

Murray



THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

BRUSSELS WORLD EXHIBITION

The small, but determined, Protestant minority in Belgium is making extensive plans for Protestant participation in the Brussels World Exhibition, to be held from March to October, 1958. Of the 8,500,000 population in Belgium, there are only 75,000 Protestants.

Leaders of the committee, appointed by the Federation of Protestant Churches of Belgium, are Pastor Pieter Fagel, minister of the Netherlands Reformed Church in Brussels, and Pastor R. Sedeyn, a Baptist. Thirty million visitors are expected at the World Exhibition.

With no funds, but with the faith that Protestant Churches of the world would support their efforts, Belgian Protestants have secured a space in the centre of the Exhibition. They approached architects, and chose a modern design, which a Belgian expert has called "the best of all projects submitted until now."

The building will cost four million Belgian francs (\$80,000). Operating the enterprise, for the 200 days which the Exhibition will last, will cost another two million francs.

"The small Belgian churches are making an enormous effort to provide one million francs (\$20,000). They hope and pray that the more privileged Churches in the world will supply the remaining \$100,000," say Pastor Fagel and Pastor Sedeyn.

The building will be constructed of aluminium and brass. It will have an exhibition hall, where a series of 12 exhibits of different aspects of the life and work of the Churches

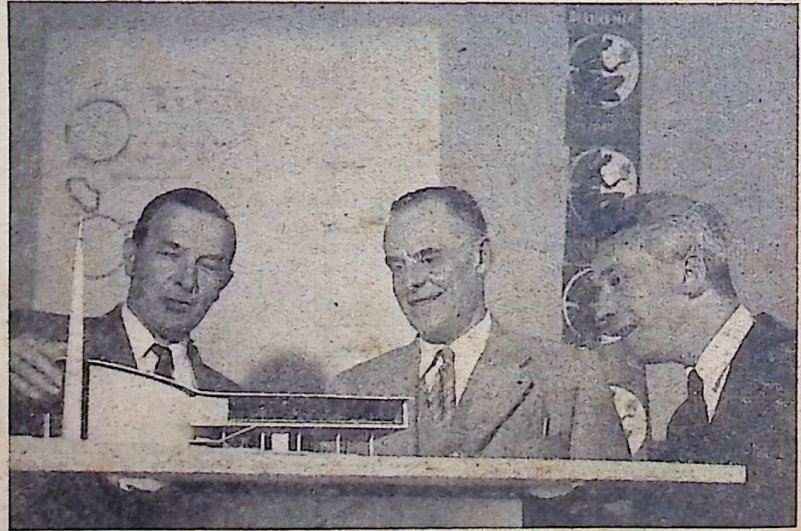
around the world will be displayed. These exhibits include literature, art, inter-church aid, evangelism, liturgy, and social work.

The church will serve as a quiet place for meditation. There will be short services in different languages. There will be lectures in connection with the various exhibitions.

The Brussels World Exhibition has as its aim to contribute to the development of a genuine unity of man-

kind, based upon respect for human personality. Already 42 countries have indicated that they will participate.

The Protestant exhibition hall and church will be constructed so that it can be moved to a new location following the fair, and will either serve as an ecumenical centre for the Belgian churches and a refugee centre, or be placed where it can serve a seaside community as a church.



Pastor Pieter Fagel, Dr. W. A. Visser't Hooft and Pastor Raymond Sedeyn look at proposed model for chapel at Exhibition.

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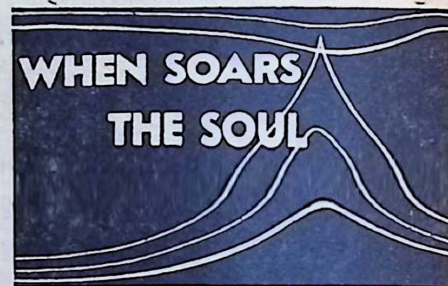
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When soars the soul earth's
clamoring voices cease,
Stilled in the wonder of God's
power and peace.



So the present to Esau went on ahead of Jacob, who sent everything that belonged to him across the ford of the Jabbok. Jacob himself was left behind all alone. Then a man wrestled with him until day-break, and when he found that he could not master him, he touched the socket of his thigh, so that the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go; for the dawn is breaking." But he replied, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." "What is your name?" he said to him. "Jacob," he replied. Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel (wrestler with God), because you have wrestled with God and man, and have been the victor."—Gen. 32: 21, 23, 24-28 (Meek).

The expression "wrestling in prayer" has not only gone out of fashion, but the experience it stood for seems to be unknown to many nowadays.

Prayer is active co-operation with God, making his will our will, and our will his will. It is not that we resign ourselves to what we cannot resist, but that we fully, freely, gladly, make the purpose of God our purpose. But before that can be done we must wrestle, both with ourselves and with our God . . . There is a very great difference between Jacob fleeing from his brother and trying to make a bargain with God at Bethel, and the same man, who yet was not the same, wrestling with God at Peniel until he was granted the blessing God chose to bestow . . . Let us give to God of our strength, as well as approach him in our weakness. Let us in our prayers cast ourselves into the arms of God, not simply to nestle, that we may be caressed, but to wrestle with him, that we may be blessed there.—Dr. Trevor Davies, "Christian World."

From strength to strength go on;
Wrestle, and fight, and pray;
Tread all the powers of darkness
down,

And win the well-fought day!

—Charles Wesley.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

BY LUCK-OR LABOR?

News that the House of Commons in London on June 18 approved, by a majority vote of 53, the British Government's plan to issue Premium Bonds, comes as a disappointment to those who had hoped that strong church opposition to the proposal would have persuaded the Government to abandon it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in first introducing the plan, had anticipated the charge that it involved a form of lottery, though he denied it. He seemed to intimate that, if the proposal met with serious opposition, it would be withdrawn. Yet it has not been withdrawn. Why not? Was the British Churches' attitude so weak that the Government could afford to disregard it?

There was, as the Chancellor expected, some difference of opinion as to whether the scheme really involved a lottery. Briefly, the Chancellor proposed "the issue of a £1 bond, not bearing interest, with a limit of individual holdings, which might be 250 to start with. A holder would get back his £1 on giving notice, and each bond held for a fixed period would qualify for a draw to take place every three months. Mr. Macmillan had in mind, to begin with, an annual prize fund equal in amount to four per cent of the bonds drawn, divided into prizes ranging from a few top prizes of £1,000 to a larger number of prizes of smaller amounts." Alderman Cyril W. Black, M.P., prominent Baptist leader, was one of those who did not think the proposals came "within the category of betting and gambling." "Money invested in Premium Bonds," he pointed out, "cannot be lost, either in part or in whole, and can be withdrawn at any time. Betting and gambling are a temptation to people to dissipate their money, sometimes with socially disastrous consequences; the Premium Bonds are an encouragement to them to save their money." Yet he was not happy with the proposal, in that it ran counter to "the essential task of statesmanship . . . to persuade the nation of the need for more and harder work."

Other representative churchmen, including such well known figures as the Archbishop of Canterbury and Drs. Leslie Weatherhead, E. A. Payne and Donald Soper, showed themselves strongly opposed to the proposals, the Archbishop pointing out that they "amounted to an unedifying adulteration of public duty by motives of private gain, divorced from responsibility," and "added nothing to the spiritual capital of the nation." Representative denominational bodies raised their protests, while the British Council of Churches bluntly

labelled the plan as constituting "a national lottery on the interest accruing to certain savings bonds," and went on to say, "The Council is firmly persuaded that the well-being of the country must be based on labor and sacrifice, on thrift and a sense of personal responsibility, and therefore deplores a departure from established practice in national finance, which it regards as unworthy in itself, and in the long run socially and morally harmful."

Yet now, "against the conviction and the conscience of a great body of British citizens" (as *The Christian World* puts it), and despite the opposition of the Labor Party, which condemned the scheme as "immoral," the Government has gone ahead with its plan. We may deplore this decision, and agree with those who see it as weakening still further the moral fibre of the nation. But we Australian Christians are certainly in no position to cast the first stones at those who failed to prevent its passage.

We have done little to stop the mad whirl of a lottery craze, which is a national disgrace. There are far too many churchpeople indifferent to, and some even sharing in, the daily scramble for tickets at Tattersall's. We succumb to the journalist's camouflage of the benevolent "Mr. Lottery," so ready to aid the needy, and remain almost unmoved by the scandal of leading sports officials conniving with him to debase a great event like the 1956 Olympic Games, by linking it with a super-lottery.

As a brotherhood, we have always officially set our face against gambling, and have refused to allow any form of it, however "mild," in support of the churches' activities. We believe that stand is necessary. All the Churches must set their own house in order before they can effectively protest against the mania in our midst.

But sometimes the protest comes too late. Our young people need help on this issue. The pressure all around them is to exalt luck and disparage hard work. "Be in it to win it!" is the insistent philosophy of their work-mates. What are we doing to help them take any other stand? Are we sitting down with them, and honestly facing the problem, with the help, say, of that very useful Provocative Pamphlet No. 8? We should be doing that in every church group in the country. Above all, let our own lives leave them in no doubt that we believe in, and act out, the gospel of hard work, and giving—not getting—more.

The Disciple on His Lord's Commission

Many of us are acquainted with people who are not in membership with the Church, and who make no claim to be disciples of Christ. If we go over the list, we will find that many of them are not antagonistic to Christianity, but at best, they are decidedly indifferent to it.

The average unchurched person may vaguely admit that the Church is a good thing as a moral institution, but he has never been able to persuade himself that it is important enough for his own personal concern.

He thinks the church people are a "queer lot." He considers that often they are morbid and narrow. He knows some men who are passionate gardeners, others who are deeply interested in music, and yet others who are keen sportsmen, and so he believes that in the same way, some make a hobby of religion, and become devoted to that.

He may have among his friends, some who are interested in religion, but, except for the fact that they go to a place of worship on Sundays, he cannot see where they differ from anybody else.

The most powerful hindrance to the progress of the Church of Christ on earth, or to the kingdom of God as a whole, is the half-heartedness of those who claim to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Either they are not really changed themselves, or they are not changing others. In other words, the most amazing thing about the Church of the living God today, is that so many disciples are not on their Lord's commission.

What does discipleship mean? Surely, whatever else it may mean, it means a living confession of faith in a crucified and risen Redeemer. It means absolute surrender to the Lordship of Christ. It means that we have covenanted to be true to him until death.

Can we honestly continue to wear the name "Christian," unless our life and lips witness, beyond doubt, that we are on our Lord's commission? While any single Christian hesitates, apologises or indulges in compromises about the great commission as a whole, or while he tampers with any part of it, he ceases to be true to the name he bears.

It has sometimes been said that when God wanted to emphasise a thing, he said it twice, but we find the great commission not twice, but at least five times. It is in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts. Each

reference is a different statement of the same thing. The challenge is crystal clear, but what has happened today?

Often, the glorious challenging truths of the commission have been obscured by neglect, or clouded by compromise. No one who has seen the central truth of the commission as the Lordship of Christ, could apologise for the place of Christian baptism.

Indeed, what rightful claim can we have to the blessed abiding presence of Christ, if we deliberately disobey any part of the Lord's last message?

Give us a watchword for this hour,
A thrilling word, a word of power.
A battle cry, a flaming breath
That calls to conquest or to death.
A word to rouse the Church from rest
To rise and heed her Master's high behest.

The call is given, ye host, arise.
Our watchword is: Evangelise!

The disciple will be on his Lord's commission because the commission implies

A Deposit of Authority

It makes Christ central and pre-eminent. He challenges, commands and calls men to himself. Every disciple who goes out on his Lord's commission, goes out on his Lord's authority. The Church has authority only as she follows and obeys Christ. Only as she proves a faithful custodian of the truth, only as she discharges her sacred obligations, can she lay claim to the Divine power and authority.

Standing on the resurrection side of his grave, Jesus, in the simplest language, made the sublimest statement when he declared his Divine Sonship and his absolute monarchy. His authority is not qualified. His power is not limited. Not only on earth, but also in heaven, is all power given unto him.

This great authority looks beyond time into eternity. Like some great searchlight, its scope sweeps out over all creation.

And this great authority has been vested in the vallant souls who make up his Church. That means that you and I can go out with the unlimited resources of the Godhead to back us.

The disciple will be on his Lord's commission because the commission reminds him of

The Debt of Love

A debt, is, of course, an obligation. The sacrificial love of Calvary has placed everyone of us under the sacred obligation of declaring the Lordship of Christ, and of insisting on the supremacy of Christ in our own and other lives.

Unless our baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reminds us of the wonderful facts of our redemption; unless it involves our submission to the Saviour who died for us, and who would reign within our hearts; then it has been formal and empty of all meaning.

Only by the glad sharing of our spiritual experience with others can we begin to pay the debt we owe, and so be true to our trust.

The disciple will be on his Lord's commission, because the commission contains

A Dynamic for Service

What is this dynamic? It is the promise of Christ's abiding presence. "Lo, I am with you always," or, as another translation puts it, "All the days, even to the end of the world." What a magnificent dynamic! Until the end of the world, or more literally, until the consummation of the age. Not until disaster and destruction overtake us, but until Christ's ultimate victory takes place.

It is impossible to preach the Lordship of Christ prevailing, save in living fellowship with him.

Christ, our commander, challenges us to a mighty task, but he offers to equip us with his mighty power, and to fill us with the joy of his personal companionship.

The phrase, "all the days," surely means that we can have the mastery over our everyday circumstances.

The one who, through the apparent defeat of a cross, went on to the absolute victory of his resurrection—this one accompanies us as we go out to do his bidding. He will surely be victorious. Shall we? There are those who grow pessimistic in these days of materialism, but one of the great characteristics of Jesus' teaching, which has passed into the higher consciousness of his Church, is an inextinguishable optimism. He who knows the past, stretching back, and the future, stretching forward, had an unconquerable optimism. His own generation might condemn him, but they would see him coming in judg-

ment. Jesus looked away beyond his own race, and embraced a world programme.

This same spirit of optimism and conquest was passed on to his disciples. They might be losing, but their commander was winning. The cross might be surrounded with a seething crowd of scoffers, but its sacrifice brought victory for the world.

These disciples had

Sound Reasons for Optimism

but they found, as we find today, that victory in God's work can never come merely by human efforts. It needs as well the regeneration of humanity.

Today we are faced with grave difficulties and great obstacles. The personal programme of Christ was never easy.

Many in our land today have anguish of mind over the welfare of loved ones far away. Many find it difficult to grapple with political tangles and international intrigues.

These and many other difficulties

stand in the way of many a disciple, sincerely anxious to do his Lord's will.

The persistent wall of apathy outside the Church, and the strenuous and destructive negativism and defeatism within the Church, make us ask, have we any real grounds for optimism? The answer is very definitely, yes!

Christ did not promise that all who heard the gospel would leap to respond, but every disciple, who is committing his life to carry out the marching orders of his Lord, has two very solid grounds for optimism. The first is God, and the second is Christ. Christ lived up to his own ideals, and those ideals are still attainable in him.

Ian McLaren said, "Only one institution carries the dew of youth, and, through the conflict of the centuries, still chants its morning song. It is the religion of Jesus Christ."

Yes, Jesus Christ, who loved the Church, and gave himself for it, has promised us ultimate victory, when he said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The tide is sure to win.

On the far reef, the breakers
Recoil in shattered foam,
But still the sea behind them
Urges its forces home.

Its song of triumph surges
O'er all the thunderous din.
The wave may break in failure
But the tide is sure to win.

The reef is strong and cruel;
Upon its jagged wall,
One wave, a score, a hundred,
Broken and beaten fall.

Yet in defeat, they conquer,
The sea comes crowding in.
The wave may be defeated,
But the tide is sure to win.

O mighty sea, thy message,
In clanging spray is cast;
Within God's plan of progress
It matters not at last,

How wide the shores of evl,
How strong the reef of sin.
The wave may break in failure,
But the tide is sure to win.

Chosen for a glorious service, companion of a wonderful friend, sustained by an abiding presence, and compelled by the debt of the cross, let us march side by side with courage and faith, for victory shall be his and ours.

KEITH SKILLICORN writes from India concerning

Buddha Jayanti — A Challenge

"There is no other name given among men whereby we must be saved."—Acts 4: 12.

This is the great offence and stumbling block which Christianity constitutes for many Indians, who, while prepared to grant Christ a position of honor in the Hindu pantheon, will not attribute to him any unique Lordship. I am quite sure that the persecutions which Christians are having to endure in Asia, result not so much from us preaching Jesus, but Christ, the unique Saviour. Even the Communists will tolerate the preaching of a human and ethical Jesus. Gandhi was a fond admirer of Jesus, as is also his great modern disciple, Vinoba Bhave, but perhaps more than any other in present times, India's Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, has sought to integrate into Indian thought and culture, the very best of the Christian ethic. As an interpreter of the philosophy and religion of India to the West, no one excels Radhakrishnan. Owing to the moral impact which Christianity has made upon India, Hinduism is not what it used to be. The great leaders of India realise that orthodox Hinduism does not have the moral content to inspire such a great and

influential nation as modern India, but this seems to offer no problem to many of our leaders. The nature of Hinduism is such that it can accommodate any thought—can even swallow whole religions, and still call itself Hinduism.

Buddhist Influence in Modern Hinduism

Buddhists the world over are now celebrating the Buddha Jayanti, or Victory, which marks the 2,500th anniversary of the enlightenment of Gautama, the Buddha. For them, the Jayanti is a significant event, for there can be no doubt that, ethically speaking (not religiously, for we believe that God was in Israel's history), Buddha, through his message of the Eight-Fold Path, did for Asia what Moses did for Israel. It is only in recent years that we have seen a revival of Buddhist thought here in India. Though Gautama was born an Indian and a Hindu, and died as such, his philosophy never really found fertile soil in his own land. The great Indian Emperor Asoka, however, was transformed by the new philosophy, so much so that he renounced war as a national policy. What Constantine

was to Jesus, Asoka was to Buddha, and through Asoka the message of the Buddha spread far into Asia. But a prophet has no honor in his own country, and in India, Gautama was largely forgotten. This may be due to the fact that his rejection of the soul-theory, and all that it involved, was really incompatible with the whole theology of the Vedas (or ancient Hindu scriptures), and, therefore, with the supremacy of the Brahmins. Though this new movement was tolerated, it was not welcomed, but regarded as an heretical sect. How could it be regarded as a part of Hinduism, for it has no god, no dogma?

For centuries, Buddhism failed to make an impact upon Indian thought, but the year 1891 saw the beginning of a revival of Buddhism in India, a revival which paralleled the national struggle for independence. That revival has left an indelible mark upon the culture of the country, for every time we salute the national flag, we behold the Dharma Chakra of the Gautama Buddha. The lions of Emperor Asoka, which have become national symbols, daily remind us that Buddha left a wonderful message of fraternity for mankind. This

message, which in former centuries was rejected by Hindus, is now being embraced by Hindus. We are now being told that this "heretical sect" is in reality the "Protestant Movement" of Hinduism. Buddha has been deified: the great Rabindranath Tagore wrote, "Buddha, My Lord and my Master." Annie Besant wrote, "Hinduism and Buddhism would do well, if, mother and daughter, they rushed together again in motherly and filial embrace and forgot in that embrace the history of their long separation." What Annie Besant wrote in 1896 is now being realised in the embrace of Buddhism by India's intellectual Hindus.

Christ — the Re-Incarnated Buddha?

More subtle than the embrace of Buddhism by Hinduism is the attempt to annihilate the unique message of Christ by claiming that Christ, in fact, preached Buddhism. Some are even claiming that Christ was none other than a re-incarnation of the Buddha himself. A book entitled *The Hidden Life of Christ*, is to be found in a Buddhist monastery in Nepal. It is alleged that this book was found by a Russian, named Nicholas Notovisch, and that he translated it into the French language in 1894. Christian scholars say that, though the translation may be correct, the original book itself is a fraud. However, be the book genuine or otherwise, it can serve a useful purpose for those to whom Christ is an embarrassment. This book states that Christ spent several years travelling in India, between his first visit to the temple at Jerusalem and his emergence as a mature preacher 28 years later; during which time, it is alleged, he became acquainted with Buddhism. We are also being reminded that the influence of the Buddhist monks had reached as far as Greece, prior to the time of Christ. Colebrooke informs us that there is a great similarity between the philosophy of Pythagoras and that of the Buddha, and that, if the theory be accepted, the parentage of the Esi sect "naturally comes to be traced to India." Historically, there are no grounds for the claims made by Swami Sankarananda, of Visma Bharati University, who expresses the opinion that Christ and the Buddha were one and the same person. Josephus, in his *Antiquities*, and Tacitus, in his Roman writings, along with other references, give strong external historical evidence to support the traditional Christian position. But in their desire to annihilate the unique Christ, our Buddhist and Hindu friends sweep aside all historical and textual evidence that is against them.

In newspapers, magazines and periodicals the "similarities" between

Buddhism and Christianity are being pointed out. We are told that as Christ was tempted by the devil, so Buddha was tempted by Mara during his period of seven weeks' fast. Christ tells us to "render good for evil," and Buddha tells us that "to defeat evil, good is necessary." But there is a difference, a vast difference. The apostle Paul knew the Jewish Scriptures as well as any of his contemporaries, and they, too, spoke of the necessity of overcoming evil by good, and of loving one's enemies. There is little possibility that the words of Ex. 23: 4 could be Buddhist inspired. The very words which Paul uses in Rom. 12: 20-21, with regard to overcoming evil with good, are a direct quotation of Prov.



Great Statue of Buddha.

25: 21-22, with which Paul must have been well acquainted, at least intellectually, prior to his conversion.

But even these lofty truths of Judaism could not meet the needs of the apostle, as the pious platitudes of Buddhism could not meet the needs of India. Human nature is such that mere outward codes of ethics have no redemptive content. Saul of Tarsus was well acquainted, not only with the religion of Judaism, but with the ethics and philosophies of his day; but they could not save him from the torment of a guilty conscience — from an evil power greater than himself. "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do — this is sin which dwells within me. Wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death?"

... Thanks be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death."—Rom. 7: 16—8: 2.

Christ the Unique Saviour — Through the Cross

As we witness the emergence of this new, and more ethical, Buddhist-inspired Hinduism, we as Christians are challenged to re-evaluate our unique message in Christ. A "modernistic" message which preaches mere ethics will soon have little contribution to make to the life of India, but the evangelical gospel of power, centred in the redemptive blood of Christ, will always be in demand, for, when appropriated, the suffering love of God in Christ is alone able to cleanse us from sin and to empower us for ethical and holy living. In these crucial days, in all our ministry, with Paul we desire to know nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified. With courage we can still preach the unique Christ, but only if the Cross be at the centre of our lives. As Macnicol has prophesied, Christ may even yet become the "crown of Hinduism," for he is the fulfilment of all man's hopes and aspirations. Before him every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father.



An Asian on Asia

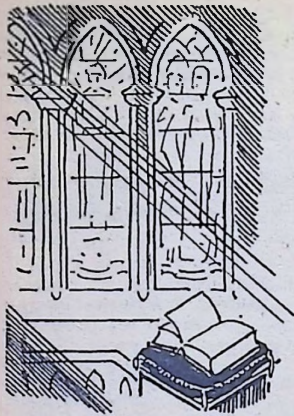
Most visitors miss the significant facts of Asian life. U On Kin, a Burmese Christian, told his missionary colleagues: "You in the West have the most, the best, the biggest, the tallest, the greatest, the finest, the deepest, the superlative in everything. You vaguely expected the Orient to be a lusty, glamorous and mysterious place. What you find is poverty. There is nothing in your scale of values by which you could measure and accept the filth and stench and the bitter subjection in which you find millions of people, crowding about you in the cities or toiling like dumb animals on the land. Your initial reaction is one of shock, pity, perhaps even indignation. . . . You must catch the agony and striving of Asians, you must bear a little of what it means to be caught under the twin burdens of subjection and backwardness."

ANNUAL OFFERING

OVERSEAS MISSIONS

SUNDAY, JULY 1

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



THE LIVING WORD

Studies on the planned Sunday morning readings

Sunday, July 8

OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 14: 11-28.

Summary.

When the escaping Israelites saw that the Egyptians were close on their trail, they became panic-stricken. First they turned to God in prayer, and then to Moses in protest. Moses replied by saying that there was nothing to fear, for God would help them. At that point the Lord called upon Moses to exercise the right kind of leadership, with the promise that a way of escape would be provided for the people. By this action, said God, the Egyptians would know who was fighting the battle of the Israelites. The Lord God came to the aid of his people by giving "a cloud of darkness" to be between them and the camp of their enemies. Then he opened up a way through the sea, by which his people passed to deliverance, and later the Egyptians to destruction. Looking back to this incident, later, many people saw in it the hand of God in the history of their ancestors.

Explanatory Notes.

"hold your peace" (v. 14).—"The victory will be entirely the work of God. It is the part of his people to trust in him, and to cease from murmuring: cf. Isa. 30: 15; 2 Chron. 20: 15-17" (Dummelow).

"speak . . . that they go forward" (v. 15).—"The command is issued, not to go back or to yield, but to go forward. There is a time for prayer, and a time for action. The time for action has come" (McLaughlin).

"the angel of God" (v. 19).—"The angel of God and the pillar of cloud are synonyms: both symbolise the protecting presence of God. As on the Passover night (12: 42), God stood guard over his people" (Rylaarsdam). Cf. 3: 2, and 13: 21. "During the night the angel of God, no doubt representing the Lord himself in the pillar of cloud, removed and went

behind the Israelite host" (Abingdon Commentary).

"took off their chariot wheels" (v. 25).—In the margin of the R.V. it gives "took off" as "bound." That is "made them stick fast. They became clogged with the soft ooze in the sea bed" (Dummelow). Several very old MSS suggest that the word "bound" is preferable.

Suggested Theme.

"LIFE CAN BE DIFFICULT."

Introduction.—Life brings its problems to all of us. Even after their escape from Egypt the people of Israel found this to be so. It was not long before they found themselves in a

I. DIFFICULT SITUATION.—Here we see two ways of facing trouble—one good, and the other bad. (a) **By praying** (v. 10), in which the matter is committed to the Lord. (b) **By protesting** (vv. 11-12), in which the matter is one of complaint. Prayer does help us out of many a difficult situation. Then, their leader, Moses, stepped in with a

II. DEFINITE STATEMENT.—God's servant gave some very sound advice, for he urged **faithfulness, obedience, recognition of God's power, and acceptance of God's help** (vv. 13-14). Finally, in their problem they saw the

III. DIVINE STRATEGY.—God spoke to Moses saying: (a) **You do something** (vv. 15-16), and (b) **I'll do something** (vv. 17-18). That is God's way of working. He wants us to take part in his plans (even those which include our own benefit). From vv. 19-28 we see what God did for his people.

Conclusion.—It is just the same today. Life can still be difficult, but with God's help there is always a way through the darkest valley, out into the sunlight of victorious living.

NEW TESTAMENT.

Hebrews 11: 17-31.

Summary.

Our reading continues the list of the "heroes of faith," by whose example many of the results of faith are revealed. Those listed in this section are: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab. In v. 30 the reference to what happened at Jericho indirectly refers to Joshua (whose name is not mentioned). Lessons of great value are given in this passage. As Sir J. Fitch said: "How much of the philosophy of history is condensed into this chapter!"

Explanatory Notes.

"by faith Isaac" (v. 20).—There are three names closely linked in

verses 20-22. They are Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. These men were all alike in the fact that they (as they lay on their death-beds) looked by faith beyond death, and were confident of the future.

"Moses . . . refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter" (v. 24).—The word "refused" is one that "implies the deliberate rejection of a career which he was free to choose. The statement goes beyond the narrative in Exodus, and rests probably on current Jewish beliefs in the author's time" (Century Bible).

"the pleasures of sin" (v. 25).—This doesn't mean vicious self-indulgence, but the higher "pleasures" of a brilliant career, and scope for his genius. Innocent things in themselves, but "sin" for him personally, since his faith in God and duty towards his people called him to another form of service.

"the reproach of Christ" (v. 26).—Cf. 13: 13, and Rom. 15: 3. "The same reproach as Christ suffered in delivering his people. See 2: 10. There may, however, here be the deeper thought, not merely of similarity, but of identity of suffering. Christ, who was from all eternity, may be conceived as actually the deliverer of Israel by the agency of Moses, and so as suffering himself what Moses had to endure" (Dummelow).

Suggested Theme.

"FAITH IS A POWER."

Introduction.—From the "heroes of faith" we learn that faith is a power, and that this power is a vital quality in the lives of God's people. Let us see what faith does for those who have it.

I. TRUSTING GOD WHOLLY (vv. 17-22).—Faith was the power which (a) enabled Abraham to make the supreme sacrifice of his son to God, and (b) helped Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph to glimpse a life beyond this life.

II. OBEYING GOD GLADLY (vv. 23-29).—Faith was the power which moved in the five steps in the life of Moses which are mentioned here (vv. 23, 24-26, 27, 28, 29). Each incident begins with the words "By faith."

III. SERVING GOD COMPLETELY (vv. 30-31).—In v. 30, collective faith is seen, and in v. 31 it is individual faith. In both cases faith is a power. Those who serve God completely enjoy that power.

Conclusion.—The Christian life—which is a life of faith—is meant to be a power-filled life. Is that true of us?

here and there

We are happy to learn that a recognition evening is to be tendered W. H. Nightingale, of W.A., after fifty years in the ministry of our Australian churches. The evening will be held on July 16, at South Perth, and those wishing to send greetings are asked to address them c/o B. Wesley, 98 Douglas-ave., South Perth, W.A.

Will church secretaries please note that, in both the church calendar and quarterly plans, there has been a misprint in the New Testament reading set for Sunday morning, July 8. It should be (as The Living Word indicates) Hebrews 11: 17-31, not Hebrews 11: 17-21.

A tribute to pioneer members of the church was a delightful feature of a recent recognition service at South Yarra, Vic. Those honored were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lewis, Misses E. and D. Griffin, and Mr. and Mrs. E. Eaton. Prior to the making of presentations, several brethren testified to their faithful service over the years.

Friends will be glad to know that Mrs. Valentine Woff, Cheltenham, Vic. (wife of the conductor of the Vic. Churches of Christ Choral Society) has made excellent progress following the need for urgent hospital treatment, and, by the time this is read, should be at home again.

The church at Wollongong celebrated its fifteenth anniversary during May, features including the annual dinner (with 200 present) and large attendances at the Sunday services, addressed by P. R. Baker. Mr. Baker was farewelled on May 25, after a ten months' interim ministry, during which increased attendance and interest, and many decisions have been recorded. He was presented with a fountain pen and pencil, and a wallet of notes. At his final Sunday evening service on the 27th, two young women, one young man and two youths made their decision, and were baptised. The church is deeply appreciative of his ministry. The work at Wollongong was begun on May 18, 1941, following a Hinrichsen-Morris tent mission, at which there had been 175 decisions.

The Victorian Christian Women's Fellowship council meeting will be held on July 6, at 11 a.m., in the Lygon-st. Lecture Hall. Mrs. Thodey

(Glen Waverley) will lead the devotions. As the Constitution is under review, all delegates are asked to bring their findings to this meeting. —B. L. Williams.

Listeners in all States will have the opportunity of hearing the Victorian Churches of Christ Choral Society, on Sunday, July 15, at 6.30 p.m., Austr. Eastern Time. The Choral Society, conducted by Valentine Woff, will be featured in the "Community Hymn Singing" session, over 2FC, 2NA, 3AR, 4QG, 5CL, 6WF, 7ZL and regional stations.

During October next, Victoria will have as guests Prof. David R. and Mrs. Vera Mace, world authorities on marriage guidance. Prof. Mace, M.A., B.S., Ph.D., is Professor of Human Relations at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, U.S.A. He was one of the founders of the first Marriage Guidance Council in London, 1942, and is Chairman of the International Commission on Marriage Guidance, operating under UNESCO. A most important part of their visit will be a residential conference for ministers, their wives, deaconesses and key church workers, to be held at "Clevedon," The Basin, Oct. 15 to 20. Group discussions and case studies will be featured. Accommodation is limited to sixty, and is open to all Protestant communions. The cost is £6, of which £1 is asked with application, which should be sent to 18 Orrong-rd., Armadale, Vic. Other Melbourne fixtures include: after-church rally, Melbourne Town Hall, Oct. 21; women's afternoon, Melb. Town Hall, Oct. 23; evening rally, Royale Ballroom, Exhibition Building, Oct. 23. In addition, country centres will be visited, including Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Warrnambool, Shepparton and Latrobe Valley.

Wilkie J. Thomson, minister at Malvern-Caulfield church, Vic., has made such good progress following his car accident at Easter, that he has been able to attend recent morning meetings, and hopes to be well enough to resume preaching early in July. Attendances have been well maintained, and the church much helped by further messages from Principal E. L. Williams, F. N. Lee, H. Steele, G. Gilmour, Dr. W. A. Kemp, J. McG. Abercrombie and former preacher, H. Klingsbury.

A mission to Melbourne University, sponsored by the Evangelical Union, closed with a special service in St. Paul's Cathedral, on Sunday, June 24. Missioner was Donald Kirkby, B.A., B.D., Presbyterian minister from Dargaville, N.Z. Among those who assisted in the mission was Miss Frances Cowper, Mus.Bac., B.Ed., who spoke to music students on Friday afternoon, June 15. Miss Cowper is a well known member of our brotherhood, her singing often being enjoyed in Melbourne churches.

R. J. Duckett, preacher at Ararat, Vic., has accepted the invitation of the church to extend his ministry there for another five years.

People corresponding with The Austral are requested to fix the correct amount of postage on envelopes. In common with other business houses, we find there is a growing tendency for postage to be understamped, consequently double postage has to be paid by recipients of letters, etc. Correct rates for first class mail within Australia are 3½d. first oz., 2¼d. each additional oz.

The church at Doncaster, Vic., has announced that C. G. Taylor, B.A. (now at Brighton, Vic.) has accepted a call to serve the church in succession to F. B. Burt, as from the end of this year. Mr. Taylor will continue his work as editor of "The Australian Christian."

Friends of Mrs. A. H. Pratt will be pleased to know that she has returned to her home at Mt. Evelyn, Vic., after a sojourn in Qld.

The Victorian Overseas Missions Committee announces that Bill Oldfield, of 65 Dougherty-st., Heidelberg, is available to church youth groups or men's societies, with a personally prepared visual programme relating to Missions.

Dr. Paul G. Preston, who spoke during the Melbourne World Convention in 1952, was recently honored by the First Church, Paris, Texas, in celebration of his fiftieth anniversary in the ministry.

The weekly broadcast sponsored by the Churches of Christ Evangelical Fellowship completes its first twelve months on Monday next, July 2. K. A. Jones (President, Victorian-Tasmanian Conference) will speak during the broadcast, which originates from 3XY Melbourne, at 9.30 p.m. E.S.T.

The National Missionary Council of Australia urges the church observance of Aborigines' National Day, on Sunday, July 8. According to the Council, the chief purpose of the day is to foster the object of assimilation, so that the aborigine is appreciated as a human being, and is given equal opportunity with white people to prepare for full citizenship.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Fallen Asleep

Mrs. E. Leng, Horsham, Vic.
Miss E. Gairns, Ormond, Vic.
Mrs. E. Keats, Rockdale, N.S.W.

on 14th, led by S. W. Vanham. B.S. anniversary services were held on 17th. K. Horne was guest speaker for kinder demonstration. M. Tinney has relinquished superintendency of I.C.E. and new supts. are Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Price.

Discipleship

Miss N. Fabian, Hawthorn, S.A.
Miss Lynette Congdon, Fremantle, W.A.
Mrs. N. Daff, Miss Trilma Webster, Ron Thomas, Gardiner, Vic.
Mrs. F. Robinson, Betty Mock, Blackburn, Vic.
Mavis Bolwell, Horsham, Vic.
Mrs. K. Stacy, Beulah Road, S.A.
David Rankin, Ringwood, Vic.
Mrs. Smith, Brian Chad, Tamworth, N.S.W.
Kingsley Jackson, Kalamunda, W.A.
Mrs. Kay, Richard Mills, R. Goffin, Judy Tallents, Lynette Ashman, Pat Gifford, P. Beckett, Graham Sketchley, Ormond, Vic.

Membership

Mr. and Mrs. Sketchley, from Wattle Park to Ormond, Vic.
Miss E. Matthews, from Caulfield to Ormond, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. L. Hunt, from Gardenvale to Ormond, Vic.
Mrs. Clacy, to Ormond, Vic.
K. Stacy, from Maylands to Beulah Road, S.A.
B. Pescod, from Camberwell to Ringwood, Vic.
V. Houghton, from East Malvern to Ringwood, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Lee, from Parkdale to Glen Waverley, Vic.
Miss D. Bluhm, from Blackburn to Bayswater, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. Crynes, to Jordaville, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. Cuthbert, Meryl and Jill, from Box Hill to Ormond, Vic.
Mrs. Ramsay, from Montrose to Ormond, Vic.

Marriage

Gwyneth Neumann to Alwyn Kelsenleiter, Ma Ma Creek, Qld.
Enid Charrington, Sunnybank, to Ron Tinney, Albion, Qld.

Queensland

Gympie-Monkland (P. French). — There have been five confessions and one rededication recently. Morning and evening services during June feature **The Deeper Spiritual Life Campaign.** Christian literature stall was conducted at Gympie Show again this year, when over £50 worth of Bibles, texts, etc. was sold, and many tracts distributed. Cottage prayer meetings are being commenced for mission planned for October. Quarterly District C.E. rally was held in Crescent-rd. chapel on June 9, and included a fine missionary exhibition. Guest speaker was John Fitzroy (Brisbane). Youth Fellowship held second meeting at Monkland on 16th, with increased attendance.

Ma Ma Creek (L. Larsen). — To celebrate 71st anniversary of church, a combined church and B.S. picnic was held on May 26 in Ma Ma Creek State School grounds. Women's Fellowship conducted well patronised stall. R. C. McKenzie (Toowoomba) was anniversary guest speaker on 27th. Gatton church combined for the service. Visitors from Toowoomba were A. Bernoth and J. Woolf. Mr. and Mrs. B. Munro's three meetings, one at Ma Ma Creek and two at Gatton, were greatly enjoyed, and a greater support for overseas mission work is anticipated. On June 1, C.E. attended Lockyer C.E. Union rally in Laidley Baptist chapel. Church extends sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. C. Roberts and Daphne, who were injured in a car accident, when on their way to Brisbane to attend Mr. Munro's meeting on 29th.

Albion (G. J. Andrews). — Evening service on May 20 was conducted by Colin Dredge, and David Andrews and Allen Crisp gave sermonettes. I.C.E. held meeting at Aged Christians' Home during that afternoon. Annual church and B.S. picnic was held at Sandgate on 26th. Sunday morning service on 27th was broadcast over 4QR. The same day a fellowship tea was attended by Men's Fellowship. Choir took afternoon service at Aged Christians' Home on June 3. Y.W.F. June meeting was an "appreciation of music" evening, conducted by Miss H. Trudgian. Festival of Faith and Friendship began

Western Australia

Kalamunda (A. Hutson). — Youth tea was held recently, about 30 being present. E. Gough brought a very helpful message. At evening service, film, **The Cheat**, was screened. Mr. Stephenson (Conf. Pres.) recently addressed church. Bible Class lad was received into fellowship. During preacher's holiday, Messrs. Gordon, Curtis, and Underhill conducted services. Sis. Arthur (former pianiste) has been received into Christian Guest Home in Perth. On Queen's Birthday weekend, a group of Y.P. from Nedlands church, who were at Youth Centre at Kalamunda, conducted evening service; Mr. Hosking presided and Mr. Bennett spoke.

Kalgoorlie (F. H. Griffiths). — Anniversary meetings extending over nine days, and embracing Pentecost Sunday, were a great success, with average attendance of more than 50 at week-night meetings. R. Raymond was guest speaker, and his messages were appreciated. The first Saturday night meeting for youth, in which all church groups joined, was a splendid one. The chapel was full on the second Saturday evening, when films were screened; **This Way to Heaven** being well received. Prior to anniversary meetings, Y.P. conducted a gospel service in an appealing manner. R. Vincent (Immigration Dept.) gave a very helpful address at morning meeting. Number of Endeavorers went to Perth for State Convention.

North Perth. — Work is in favorable condition. Average morning attendance is 80, and there is a marked increase in evening attendance. Six Y.P. have made their decision. Y.P.C.E. numbers have more than doubled in recent weeks. Members of the society arranged an evening to honor A. Edwards, who attained his majority. Lovely weather added to success of enjoyable B.S. picnic held at Rockingham on Foundation Day. J. Pearce is conducting gospel services for two months' period. Visitors have included Mrs. Reesby, N.Z., Mrs. Verity, Vic., Mr. and Mrs. O'Shea, Vic., Mr. and Mrs. Hemming and family, Tas. The late Miss Alp left gift of £304 to Manse Fund.

South Perth (S. H. Wilson). — During weekend of June 2-4, 25 Y.P.

joined in a South of the River Churches' Youth Camp at Waterman's Bay, led by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. A. D. Pyne (Conf. Sec.) addressed 11 a.m. service, and F. J. Stephenson (Conf. Pres.), gospel service on June 3, when a B.S. scholar responded. Attendances were down a little, due to exceptionally wintry conditions. On 10th, a married man made his decision. Choir has resumed, and is assisting regularly under W. Samuel. Ladies' Fellowship had large attendance, when Miss R. Connelly (B.&F.B.S.) gave illustrated lecture on travels in Africa. Ladies have settled down under pres., Mrs. Ballantine, to busy programme. C.M.S. had successful evening, when 45 were present to hear Mel. Peacock's illustrated lecture on tour of Japan and the Islands. Solo was contributed by Neil Monson, and chorus singing was conducted by John Brown and Ron Raymond. Supper and hour of fellowship followed. S. H. Wilson's decision to conclude his ministry at end of year has been received with much regret. Office-bearers appointed are: chairman, H. Heyhoe; deputy, W. Samuel; sec., B. Wesley; asst. sec., R. Richards; treas., H. Short. Recent visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths (Norseman Aborigines Mission). S. Huddy has returned to hospital for further treatment.

Fremantle (R. K. Brittain). — Preacher exchanged with Congregational minister on May 20. At evening service, a young lady made her decision for Christ, and has since been baptised. Palmyra ladies held evening on 25th, in aid of B.&F.B.S. Miss R. Connelly, as a representative, showed photos of work in Africa. B.S. has conducted special services for anniversary. On May 26, following grand tea, children presented concert and received awards. On 27th, at 3 p.m., programme continued with presentation by kinders, and in the evening, a final meeting in a gospel service. Many members of Y.P.F. attended training camp for Y.P. at Waterman's Bay, June 2-4. Working bee on 9th cleaned up many jobs around buildings. Youth offering amounted to £14/14/7.

Lake-st., Perth (D. R. Stirling). — Visiting speakers at morning services have been J. H. Ridden (B.&F.B.S.) and S. Laney (Burwood, N.S.W.). As well as Mr. and Mrs. Laney, Mr. and Mrs. O'Shea (Gardiner, Vic.) and Mr. and Mrs. Wickham (Vic.) have been visitors. Mid-week prayer meetings have been held at homes of Mr. and Mrs. Cook and the Misses Davidson. Interesting film evening was presented by Women's Fellowship, and successful jumble sale was conducted by Dorcas Society and Women's Fellowship. B.S. reports increased attendance. Death has oc-

curred of Mrs. A. L. Povey, loved mother of Mrs. W. Beck and A. B. Povey, and church expressed its sympathy with all members of family. Evangelistic campaign continues; leaflets announcing new series of gospel services on miracles of Christ are being distributed, together with an invitation to tea and film evening to be held in church hall.

New South Wales

Tamworth (H. I. Walmsley).—Social held by C.Y.F. on May 30 proved happy evening for all present, and Tennis Court Fund benefited by £10. On June 2, at gospel service, a lady was baptised, and at close of service, a young B.S. scholar made his decision, and was baptised the following Sunday. June 6 was happy occasion, when B. Munro (India) gave interesting talk. Church was pleased to have fellowship with E. McIlhagger (Inverell) at same time. Owing to severe housing shortage here, Mrs. Walmsley and baby Kerry have found it temporarily necessary to return to Melbourne. Annual winter fair, conducted on 9th, was very successful.

Epping (R. Beadle). — Overseas Missions have been principal theme of addresses throughout June. All auxiliaries continue in good heart, and attendances are well maintained. B. Munro gave stirring address to church on June 15. Monthly church journal, **Beacon Lights**, has been inaugurated to cover local activities. Building improvements continue under able oversight of Mr. Elsmore, while working bees have improved surrounding grounds and laid pathways.

Kingsford (P. Kavanagh). — J. Stanhope preached at morning service on June 3. Boys' Club has been formed into Boys' Brigade, with H. Davies as captain. 49th church anniversary services were held, with A. W. Stephenson as morning preacher. Mr. McIntyre and Miss Cardwell were soloists at well attended evening service. A letter of greeting from A. G. Elliott, minister of church on leave in England, was read to congregation.

Rockdale (A. B. Clark). — B.S. held camp-fire night and Happy Hour session on May 19. There was bright singing, and speaker was Deputy Youth Director, J. Henderson. Mr. Hume was speaker on 20th. First combined prayer meeting of St. George district Churches of Christ was well attended, with 66 present on 30th. J. Shaw (Bexley North) was morning speaker on June 10. At evening service, C.E. Fellowship held candlelight service. B. Munro (India) was speaker on 17th. Men's Fellowship held their second meeting and dinner on 14th, speaker being E. P. Thompson.

South Australia

Albert Park (J. B. Baker).—Attendances have kept up at most meetings, morning average for day being 105, and evening average 83. School holidays and wintry weather have affected B.S. attendances, with average down to 186. On evening of June 3, four B.S. scholars made their decision. H. Lovell was preacher. Social evening was held for junior scholars on 2nd. Film, **Decision**, was recently screened to a large audience, mainly non-members.

Beulah Road (G. W. Wood).—Interest is well maintained. Average attendance for May has been: morning 92, evening 82, with average weekly offering of £24/8/1. During month there have been two restorations. Y.P.S.C.E. is holding great interest, and Y.P. are very keen. Choir continues to render valuable service, and recently featured the anthem, **Abide with Me**, music of which was composed especially for choir by choir-master, G. A. Anderson.

Hawthorn (A. A. McRoberts). — Average attendances for half-year were: a.m., 166; p.m., 134. Mid-week service is small but consistent. Choir renders fine service at gospel meetings. B.S. is doing well, with 32 new scholars. Average B.S. attendance for day was 130, with 142 on a recent Sunday. C.E. work is good. Boys' Club has commenced under leadership of Clem. Brand. Combined picnic with Balaklava church was happy function. Concert by church auxiliaries drew crowd of 360. New hall is proving its value in many ways. One was baptised on May 22. Three members have received the Home call and church expresses sympathy to loved ones.

Fullarton (A. W. Morris). — Contractors have finished their job on new building. Painting and finishing jobs, such as cupboards and furnishings, go on apace, by working bee on Saturdays and every week night, to finish in time for opening ceremony. On 17th, a good morning service was held, when many who had come to know the Lord in this place many years ago, met for the last time in the old building. It was a time of deep feeling around the Lord's Table. A. W. Morris preached and A. J. Rosewarne presided. There was a good attendance at gospel meeting in the evening, despite torrential rain and cold. Geo. Cox led the song service. W. Craddock is improving in hospital.

Hindmarsh (J. E. Shipway).—101st anniversary services of church held on June 17 proved helpful. W. L. Greenwood (morning), A. Morris (afternoon), and R. Ewers (tea-table) brought challenging messages. Ladies provided splendid tea, and there was

happy fellowship with past and present friends. There was a large congregation at evening service. Men's choir brought two items, in addition to duet by Jean Aird and Margaret Trevaskis. J. E. Shipway was preacher, and there were three confessions. The mother of our church organist, Mrs. Trevaskis, has passed away. Church was saddened in sudden Home call of O. Pederson, and deepest sympathy is expressed to the bereaved.

Kilburn (A. J. Ingham). — Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Ingham have kindly acceded to unanimous request of church officers to provide an interim ministry on a part-time basis, until such time as a full-time preacher can be secured. Work is in good heart, and all auxiliaries are progressing favorably. Morning speaker on June 17 was Mr. Verco (Blackwood). B.S. held fellowship tea during afternoon, followed by film, screened by G. Jones (Maylands). At night, youth service was conducted. Church said farewell to Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Thompson, who will transfer to Clovelly Park. Their assistance and fellowship will be missed. Mr. Milne is rendering splendid service as song-leader and soloist.

Victoria

Dawson-st., Ballarat (F. C. Hunting). — Third Ashram was held at Hall's Gap on Labor Day weekend. About ten young married couples attended from Ballarat churches, etc., and a well planned programme of counselling, study and recreation won much appreciation; leader was F. Hunting. H. and B. Feary also participated; their chief job pertained to several improvements to camp buildings. Contingents from Kaniva and Horsham also gave valuable help in this practical service. In recent months, emphasis in teaching and preaching services has centred on need for revival in spiritual life of members, personal repentance and enlarged prayer life; this is manifested in various aspects, including a meeting every morning from 6 to 7 a.m., about twelve attending. School attendances are steady, with well supported Bible Class. Several sick members have caused concern. W. Maher is now progressing after an operation. Miss Jean Bailey (whose willing and diligent activities church is missing) is in hospital in Melbourne. We share her mother's and brother's anxiety.

Bayswater (R. Ryall). — At combined meeting in C. of E. recently, Sis. Rachel (Church of South India) was speaker. An offering of £5 was received for work in South India. A. Cleland visited church on June 15, and showed interesting films and slides on his trip overseas. He also played tape-recordings of some in-

terviews with Toronto delegates. Temple Day was held on 17th, and good response was given to pay off balance on purchase of land in Bayswater township.

Blackburn (R. V. Amos). — Y.W.F. took part in gospel service on June 10. Mrs. B. Robinson gave a personal testimony and another member made her decision. At their meeting on 11th, Mrs. D. Patterson gave some hints on floral art. After tea, arranged for them by Youth Council, the 10-14 years' group assisted in service on 17th. A series of talks on **Parables that Puzzle** is proving helpful at gospel services.

Lygon-st., Carlton (L. G. Burgin). — All services continue to be well attended, despite prevalence of sickness. All work is progressing splendidly, and church has big plans for future. Sympathy is expressed to H. F. Swain in sudden passing of his brother, Dr. A. B. Swain, and to relatives of late H. Saunders (Footscray), a former member. After-church fellowship hour this month was in hands of Y.P. Ian Burgin's Bible quiz, duet by Max McColl and Don Atkinson, and wisely selected film on work of personal evangelism, were features. Miss G. Allen is again in hospital, and much prayer is offered for her. Members are very busy with Talent Fund.

Echuca (C. E. Watson). — Four young men were recently baptised. Parents of B.S. scholars were invited to special parents' service on June 17, and a good number were present, in spite of wintry conditions. Miss Cooke (former missionary in China) has given helpful talks at mid-week and ladies' meetings. Following his retirement from Victorian Railways, Mr. Payne and his wife have gone for a holiday in W.A. Preacher's wife is also on holiday, recovering from recent illness. Margaret Frencham gained second place in recent mothercraft examination.

Horsham (H. M. Long). — Responses from middle-aged lady (restoration) and young lady (reconsecration) followed screening of film, **Contrary Winds**, at monthly gospel film service. Newly-appointed elders met for first time as a separate group to formulate evangelistic programme. Membership is to be zoned, with leaders over each to assist with visitation, etc. Likewise, deaconesses, recently elected, have met for first time as group, to define and coordinate their particular duties. Two of their number have been added to Official Board. Gospel meetings have commenced first Sunday of each month at Haven. C.M.S. has been formed, with approx. 40 men, to assist (principally by menial tasks) any who may be in need. Mid-week meeting has concluded study of Hebrews, and

has now commenced on Genesis. Church has been visited by deputation from Wycliffe Bible Translators' team.

Jordanville (B. McIntosh). — Family night was conducted during May by Women's Fellowship. Church rejoices in 16 decisions during past six weeks. C. Young conducted one service in preacher's absence. 93 attended film service on June 3, when **Miracle of Love** was screened. British Paints conducted paint demonstration for C.W.F. on 13th.

Red Hill (J. Sutton). — C.E. Quartet conducted evening service on May 27, and there were five decisions and one reconsecration. Three more decisions were made on June 3. Ladies' Guild and Mission Band held combined meeting on 7th, and decided to form one group, known as Christian Women's Fellowship. Office-bearers elected were: Mrs. Hill, pres.; Mrs. Brown, vice-pres.; Mrs. Blomfield, sec.; Mrs. H. Holmes, treas.; Mrs. Littlejohn and Mrs. D. Holmes, pianists. Many visitors were present on 10th. Y.P.F. tea was held in afternoon. Evening service was conducted by members of U.F.M., and R. Story screened films of missionary work. Two B.S. lads made their decision, after appeal by J. Sutton. Youth Fellowship provided refreshments after the meeting. Miss M. Andrew and Mrs. J. Kirby have recovered from illness. Working bee was held in manse grounds on 14th. Work is proceeding steadily on new manse. Chapel was packed for morning service on 17th. J. Sutton gave an illustrated talk.

Ringwood (W. F. Nankivell, B.A., B.D.). — Communion service average attendance has shown an increase during May-June. Special evening services, consisting of youth service, discussion panel by men on stewardship, and sound film **Son of Man**, have been well supported. B.S. is advancing and had record attendance of 155 on 17th. Prayer and Bible study meetings in homes are attracting from 15 to 17. Annual meeting of C.M.S. was encouraging. V. Burden, pres., and A. Moore, sec., are now leading this work. P.B.P. basketball team is having successful season, being undefeated to date. Preacher is directing campaign of shepherding and cultivation by members, in order that absentee members and prospects may be encouraged.

South Yarra (R. V. Longthorp). — Recent meetings have been well attended in spite of many members being ill. All auxiliaries are working well and are in good heart. S.C.E. will provide new communion table and speaking desk, and have also assisted Hazel Skuce to obtain a piano accordion. Plans are well in hand for conducting mission in brotherhood's

Year of Evangelism. Work has commenced on building of youth hall. This is being erected by men of church, under a builder's supervision. Meetings of newly formed C.Y.F. have been well attended. Y.P. profited from study based on an audio-visual, Gallery of Witnesses. Miss Rita Roberts, Chief Good Companion, was speaker at well attended Y.W.F. parade. Church was saddened by Home call of Mrs. Barrett.

Swan Hill (A. A. Avery).—Plans are well in hand for Temple Day services. Fortnightly Bible study is being well attended, with average attendance of 16. About 25 journeyed to home of Mr. and Mrs. G. Chislett at Boundary Bend on June 9, where monthly fellowship was held. Services continue to be very well attended, with slight decrease in number attending gospel services. Ministry of Mr. and Mrs. Avery is much appreciated in district. Senior Berean Club has gone into recess during winter months, but all other auxiliaries are working strongly.

Gardiner (F. A. Youens).—Men's Fellowship had first hot meal from new kitchen, and afterwards entertained large gathering, at a know-one-another social evening. 61 at the mid-week meeting on June 13 witnessed the baptisms of three young persons. One, a nurse, made her confession from the baptistery. Church business meeting authorised Officers' Board to go ahead with school hall extensions, and to hold a Temple Day—aim, £2,000—in Dec. to pay for same. B.S. staff made house to house canvass on 17th for new scholars.

Kyneton (R. Veal). — R. Goudie (Wallacedale) and Mr. Fyfe (Congregational) gave appreciated addresses on May 20. Goudie family rendered a quartet. Ladies' Aid entertained older sisters of church, and presented them with floral gifts on 29th. Happy Hour members presented church with carpet for front porch. Mr. and Mrs. R. Thomas and family, who leave for Wangaratta district, were farewelled at social evening on June 16, when presentations were made from church and Berean Club. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas had been active in youth clubs. R. Veal showed colored slides of Carnarvon Mission work on 17th.

Ormond (D. W. Mansell). — 60 Y.P., under leadership of preacher, enjoyed camp at Monbulk, June 2-4. Youth Council has been formed in church. Four ladies were baptised on 17th. Sis. Tootell has improved in health, and Miss Johnston and Robin Knee are in hospital. Attendances at services are continuing to improve, average breaking bread for May being 150. Heating system has been installed in chapel.

Reservoir (R. E. Burns).—Monthly film services continue to be well received. Despite much sickness amongst members, meetings during past month have been well attended. In order to promote closer relationship between parents and church, a scholar-parent gospel service is being held monthly. C.E. girls have entered basketball team in local competitions. C. Fletcher addressed church on morning of June 17. C.M.S. monthly meeting was addressed by J. Plummer (Pres., A.I.M.). Members are showing great interest in Building Fund effort, which now stands at £1,025. Mrs. Garrett is still unable to attend services, owing to illness. Christian Youth Club combined with Blackburn Y.P. for an enjoyable Queen's Birthday weekend at Warburton.

Maidstone. — There was an exchange of Williamstown brethren at communion service on June 10. Women's Fellowship celebrated their seventh anniversary on 13th, when about 70 were present. Ladies were happy to enjoy fellowship once again with Mrs. Randall. Miss Newton gave interesting talk on work amongst the lepers. Y.P. of four Western Suburban churches met on 16th, and held a successful barbecue in church grounds. L. Snow is bringing helpful messages to church.

Golden Jubilee,

BELMORE, N.S.W.,

On June 3, 1906, the church at Belmore, N.S.W., was commenced in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hall, and on June 3, 1956, the Golden Jubilee was celebrated with special services, at which Mrs. Hall was present. The day was one of happy reunion, fellowship, and spiritual blessing.

Glen Brown gave a challenging message to the church at the communion service, and six new members were received into fellowship.

A large crowd gathered for a fellowship tea at 5 p.m., and their needs were very well catered for by the Ladies' Fellowship.

The chapel was crowded for the evening service, and extra seating was provided on the platform. The gospel message was very faithfully delivered by the church's preacher, B. G. Corlett.

Special messages in song were given by the choir at both services.

A jubilee booklet has been edited, giving the history of the 50 years of outstanding service the church—has given to the brotherhood and the community.

THE MINISTRIES OF OUR



FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

Interstate News

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The June meeting of the S.A. Women's Auxillary was held in Grote-st. chapel on the 7th, when there were 130 present. This was a special meeting, when the Women's Overseas Committee had charge. It was led by Mrs. Trowbridge, and various members of the Committee took part. Mrs. Anderson led in the opening prayer, and Miss Foreman and Mrs. Brown offered prayer on behalf of our workers overseas. Mrs. Mauger led in responsive readings, and a beautifully rendered duet came from Mrs. C. Butler and Mrs. F. Parker. Miss Cameron then explained some of the work being done in India. She thanked all who had been with her in prayer during her 40 years' service in India, and told of personal experiences showing how mission work does touch those in responsible positions in Government circles. Miss Cameron brought us again the words of Jesus, "Go ye

into all the world," and challenged the Church to continue in faithful witness until Christ's return. A very brief business session was held.

On June 14, the Executive met to arrange the Conference programme for September. A series of three meetings is to be held in various centres around Adelaide for instruction on leadership of meetings. Training for Service lectures for women are to be held at Mile End, Norwood and Prospect. A donation of 30/- for Meals on Wheels Appeal (which takes hot meals to the aged) was made. Our women also assisted in the Badge Day Street Appeal for the same cause.—L. F. Hollard, asst. sec.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The W.A. Women's Auxillary met in Lake-st. hall on June 5. There were 90 present. The devotional session, which was prepared by Mrs. Greenwood and the Geraldton sisters, was presented by Mrs. J. Gordon, and members of the Overseas Missions Committee. The President, Mrs.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Cooper, graciously presided over the business session, and welcomed several new members. The Fellowships were unanimous in their desire to affiliate with the World Christian Women's Fellowship. Mrs. J. Pallot, H.M. supt., brought news of churches being started in new areas. Mrs. Gordon reported that Mr. and Mrs. Dixon had been met, while passing through Fremantle, on their return to India, and had been given many parcels, including a box of groceries from the Auxillary. Mrs. R. Blackman, Aborigine Missions Supt., was appreciative of the response to the appeal for curtains and bedspreads, and presented to each Fellowship a list of goods required at the Missions. Appreciation of the patients at Wooroloo Sanatorium, for the gifts of bed socks, skull caps, and jams, was referred to by Mrs. Collins. Some members of the Auxillary expressed criticism of the words "Fear God," included in a motto on Empire Day cards issued to school children. It was decided to suggest to the Education Department that "Love God" would be more appropriate. Many spoke in appreciation of a most successful Conference. The President closed an enthusiastic meeting with prayer.—C. Digwood.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The June monthly meeting of N.S.W. Women's Conference was held at City Temple on Friday, June 1, at 11 a.m. The President, Mrs. R. H. Wakeley, presided at the meeting, and welcomed all sisters, especially Mrs. Lawlor, special speaker for the day (representing Bush Missionary Society).

Mrs. J. Shaw (Bexley North) led devotions, bringing delightful thoughts on the character of Andrew. Mrs. Shaw said, "Andrew had two outstanding characteristics. Firstly, he was prepared to take second place. He lived under the shadow of Simon Peter, his brother. Secondly, he was always introducing others to Jesus; these included Simon Peter, the lad with the fishes and the enquiring Greeks. May we like Andrew live to, share our Saviour, and the joy we have in him, with others."

There were 78 sisters present, representing 27 churches.

Several announcements of local interest were made. Mrs. Snow, especially reminded sisters of the Annual Women's Inter-Church Council Rally, which is to be held in the Congress Hall on Friday, 29th, at 2 p.m. W.I.C.C. representatives were also asked to assist in providing afternoon tea, for a special Sunday afternoon gathering at the Dundas Migrant Hostel.

Mrs. Wakeley brought a recommendation to the meeting from the Finance Committee, that a typewriter be purchased for Women's

Conference. It was unanimously decided to purchase same.

Mrs. J. Henderson led in the intercessory prayer.

Mrs. Lawlor then brought an interesting film and informative talk on the work of the Bush Missionary Society in the outback districts of the State, telling of the wonderful efforts that are made to seek to help and win these isolated people to a knowledge of the love of the Lord Jesus.

The meeting closed with prayer and the benediction.—B. Wylie, rec. sec.

VICTORIA.

The June Council meeting of Vic. C.W.F., with an attendance of 115 women, was chaired by the President, Mrs. Randall. The subject, *Our Near Neighbors*, was dealt with in the devotional led by Mrs. Heron, and later by D. R. Anderson, liaison officer at the University, whose task it is to help Asian students. An interesting time of questions and discussion followed the address.

As some of the younger women with small children were noticeably absent from the meeting, it was decided that an approach be made to the Lygon-st. officers, with a request that a room be made available for a creche. A number of women volunteered to staff the creche, should such eventuate.

It was also moved that an approach be made to the Church Men's Society with a suggestion that they combine with us to plan for a panel discussion on the Provocative Pamphlet No. 13, *Neither Male nor Female*, with a view to holding a combined meeting in the Lygon-st. chapel, to which all church members would be invited.

All groups received a copy of a suggested constitution, with a request that, during the month, careful study be made of this, and any suggestions for alterations or additions be brought to the July meeting.

Mrs. Ploog, of the Dorcas Committee, requested all delegates and friends to take or send parcels to Swanston-st. chapel as usual.

—B. L. Williams, sec.

BIRTHS

HARRIS (Green). — On June 5, 1956, at St. George District Hospital, Kogarah, N.S.W., to Irene and Rex, a son—Graeme John.

SLATTER (Jackel). — At Boort B.N.H., Vic., on June 8, 1956, to Beryl and Graeme, a daughter — Pamela Dawn. Both well. Playmate for Kaylene.

WEST (Keats). — On June 11, 1956, to Doreen and Alan, of Mission, Roelands, W.A., a daughter — Paula Christine (prem.).

"The Backyard Miracle"

Think of the story of the birth of Jesus, retold against a modern background. If the Babe were excluded from a modern residential hotel, he would be born, not in a stable, but in a garage.

In *The Backyard Miracle*, Stuart Jackman has given us a reverent but realistic treatment of the Bible story. A hotel manager is puzzled by the strange people who have come from many lands to see a mysterious baby.

Some of the incidents sparkle with humor, and the sharply drawn characters reveal their varied reactions to the coming of God. There is a mounting tension, which is resolved as the influence of the unseen Babe is reflected in changed lives.

The Backyard Miracle will be presented, together with items by guest artists, as well as from the Federal College community, at the College Concert, to be held in Nicholas Hall, Melbourne, on Thursday and Friday, July 12 and 13.

Tickets are available from the youth of Melbourne churches, or at the door.



In Italy, over 200 voluntary colporteurs of the B.&F.B.S., working on a commission basis, last year circulated 150,000 copies of Scripture. During the year, the building of Bible Houses in Cyprus, Sudan and New Guinea was completed. The total circulation for 1955 was 7,280,000 copies of Scripture, distributed in 349 different languages and dialects, one and a half million of these being complete Bibles. The translation department has been co-operating with missionaries at work in no fewer than 53 languages, which do not yet possess a translated Gospel. In Russia, the Orthodox Church is due to issue further editions of the Scriptures, the first since the Revolution.

IN MEMORIAM

ANDREWS.—Ernest George, passed away, June 24, 1955, loved husband of Lucy, loving father of Elaine and Betty.

"Always remembered."

DAWSON. — In loving memory of our dear mother, who passed peacefully away, June 23, 1955.

"Forever in our hearts."

—Inserted by her loving children, Fred, Mavis, Phyllis and Alan.

THOMSEN. — In treasured memory of my dear husband, Chris, who fell asleep on June 29, 1954.

"Memories are the lamps that light the darkest road."

—Inserted by his loving wife, E.L.T.

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ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Byard, 8
Gloucester-place, Warragul, Vic., have
pleasure in announcing the engage-
ment of their eldest daughter, Alice
Rosalie, to Philip Thomas, second
son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Sandford, 56
Victoria-st., Warragul (formerly of
Sale).

BERRY—CHAMBERLAIN. — The
engagement is announced of Elaine
Patricia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.
L. D. Berry, Ainslie, Canberra, to Rex
Linton (present address, College of
the Bible), younger son of Mrs. R.
Chamberlain, Evandale, Adelaide, S.A.

APPROACHING MARRIAGE

JORDAN—TAYLOR. — The mar-
riage of Dorothy, youngest daughter
of Mr. and Mrs. A. Jordan, to Max-
well, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs.
A. P. Taylor, both of Shepparton,
Vic., will be solemnised by D. A. V.
Thomas, at Shepparton Church of
Christ, on Saturday, July 7, at 1 p.m.

Coming Events

COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

Annual Concert

Thursday, July 12

Friday, July 13
8 p.m.

Nicholas Hall, Lonsdale-st., Melbourne

Dramatic Presentation

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national and ecumenical significance.

DEATH

DUNNER. — On June 10, 1956,
at his son's home, 43 Price-st., Es-
sendon, James Leo (late of Can-
berra), dearly loved husband of
Florrie, loved father of Albert, Harold,
Jack, Hilda and May.
"Till we meet again."

A.V.A. AWARDS

A number of awards will be made at
Easter time, 1957, for outstanding
original work in the following cate-
gories:

16 mm Black and white film
sound film of 20 mins. duration
silent film of 30 mins. duration
35 mm Color or black and white
film strip, 50 frames with script—
slides 25 frames with script—
or—Audio-visual, 50 frames with
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Play 20-40 minutes, suitable for
church or Sunday School pres-
entation.

Religious Broadcast

30 minutes, recorded on tape at
7½ IPS.

Script for TV programme 15 mins.
Hymn, original verse and music,
sung by choir.

Awards will be given to the following
persons associated with the above
productions — Author, scriptwriter,
producer, set designer, character actor
or actress, composer, photographer,
sound engineer and choir.

Entries close October 31, 1956

Any member of Churches of Christ
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OBITUARY

Mrs. Eliza Leng.

The church at Horsham, Vic., was bereft on June 9 of one of its oldest and most outstanding members, in the passing of Mrs. Eliza Leng. Her courageous spirit and quality of character were tested early in the death of her father at a very early age, causing a struggle for her widowed mother and nine other children, on a small farm near Minyip. Coming from a devout Methodist background, she first heard the message of the Restoration Movement at a Chandler-Clay tent mission in 1919, a year after the family had come to Horsham. She was immersed, and continued active for almost forty years, serving as deaconess, vice-president of Women's Mission Band for 30 years, longer still as B.S. teacher, foundation member of C.E. (started in 1925) and often leader of it, constant attendee and active participator in mid-week meeting for prayer and Bible study. The chapel was packed to capacity for the funeral service, and approximately forty cars followed the cortege to cemetery, indicating the extent to which she was known, loved and esteemed. Her family (husband, three daughters and two sons) sorrow not as others who have no hope, but are comforted in anticipation of reunion at the resurrection. —H.M.L.

Ole Pederson.

On Saturday, June 16, Ole Pederson received the Home call. Working in his garden on the Friday, he was taken with a seizure, from which he did not recover. Some thirty years ago, he became a member of the church at Queenstown, S.A., during the ministry of the late W. C. Brooker. In later years his membership was with the church at Hindmarsh. He was a quiet, but effectual, Christian, and one who loved the fellowship of his brethren. In his quiet way he found God very real to him, and loved to give his support to the Lord's work. The church deeply sympathises with Mrs. Pederson in the loss of her loved partner, and prays the comfort of the Heavenly Father in the hour of her sorrow.—J.E.S.

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Australian Doctor in Korea

An Australian doctor is leading the fight against tuberculosis in Korea, where nearly 100,000 people die from the disease each year.

This is one of the highest T.B. death rates in the world, and is about 30 times higher than the Australian rate.

Millions of Koreans are suffering from tuberculosis, and as it is a disease that attacks youth with special violence, it is doing incalculable harm to the future of the country.

The Australian Commission for Inter-Church Aid, which is an agency of the World Council of Churches, reports that T.B. is one of the most serious problems left in the wake of the Korean war.

Among the bodies tackling the problem is the Korea Church World Service, the service agency of the Protestant Churches. The service is concentrating on home treatment with drugs, and it has established four clinics in Seoul (Korean capital) to help in this work.

The clinics have a staff of six doctors and 12 nurses, who divide their time between clinic work and home visiting.

The clinics are under the joint supervision of Dr. John Burgess, of Melbourne, and Dr. Ernest Struthers, a Canadian.

The doctors and nurses visit about 2,500 homes a year, and are treating about 5,000 new patients every year.

Outside Seoul, clinics have been established at Taejon, Taegu, Kwangju and Inchon, and in two villages. Four more clinics are planned.

Dr. Burgess and his assistants have a new mobile X-ray plant, and this has already been used to make mass examinations of school children and college students.

Among buildings which the Korea Church World Service has put up, or renovated, to help in the drive against T.B., is a wing for T.B. children in a Government sanatorium at Masan, and a new hospital for children at Pusan.

Last year the overall medical programme of the Korea Church World Service cost roughly £120,000, of which the U.S. Army and U.S. soldiers gave nearly £50,000 in materials and cash.

Churches also contributed about £50,000.

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