present fellowship tea. Mrs. Wladysuik, member of Slavic church of Christ, was soloiste on June 3. On 5th, Women's Fellowship held an evening, at which talk was given by Mrs. Bogaars on *The Fall of Singapore*. C. Cambridge is conducting song-service each Sunday evening, prior to gospel service.

Chelsea (R. Bust). — At combined Youth Clubs' tea and church parade on June 3, six Y.P. took their stand for Christ. Mrs. F. Manning spoke on *Africa to Ladies' Guild* meeting on 12th. Special B.S. visitation is adding new scholars.

Middle Park (F. H. Sumpton). — R. Rowan was speaker at youth tea on May 27. Baptismal service was conducted in evening meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Annetts, who have been in membership with the church for many years, have moved to Boronia.

Shepparton (D. A. V. Thomas). — Commencing on June 1, and continuing for 3 months, Increase Campaign is being held in connection with B.S. Increased fellowship is experienced at weekly prayer and fellowship meeting. Successful Temple Day weekend was held on May 26. On the Saturday evening, 86 sat down for basket tea, after which musical programme and film, *Forward with Christ*, were presented, followed by inspiring address by T. A. Fergusson (Latrobe-terr. church), special weekend speaker. Sunday proved a day of rich blessing. Kitchen tea was recently tendered to Norma Hicks and Nev. McArthur. We praise God for answered prayer on behalf of Sis. Jean McCallum, who recently underwent two operations in Royal Melbourne Hospital. Practice has commenced for B.S. anniversary.

Thornbury. — On June 3, church celebrated 35th anniversary. K. A. Jones (Conf. Pres.) and F. N. Lee brought excellent messages to large congregations. Church picnic was held at Heidelberg Park on 4th, and, despite bad weather, all had enjoyable day. Recent "favorite hymn night" was successful venture. Rosanna Ladies' Choir, C.E. Quartet, Miss D. Gray and R. Meadows, along with recorded items, provided feast of music and song. There has been much illness among members and Mrs. Linard and Mr. Hoskin are unable to meet with church. B.S. and associated auxiliaries maintain interest of their groups and Y.P. work is most active. C.M.S. recently visited Vickers-Ruwold Engineering Works, and were impressed and enlightened by magnitude of work undertaken.

Wangaratta (R. J. Anderson). — Morning service on June 3 was broadcast over 3NE, with Mr. Anderson speaking and B. G. Benson presiding. On 4th, 25 Endeavorers travelled to Albury for North-East District C.E. Union half-yearly rally. F. Leivesley (Albury) ably led the meetings and K. Christensen (Wagga) brought inspiring messages. On 8th, J.C.E. had camp-fire meeting at home of supt., Mrs. Athol Jackel. On 10th, I. Jackel took service at Benalla, and Mr. Anderson spoke. In Wangaratta, one young girl re-dedicated her life to Christ at gospel service. With five prayer sessions a week, church is conscious that great things can be expected.

Warragul (M. D. Keatch). — Building Fund offering taken at recent anniversary services (aim, £350) reached £391. £100 of amount was gift from Ladies' Guild. Following screening of Billy Graham film, *Things God Cannot Do*, on May 20, a man made his decision for Christ. On Queen's Birthday a party of Y.P. from Eastern District Churches visited Warragul for day; lunch and tea were taken in school hall and afternoon was spent at park at Glen Cromie. Evening devotions, presided over by M. Keatch, and assisted by L. Pollock (pres.), brought to a close a very happy day of fellowship. About 50 Y.P. were present.

Woorinen (A. Avery). — Church enjoyed fellowship on June 3 with campers from Murray Valley Youth Camp, which was held at Tyntynder. Campers conducted the services. Five of our Y.P. attended camp. Speakers for last two Sundays have been A. Avery and S. Harrop.

Bendigo (R. V. Holmes). — Planned programme of special winter evening addresses has created interest. Choir has enjoyed fellowship with H. Garth (Reservoir), and Mr. and Mrs. G. Witham (Hamilton). B.S. has commenced preparation for anniversary. B.S. teachers' reference library is being assembled. Endeavorers have collected and packed clothing parcels for Norseman and Carnarvon Missions. Good Comp. and Explorers combined for a successful fancy dress frolic. Explorers report greatly increased membership.

Maryborough (M. A. Coombs). — Average attendances for May were: morning, 74; evening, 68; with 73 communicants. At 94th church anniversary, on 6th, K. A. Jones (Conf. Pres.) gave inspiring messages. On following Tuesday, church dinner was held, when 150 attended; at this dinner, church treas., A. Kennedy announced Temple Day offering to be £150. On Mother's Day, special evening service was held, when Mrs. Banks and Mrs. Barker gave the address, with Mrs. Coombs leading

and Mrs. Robertson as reader. On Christian Union Sunday, Mr. Heath (Methodist) occupied pulpit, while Mr. Coombs was speaker at Methodist church. During winter months, preacher is giving a series of special sermons. On 30th, Ladies' Aid celebrated 41st birthday, when representatives from all churches were present. Mrs. Senior Captain Fetch was guest speaker; birthday cake, made by Mrs. Lunn and decorated by Pat Chamberlain, was centre of attraction, and was cut by Mrs. Bank (oldest member). Miss Cooke is in hospital, while Mrs. Robinson is on sick list.

Portland (V. Quayle). — Church has entered into second phase of planned programme for 1956. Period of consolidation (Feb. to May) saw attendances well maintained. B.S. has commenced Aerodrome Competition, and in three weeks has gained seven new scholars. School is without services of supt., G. Graham, now working at Ballarat. Happy Hours, led by preacher, are being held once a week after school in a drive for new scholars. J.C.E. Society has been formed, and is proving helpful adjunct to morning services, taking place in rear hall immediately after communion. Under leadership of W. Crouch, it has over past two months, averaged 20 children, between 4-10 years. Men's Society held successful tea in May. Winter Loyalty Campaign has commenced, extending from June till August. In matters of finance it has been agreed that, for period of 12 months, members will be encouraged to give systematically, in proportion to their income, and that any extra money needed will be raised by voluntary contribution in response to any special appeal.

North Williamstown (S. K. Bannon). — Two girls attended Good Companions' Camp at Monbulk. Thirty Y.P., under leadership of preacher and wife, enjoyed weekend camp at Anglesea on June 2-4. Campers made presentation to their cook, Mrs. T. Bryant, in appreciation of her services. Speakers at local services on 3rd were R. Lane and A. Haskell. Good Companions assisted in evening service on 10th. Mr. Stockland (B.&F.B.S.) spoke at morning service on May 27. Members attended after-church screening of *The Great Invasion*, conducted by Bible Society representatives.

East Preston (T. V. Weir). — Young Explorers enjoyed weekend camp at Monbulk recently. Teachers' recognition and dedication service was held on May 13, and was an inspiration. Three young men were baptised on 27th. Bonfire-barbecue was held on Empire night at home of an officer, and £8 was raised for Building Fund.

Ararat (R. J. Duckett). — A young married lady and a senior B.S. boy have been received into membership, following their faith and baptism, and another scholar made her confession. An Anglican lady has asked to be accepted into fellowship, having accepted the Lord and obeyed him in baptism some years ago in Ararat. At recent annual business meeting, church was encouraged by large attendance and excellent meeting. All departments of church are gratifying and attendances very good. Many new homes and folk are being contacted by visitation and literature distribution, in preparation for another mission. Boys' Club is now conducted by men of church under supt., W. Chapman. Girls' Club leaders are Sis. Tragenzer and Dent, of Ararat Hospital. Mrs. W. Jones, whose sudden death shocked Ararat, had just recently joined church.

Coburg (J. A. Luff). — Election of officers took place at annual business meeting. Good reports were received from all auxiliaries. It was decided to form a Youth Council. Homecoming day was successful, 132 taking communion. After-church fellowship is being enjoyed by all Y.P. Four Good Companions attended annual camp at Monbulk. Dr. E. R. Killmier was guest speaker at Men's Society tea on May 27. On May 29, K.S.P. enjoyed visit to Railway Control room. C.W.F. (evening group) visited Singleton Homes on 23rd, members taking gifts of biscuits and sweets. Serial, conducted by Mr. Latimer, has been greatly appreciated.

Box Hill (W. A. Wigney). — At gospel service on June 3, two B.S. lads made their decision. 117 were present at worship service. On 5th, a group meeting of women was held in chapel, arranged by Social Service Dept. Ladies were present from surrounding districts. W. Atkin and Mrs. Ward attended and spoke of alms of the Dept. C.W.F. (evening group) held 6th anniversary on evening of 5th. About 125 were present, including many visitors from other Fellowships. Mrs. Purdy was guest speaker, and told of work amongst retarded children. E. Hammond, church officer, is at present laid aside through a foot operation.

Glen Waverley (G. R. Clark, B.A., B.Sc.). — Church was happy to receive two members by transfer. Mission Band held annual meeting and elected officers as follows: Mrs. M. Cymes, pres.; Mrs. G. Clark, vice-pres.; Mrs. N. Wickham, sec.; Mrs. F. Dunk, treas. Recent street stall raised £45 toward Building Fund. Women's evening group has been formed under leadership of Mrs. A. Watson, and reports excellent attendances. The group has been formed to gain interest of mothers of B.S. children. All auxiliaries report

increasing membership. Training class for presidents and readers has been commenced.

Camberwell (J. H. Cain, L.Th.). — Two baptisms are reported for month. Several girls attended camp at Monbulk, with Joyce Chipperfield as leader. C. Fordham, one of our "old boys," has been appointed Deputy Director of Accounts, and Supt. of Costs and Book-keeping, at S.E.C., at Mt. Beauty. Preacher and members continue help with work at Hawthorn, and B.S. is making good progress.

Brighton (C. G. Taylor). — During preacher's vacation, church appreciated messages of D. Nicholls, F. Manning, L. A. Trezise and Sudan United Mission representative. Men's service on evening of June 3 was excellent, with address from Ray Hele (Test umpire) and Scripture reading from H. Beitzel (League football umpire). P. C. Williams (C.M.F. pres.) led meeting, and H. Plummer conducted men's choir. On evening of 10th, Australian Nurses' Christian Movement choir contributed items, with a personal testimony from Sister Lorna Ford. Annual youth offering is close to £300. Sympathy is expressed to Miss B. Wright in death of her father.

"Friendship Circle" *Mission,* OAKLEIGH, VIC.

The "Friendship Circle" mission, recently held over a period of two weeks at Oakleigh, Vic., proved to be one of the most successful ventures ever undertaken by the church there. Preceded by a School of Evangelism for three nights, and then a week of intensive visitation evangelism and much prayer by the church, the opening night brought unexpected numbers to hear the missionary (Peter Retchford, minister of Prahran) present the claims of Jesus Christ.

The "Friendship Circle" proved most interesting. Each person attending signed a card which was placed on a cord around the chapel. In all, 844 different persons attended the mission. The average attendance was 175, with 15 first decisions and six reconsecrations. Impressive baptismal services were conducted on each of the three Sunday evenings. This arrangement proved to be a most valuable witness to a packed building on each occasion, with an overflow into the school hall on the last Sunday evening.

Mr. Retchford preached with much fervor and sincerity. The continued large attendances, supported by regular delegations from surrounding

churches, bore testimony to the popularity of the preaching of the missionary, who was so ably supported by J. Machin as song leader. Throughout the mission the singing was excellent, Mr. Machin not sparing himself. Soloists from local and surrounding churches were much appreciated.

The church is planning continued visitation evangelism for one night each week. With a large prospect list, compiled over several years and supplemented to some degree by the mission, the church at Oakleigh looks forward to a fruitful period of evangelism. The church is grateful to the missionaries for their zeal and faithfulness, and to the churches from which they come.

BIRTHS

CLINTON (McArthur). — On June 9, 1956, at Margaret Coles, Melbourne, to Norma and Ken, The Manse, Hampton, Vic., God's gift of a son—John Kenneth. Both well. Baby brother for Wayne and Janice.

SULLIVAN (Coates). — To Grace and Norm., a daughter, Carol Joy, on June 8, 1956. Both well.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

WEST (Keats). — On June 11, 1956, to Doreen and Alan, of Native Mission, Roelands, W.A., a daughter—Paula Christine. Sister for Stephen; cousin for Barry, Rodney and Jeffrey Ladgrove, Laverton.

DEATH

SAUNDERS — Harold Arthur, 114 Pilgrim-st., Footscray, Vic., passed away at Drummond, June 2, 1956, loving husband of Flora, loved father of Joan and Ken, loved father-in-law of John and Cynthia.

"In God's care."

IN MEMORIAM

MORGAN. — Treasured memories of David Francis, beloved husband of Beanie, and loved father of Deryn, Gwen and Kent. Called to higher service, June 19, 1952.

"Forever in our hearts."

ELLIOTT, Augusta C. (Gus). — Treasured memories of our loving and dearly loved wife, mother and grandmother, called to higher service, Perth, June 28, 1955.

"He giveth his beloved sleep."

—George W. Elliott, son Allen and daughter Elma and families.

MURDOCH. — In loving memory of my dear husband, George, passed away, June 21, 1948.

"One of the best."

—Inserted by his loving wife, Ethel.

ORGAN. — Cherished memories of a loving husband and father. June 26, 1953.

—Inserted by his loving wife, Elsie, and family, Elva, Ron, Valerie and Graham.

Social Service Notes

LADIES' CHOIR CONCERT

To help defray the cost of the radio and public address system which, for the benefit of the bed-ridden guests, they presented to the Will H. Clay Nursing Home, the Vic. Churches of Christ Ladies' Choir, under the conductorship of Miss M. E. Pittman, has for several years presented an annual concert. Choral items, interspersed with items by talented assisting artists, combine to make a most enjoyable programme. This year's concert, on April 30, when Joy Drinkmilk, elocutioniste, Arthur Haskell, baritone, and Ron Smyth, violinist, supplemented the choir items, maintained past standards of fine entertainment. As a result of the function, approximately £30 has been added to the total raised over the past four years.

"ARE WE GOING TO THE DOGS?"

This may be a crude way of asking the question which is on the lips of so many. Social evils are increasing at such a pace that alarm is expressed for the future of Society. The Church, which has been regarded as the custodian of morals, seems to be powerless to stem the downward trend. To our mind, this is, to a large extent, due to her readiness to compromise with the evils, for which today she has no positive answer.

Gambling, under the more respectable names of betting, raffles, art unions, guessing contests and lotteries, is almost unrestricted — only the poor Chinaman, who indulges in fan-tan and other illegal games, is prosecuted. Occasionally, two-up schools, or other prohibited games, are raided, but these affect only a small minority of people. The Social Services Secretariat, representative of all the Protestant Churches, is limited in the effective action it can take on gambling and drinking, because of the uncertain and compromising attitude of the Churches. It is openly confessed by some that members indulge those habits, often with the consent of the clergy.

SHOULD REFERENCES BE GIVEN?

This is another question which arises. Is it proper to give a reference of good character and reliability to an offender, who has served a sentence in prison, or is known to have been unfaithful and unworthy, even though he professes repentance, knowing that such a reference will be presented to one who respects our confidence, without insisting that the previous failure of the applicant

shall be made known to the one whose trust is sought? In the event of a failure on the part of the applicant to measure up to our reference and to honor his undertaking, would not our action constitute a breach of confidence which deserves the strictest censure?—Will H. Clay.

Duncan, who described the resettlement work of the W.C.C. Mrs. Cleland is the new president of the women. The incoming conference president, R. S. Bullen (Mitcham), presided over the Monday evening meeting, when K. A. Jones presented a challenging address.

During conference, musical items were contributed by Miss L. Dudley, K. Hall and the Camberwell choir.

Plans are in hand for the encouragement of co-operation between the churches of the district, as concern has been felt that conference is not meeting with as much support as it should.

Officers for 1956-1957 are: pres., R. S. Bullen (Mitcham); sec., J. Pye (Boronia); treas., F. Rogers (Montrose); auditor, A. Cleland (Ringwood); pianiste, Miss B. Lowen (Blackburn); song-leader, P. A. Jordan (Boronia).

—J. Pye.

NOTICE

A marriage re-dedication service will be held at the North Richmond church, on Sunday, July 1, at 7 p.m. A welcome is extended to all married couples who were married in the North Richmond chapel.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

H. C. Wheat (preacher, Chinchilla District circuit), The Manse, Hopeslands, via Chinchilla, Qld.

Eastern District Conference,

MELBOURNE

The Eastern District Conference held its annual meetings for 1956 at Blackburn on June 2, 3 and 4. The president was C. L. Smith (Boronia). The devotional session on Saturday afternoon was led by R. V. Amos (Blackburn). This was followed by the business session. After tea the Youth Rally was held, the speaker being R. V. Amos. At this meeting a young man rededicated his life to Christ.

On Sunday afternoon the conference sermon was delivered by D. McCrae, chaplain to the University of Melbourne. At this service a presentation was made to R. J. Sandells, in appreciation of his services as secretary for the past 13 years.

The young people enjoyed a bus trip to Warragul on Monday. The Women's Conference on Monday afternoon, was addressed by Miss



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June 19, 1956

OBITUARY

John Watt.

After many years of loving and
faithful service at the East Kew
church, Vic., John Watt, at the age
of 81 years, passed to be with the
Lord he loved so well. Mr. Watt
made his decision and was baptised
during the Hinrichsen-Brooker mis-
sion at East Kew in 1923, and served
graciously as elder, deacon and B.S.
worker for many years. Along with
his loving wife, who predeceased him
by five years, our brother was very
faithful, both in attendance and ser-
vice, and, during the early years of
the work at East Kew, they used
their home to nurture and assist
the young people of the church. His
happy disposition and sincere Chris-
tian witness endeared him to all.
A large gathering of friends attended
the service at the chapel and Spring-
vale Crematorium, paying tribute to
a long life, devoted to his Lord. The
services were conducted by D. Man-
sell and W. Wigney. We commend
his sons and daughters to our
Heavenly Father's care.—F.H.E.

Stanley Trotter.

The church at North Fitzroy, Vic.,
has lost one of its most faithful
members in the passing of Stan
Trotter. As a child of five, he at-
tended the B.S., and thus began an
association of 60 years, that ter-
minated with his death. At the age
of 15 he accepted Christ, and as a
member of the church has been
active in its service for 50 years.
In the Mutual Improvement Society,
gymnasium, as B.S. treasurer, and
as deacon for 30 years up till the
time of his passing, he endeared
himself to all by his happy dis-
position and willingness to serve.
This was manifested by the large
number who attended the service at
the home, and later at the grave-
side. The services were conducted by
J. Turner, assisted by H. R. Coventry
and C. Cole. A fitting tribute was
paid at morning worship by P.
Foster. Sympathy is extended to Sis.
Trotter and family.—V. Foster.

Arthur Mason.

On Sunday morning, June 3, our
brother was called Home to be with
Christ. He journeyed to Adelaide from
England in 1886. He was baptised by
W. Beiler in 1889 at Grote-st. On
Oct. 23, 1924, he transferred his mem-
bership to Norwood, where he served
as a faithful and loyal member. In
the latter years he was unable to
attend any services because of ill
health, but he remained a very de-
vout supporter in his prayers and
witness. Many friends and relatives
gathered together at the funeral
parlor and cemetery, paying tribute

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Apologetics: D. Beanland, R. Bust, R. Deane, K. Draney, G. Hearn, R. Ryall, J. Sutton. Four others passed.
Religious Education: A. Cant. Seven others passed.

Homiletics I: C. Dow, G. Mathieson, E. Sanders. Four others passed.

Homiletics II: A. Cant, J. E. Edwards, I. Mackey, B. McIntosh, C. Perkins, J. Styles.

Homiletics III: D. Beanland, R. Bust, R. Chamberlain, R. Deane, K. Draney, G. Hearn, E. Ots, R. Ryall, J. Sutton, R. Veal. One other passed.

New Testament: A. Cant, C. Dow, E. Sanders, J. Styles. Ten others passed.

Old Testament: A. Cant, E. Sanders, J. Styles. Ten others passed.

Greek I: G. Mathieson. Three others passed.

Greek II: A. Cant, J. Styles. Three others passed.

Greek III: D. Beanland, R. Bust, R. Deane, E. Ots, J. Sutton. Four others passed.

Greek History: D. Hughes, E. Sanders, D. Thoday. Two others passed.

English Grammar: Miss M. Creed, D. Hughes, E. Sanders, B. Snoxall. Three others passed.

Church History I: C. Dow, G. Mathieson, E. Sanders. Two others passed.

Church History II: A. Cant. Six others passed.

Comparative Religion: D. Beanland, R. Bust, R. Deane, E. Ots, J. Sutton, R. Veal. Two others passed.

Doctrine: D. Beanland, R. Bust, R. Deane, K. Draney, J. Sutton, R. Veal. Three others passed.

Ethics: D. Beanland, R. Bust, R. Deane, G. Hearn, E. Ots, R. Veal. Four others passed.

Economics: C. Badcock. Three others passed.

—E. L. Williams.

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