

Murray

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

NEW TREND IN CHURCH DESIGN

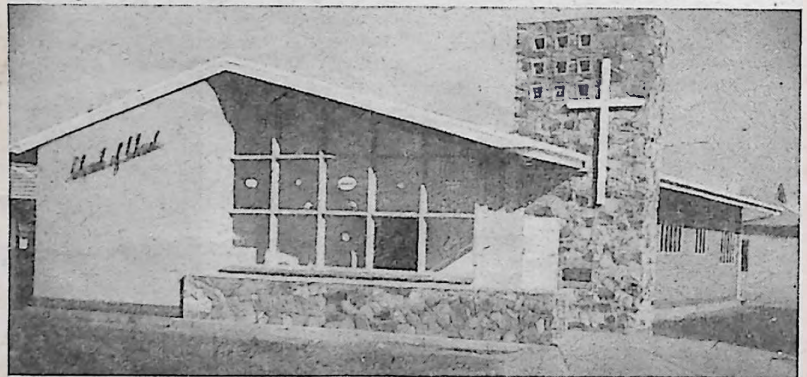
The new chapel at Flinders Park, S.A., is of striking contemporary design. The concealed lighting of the cross on the tower adds beauty and reverence to the approach.

The interior is modern in use of color and lighting, with chartreuse side and back walls, sierra tan ceiling, and glyde blue front wall, picked out with grey doors and white woodwork, and cross set on the wall above the open baptistry.

A study for day-time use of the preacher has also been built in at the end of the porch, which extends across the building. Other rooms consist of a vestry and kitchen, beyond which is a new kindergarten, gaily colored.

Furnishings will be in ramon, with a natural finish. Every part of the platform furniture has been donated by members to the sum of £120, and the Ladies' Guild has given the gun metal grey carpeting, at a cost of £230.

J. Follett, of York church, and his partner, Mr. Smith, are the contractors. Mr. Follett assisted in the



—By courtesy of A. Davy.

erection of the old building, 30 years ago this September.

The building was designed by W. Lance Brune, architect, and chairman of our Building Extension Dept., from where monies have been loaned to make this project possible. The cost has been, according to contract, £5,315.

The opening date is Aug. 4, at 3 p.m., followed by a dedication service, tea and thanksgiving service.

J. B. Baker will continue with the church a further three years, following the conclusion of his present five-years' term.

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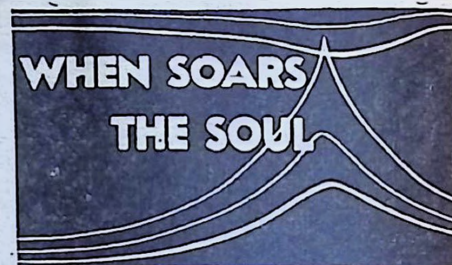
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*When soars the soul earth's
clamoring voices cease,
Stilled in the wonder of God's
power and peace.*



On this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall have no power against it . . . Christ is the head of the Church, and the Saviour of the body . . . Christ loved the Church, and gave himself up for it, that he might make it holy, cleansing it by the washing of water with the word; and that he might make the Church stand before him full of glory, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and faultless . . . Christ feeds and cares for the Church; for we are parts of his body.—Matt. 16: 18b; Eph. 5: 23, 25-27, 29, 30 (Williams).

The Church is not a luxury but a necessity; it is the cement of society, and without it the hard-won inheritance of the past is lost, and its precious values are tarnished and debased. No promise is given to a timid, beleaguered Church, seeking its own safety and apologising for its gospel, but only to a Church militant, taking the line of greatest resistance, binding men by the love of Christ, making its fellowship a home for the lonely and a centre of service. To such a Church, and to no other, shall be given the keys of the kingdom. The Church lives because it is rooted in the nature of God and the need of man. It is the living Body of Christ, uniting human souls in spiritual faith, in moral endeavor and immortal hope, whereby the holy things that make it worth our time to live are protected and made potent for the healing of the old hurt and heartache of our groping humanity.—J. F. Newton.

We pray for thy Church, O Christ. Bestow on her a greater responsiveness to duty, a swifter compassion for the needy everywhere. Teach her how to save her own life by losing it in an unselfish service to all humanity. Unite her scattered people in an unbreakable fellowship. Amen.

Gracious Lord, upon us shine,
Fill thy Church with light divine.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

“AS THY SERVANT WAS BUSY”

Slackers are a problem in every church. Their sluggish, satisfied souls take some stirring from their slumbers, and many a preacher is left exhausted—and exasperated—in the process! Yet sometimes it is these same somnolents who, confronted with a challenge in the church, have the audacity to say, “Well, I’d like to do it, but I’m really too busy already.” *Too busy!* Yet they are right, of course; any Christian who is “too busy” to do some service in the church *is* too busy—too busy with the lesser things. The consecrated few are carrying the burden for the many. You rarely hear *them* complain of being “too busy”—yet they are the ones who *should* complain. For those who do little or nothing in the work of the church are parasites on the spiritual and physical health of those who tackle the tasks because they must be done. The plain fact is that too many of our leaders in brotherhood and local church affairs are *too busy* to do their best work—and *they know it!* Yet what else can they do, while others shrug aside the tasks? That is why the enlistment of more men and women in the Church’s work is more than an ideal—it is an urgent necessity.

All of us might well meditate afresh on the words of 1 Kings 20: 40, “And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone.” Here a prophet is driving home his rebuke of the king of Israel through a story in which, entrusted with the care of a prisoner of war, he allows him to escape while he was “busy here and there.” Ahab stood condemned as a man obsessed with the lesser things of personal gain and power.

Still it is the lesser things that keep even some church workers “busy here and there,” while souls in need, and vital opportunities, are missed. Many of us are too busy

FOR OUR HOME’S SAKE

A man may win the plaudits of some if he spends most nights in the church buildings, doing some service or other. But if, unthinkingly, he repeatedly leaves a wearied wife to cope alone with fretful children, he need not expect the Crucified’s “Well done.” A wise minister remembers this in the demands he makes on his willing workers. He may not always find it easy to apply the principle to his own case—but *he must!* E. P. C. Hollard, in *Provocative Pamphlet No. 18*, affirms that “preachers should be released more from the round of church clubs and societies. The church has enough men to carry these, so that the preacher can be given at least one night each week which is inviolate, to be used for his calling on men.” Agreed! But he

must also somehow keep “inviolate” time for his family—time for that personal care every father owes his children. So must the busiest business man in his congregation.

Jim Vaus gives a striking warning in his story of a young man, standing before a judge, to be sentenced for forgery. The judge had been a close friend of the boy’s father, who was famous for his books on the law of trusts. “Young man,” he said severely, “do you remember your father whom you have disgraced?” “I remember him perfectly,” was the answer. “When I went to him for advice or companionship, he would look up from his work on the law of trusts and say, ‘Run away, boy; I am busy.’ My father finished his book, and here I am.”

Many of us are also too busy

FOR THE CHURCH’S SAKE

—too busy with mechanics, and not doing enough with our message; too busy trying to attract, and doing all too little attacking; too busy with meetings, and not meeting the Master enough ourselves.

Organisation and planning are meeting real needs in modern church life, and we have probably never talked more about evangelism, or had better blueprints on how to do it. But a comparison of church figures in the Australian census figures of 1947 and 1954 shows us tenth on the list of percentage increases in those years, with only the Congregational and Greek Orthodox Churches; among the main groups, below us. Our census strength of 80,364 is slightly less than one per cent of the Australian population. In the light of those figures, what are we doing with all our effort? Are we too busy with secondary things, and not the real essentials?

Is it that we are too busy

FOR OUR OWN SOUL’S SAKE?

If it means sacrifice of prayer-time and devotional reading of the Bible, as well as study of it, then undoubtedly we *are* too busy. And there are few frustrations more soul-destroying than that which seizes a minister when, on the one hand, he is given too little time for that reading which “maketh a full man;” and, on the other, too little time for adequate care of some slipping out of the Church’s life.

Maybe all of us have names on our hearts, about which, when the Master queries, all we can find to say are the pathetic words, “As thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone.” Too busy? Let us be busy with *real things!*

V. C. STAFFORD, Director, Federal Board of Christian Education, declares
that we need

Adult Christian Education — NOW!

The Church's greatest potential power is the untrained, undirected, unused and unconsecrated adults within its membership.

Unless the Church does something now with its unused potentials in its adulthood, today is lost, tomorrow is threatened. If our world is to be a saved world, a changed world, the remedy lies with the strengthening of the adult programme now.

Let us approach this subject by way of a few pictures.

Picture No. 1.

Recently an important discussion conference on juvenile delinquency was held in Melbourne. Out of the many findings, one rose starkly dominant above all others. The delinquency of youth was due to the failure of adults to possess insights and give information, guidance and inspiration to the critical years of young people.

The answers to youth delinquency are adult attitudes and adult actions.

Picture No. 2.

The matter of an adult training project was being considered in a local church. One man said: "You can't teach us older fellows; get hold of the younger men." The speaker, in his middle forties, is a vigorous business man. He would have rightly regarded it as sheer impertinence to be told that in his sphere of business he could learn nothing new, never change his ways, never improve his methods.

Picture No. 3.

Mr. X is a member of a church board—a good average type of Christian. In business he is alert and progressive. His business associates find him exhilarating company and turn to him for counsel. At a meeting of the church board, the minister proposed a courageous course of action in the church's witness to the community. Mr. X wouldn't warm to the proposal. Expansive and adventurous outside, here he shrank in dimensions, resting back upon religious ideas he should have long outgrown.

Picture No. 4.

The superintendent of the Bible School became harassed over the shortage of teachers. Boys and girls needed competent leadership. After a vain search for helpers among adult members of the church, he called in desperation on several adolescents.

Children, Youth —and Adults!

The church demands, and those responsible work hard and long, to provide a curriculum and teaching materials adequate for children and young people.

Youth departments and resource persons are available to give teacher training; many parents co-operate to purchase or make furniture, class equipment; resources are stretched to buy visual aid equipment and train teachers to use it; much effort is directed to improve home-school relationships; we plan for better school buildings, improved teaching techniques, proper grading.

Sunday after Sunday, boys and girls come to the church school — some walk, some ride their bikes (with Bible and lesson book strapped on the luggage carrier), others are brought and called for by mum or dad in the car.

We must never let up in our endeavors to put the Christian education of children and youth on the highest possible level.

But what provision are we making for the Christian education of adults?

Where are the Adults?

There is danger that in our enthusiasm for children's and youth work, adults are overlooked.

We have been captivated by slogans — "The children of today are the church of tomorrow"; "The world moves forward on the feet of little children." Is it possible that we've been a trifle uneasy about our adult failures, and repeat the slogans to cover up our uneasiness? That we hope for a better world tomorrow, without doing much about our own responsibility as adults for a better world today?

Remember the parents driving their children to church school and coming back an hour later for them? They are part of our adult constituency, but they are not at school any more! True, some of them attend church services, belong to men's and women's groups, meeting through the week.

The first adult class for Christian learning was made up of twelve men, with Jesus as Master and Teacher. The New Testament account of church history shows plainly that adult groups formed the growing edges of the Christian out-thrust.

Attendance at church service, important as that is, will not form adult frontiers of Christian enterprise today. Someone has said, "If Jesus, the Master Teacher, took three and one-half years to train twelve adults in his school, which lasted 24 hours a day, who are we that we think we can train adults in a thirty minute period of preaching on one day a week? At our present rate of thirty minutes a day once a week, it would have taken Jesus 1,176 years to train the twelve disciples to spark the kingdom of God after his resurrection."

Our Christian Men's Society is bringing men together in many churches. The four-point programme of the Federal Committee on Men's Work lays stress on commendable goals. But these goals do not envisage adult classes, which confront men with the content of the Christian Faith, and its implications for personal and social living. Adults need to grow in a knowledge of the Word of God, and by that process gain insights and convictions which create the driving power for Christian action.

It must be assumed, then, that adults are to receive this elsewhere. But where?

The splendid aims of our Women's Fellowship, and the work that women do, must win our admiration, but again these Fellowships are not adult study groups.

Adults Can Learn

The peak of our capacity to learn will be found in the adult period of life. Psychology and education have piled up evidence proving, not only that adults can learn, but that they are eager to learn.

It has been established that an adult between 45 and 55 years of age can learn as well as a young person between 15 and 25.

A horticultural college in Victoria conducts part-time courses for adults on week nights. Not only are these classes popular and well attended, but there is a waiting list of adults anxious to enrol. A side result of this activity is the raising of the sights in the diploma course for full-time students.

Adult education of a general kind, such as is conducted by the Council

of Adult Education, is a factor of tremendous significance in this country, as elsewhere.

Today, the average Australian has a half century of life before him when he reaches voting age. Most of us live at least two years as an adult for every one that we experience as a child or young person.

The Church must shake off its lackadaisical attitudes about adults, and be serious with these mature years, which can be for most people the worst or best years of life.

Adults Need to Learn

1. The successive stages of adult experience and adjustment call for vital Christian interpretation and spiritual resources. The role of the adult is ever-changing—preparation for marriage, marriage, adjustments of early married life, the coming of children, the departing of children to begin their own home-making, bereavement, the years of retirement. There is no leaving age in the school of Christian learning.

Adults cannot competently handle

life by clinging to the religious concepts of their childhood. Adult classes for study of the Bible, the Christian Faith, and its relevance for all of life, will prevent arrested development and save many grown-ups from being "adults in rompers."

2. Adults are in control. They form our church boards. They control church finance and policy. The total programme of the Church depends ultimately on the spiritual sensitivity and judgment of an adult board. Where adults are learning, the fact will be reflected in the zest and dynamic character of the whole programme of the Church.

3. Leaders are needed. Adults need "educational opportunity," but they must also be confronted with their "educational responsibility." "Raising the literacy level of the whole adult church membership is the first step in meeting the desperate need for leaders throughout the whole church programme. Only an informed adult constituency in the Church can provide an adequate reservoir of leaders."

Some churches still "rob the

cradle" to get teachers for the church school. To interrupt the Christian education of adolescents is unfair, both to them and to the children they teach.

4. What was said earlier about adults in control in the Church is true also of communal, civic, national and international affairs. The Church must bring the gospel of Christ to bear upon all the vital issues affecting human living; it has a community function to perform. For this it needs in its members a clear understanding of the Christian Faith and a grasp of its meaning for society, a courageous conviction of the supreme necessity of Christ, enlightened Christian consciences and effective Christian action.

These are some of the reasons why the Church must awake and put on its strength in a plan of adult Christian education.

With the editor's permission, and readers' patience, a second article must deal with the How and What.

(This second article will appear in our issue for Aug. 14.—Ed.)

BOOK REVIEWS

ROVING IN A CHANGING WORLD (B. Burgoyne Chapman). Published by Scriptures Pty. Ltd., Sydney.

This is an account of the events and judgments in the life of a man who has travelled far more than most of us, and seen far more than most of us of what goes on in the daily affairs of half a dozen countries. His story starts in Australia, because he was born here. It ends in Italy, because he has chosen to live there in an active kind of retirement. On the way, it takes us to England, China, India, U.S.A., Japan and Israel.

Burgoyne Chapman writes controversially. He has strong convictions and a large measure of self-confidence. He is often on the less popular side. He is a Christian pacifist, loathes the things that make for war and violence, and detests cruelty and injustice.

A buoyant, adventurous spirit has carried the author from his boyhood home in New South Wales across the world in a search for fresh experiences. The two most useful sections of the book speak of China and Israel. For many years he was an educationist in China, and became an ordained minister of the Methodist Church. He lived, travelled and worked in many out-of-the-way places through years of revolution in that ancient land. He gives an eye-witness account of the steadily deteriorating performance by the Chiang Kai Shek Nationalist Government, and a critical assessment of the defects in the educational policy of the Christian Missions over a num-

ber of crucial years, as the new China was slowly coming into existence.

He is an enthusiastic advocate for the case and cause of Israel. He writes from the knowledge and experience which he and his wife have had, while living and working for three years in one of the community settlements in modern Israel.

In his loathing for every manifestation of the sin of anti-Semitism, Burgoyne Chapman paints a strongly emphasised picture of British mistakes in Palestine in the years following the first World War, and he does less than justice to the complicated problem presented in dramatic form by the plight of the Arab refugees, who are now on the borders of Israel and Trans-Jordan.

Some of the most biting criticism in the book is directed against the Moral Rearmament Movement, and against those features of American life which encouraged the rise of the spirit of McCarthyism.

This book consists of 318 pages. The arrangement of the material might have been done in a more orderly fashion. Some bits and pieces have obviously been dropped into the original manuscript. One reader, at least, was a little irritated by the literary style. The author runs to long and involved sentences, with many clauses. One shouldn't have to read some sentences two or three times. But the most unfortunate fact about this book is its price. Why must it cost 35/-?—Rex Mathias.

THE POTENCY OF THE PEW (E. P. C. Hollard). Provocative Pamphlet No. 18. Published for Pamphlet Club by Federal Literature Committee (sec., C. L. Smith, 53 Boronia-rd., Boronia, Vic.).

Mr. Hollard is healthily provocative as he challenges the men of the churches to do something about the "lopsided mobilisation" of our work and the "untapped resources," and the fact that too many fail to realise that "if we are part of the Church, we are at once part of the Church's ministry . . . partakers, sharers, in all the Church is intended to be."

He recalls the visit of Mark Rutherford (two years ago, not four, as he says), and comments bluntly, "We still believe that the said Rutherford had something. It cost many hundreds of pounds to find that out! Now we have settled down, still believing those ideas were good. How about doing something with them?" He makes a typical thrust at the fact that, in some cases, names of some "inactive members" are "carelessly erased, because they cost so much per head in Conference fees!"

Altogether, here is a pamphlet which merits some straight thinking—in private, as well as in groups.

It is good to note that the Pamphlet Club "is continuing to grow, and looks forward to an increasing usefulness in the brotherhood."

"Europe came to birth under the Cross. And it is only under the Cross that it will be able to survive," concludes OTTO DIBELIUS, of Berlin, in contemplating

Christian Unity in a Divided Europe

It is clear to everyone that the situation in Europe has changed since the Second World War. This is so obvious that we need not labor the point. Political considerations are now concentrated on Asia. The world is watching with close attention the course of events in India and China, with their 1,000 or more millions of inhabitants, and the political and cultural consequences of the industrialisation of Asia. We must add that during the next decades the decisions will be made in America and Russia, not in Europe. In connection with this trend, the Churches of Europe will have less influence on the rest of the world.

Missionary Responsibility

But, even in this changing world, little Europe still retains its great task, one important aspect of which is the responsibility of the Christian Church. It was from Europe that Christian missions first went out to the non-Christian world. And in spite of the achievements of American missions during the past decades, the Christian Churches of Europe still bear responsibility for this missionary work. They have a long heritage of experience which is worth preserving, even when mission fields have grown into young Churches.

If only for this reason, the Churches of Europe must get together.

The growth of such unity is one of the welcome developments of the last few decades. During the last war, German mission stations were taken over, and later given back. The missionaries of the different Churches have helped one another in China. Missions from widely differing countries and Churches have contributed towards the growth of the young Churches in Asia. And the friendly feeling between the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches, represented by the C.C.I.A., has also played its part.

Facing Militant Materialism

In addition to responsibility for foreign missions, there is the responsibility for home missions. Here, Germany may be taken as an example. The Protestant Churches in

EXCLUSIVE!

This article, one of several for which we have been given exclusive reprinting rights in Australia, is one of an international symposium in the July issue of the "Ecumenical Review," which celebrates the tenth anniversary of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, a joint agency of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council.

Germany developed separately, both politically and confessionally. Then came the big social organisations — the Innere Mission, the Gustavus-Adolphus Association, the Foreign Missionary Societies, etc. Through these organisations, the Churches, with their different origins and different confessional tendencies, learned to co-operate with each other. The confessional differences were by no means obliterated thereby. But the tension between the confessions relaxed, and in the political and social sphere the consciousness of the different German peoples and provinces that they belonged together was strengthened. Nearly all the above organisations sprang up in an atmosphere created by one particular confession. But they did not become a great missionary force until other influences had also made themselves felt, and confessional narrowness had been overcome.

Meanwhile, the world has become more unsettled and more fluid than in the 19th century. The great waves of thought are not held back by political frontiers. The crucial factor which confronts the Christian Churches with tasks they never had to face before is militant materialism.

A counter-action cannot be organised with material weapons. It will have to be undertaken by persons with a firm faith, and by small groups of people rooted in the Church. All these people will all have their own confessional views. But they will not become an effective force until the confessional barriers are overcome, and the divergences of church form welded together by the one tremendous task which they have to face.

Survival Under the Cross

There is, finally, the responsibility for the political existence of the European nations. A divided Europe is doomed to decline. We must either have a "United States of Europe" or else Europe's spiritual and ecclesiastical heritage will decline, just as the heritage of the Christianised Roman Empire disappeared for a thousand years under the influence of the "Voelkerwanderung."

After the experiences of the 19th century, it is clear that the "United States of Europe" can only come by way of economic unions.

But it would be fatal if the union of Europe were achieved on a purely materialistic basis. The eternal questions of man and mankind are the only ones which make life worthwhile. These questions must not be thrust aside as merely private affairs. More united spiritual leadership must be established between the nations and their Churches, parallel with their economic union.

This is no easy task for our Churches with their confessional character. For the Roman Catholic Church, perhaps, the difficulties are even greater than for the Protestant Churches, in spite of its centralised organisation. The Protestant Churches categorically refuse to become a single organisation. They only want friendly relations and practical co-operation. Ecumenical contacts between German and Danish Lutherans will be easier than friendship between German and Polish Catholics.

Here, too, the first steps have been taken. The ecumenical movement is a fact. The separate countries of Europe are fostering their ecumenical contacts in special circles of friendship. It is natural that the plan to create a special ecumenical federation for the continent of Europe has been launched. This European Council of Churches would have been established long ago, if the leaders of the Church today were not all worried by the idea of a super-organisation, whose conferences would exhaust all their time and resources.

But, in one way or another, this European Council will be formed. Europe came to birth under the Cross. And it is only under the Cross that it will be able to survive.

WOMEN

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

Programme for September

Mrs. J. K. Robinson, W.A.

THEME:

God's garden speaks to us of

Cheerfulness
through the Lily.

HYMN.

No. 515, Come, ye that love the Lord.

PRAYER.

Our gracious Heavenly Father, as we bow in thy presence, we lift our hearts in praise and adoration for all thy wondrous gifts to mankind. Most of all, we thank thee for the wonderful provision thou hast made for our redemption in Christ Jesus. Help us to allow him to lead us all life's journey through. Bless every avenue of Christian grace in the world today, and help us to be channels for thy Spirit to flow to others. May we draw freely from thy bounteous store for all the strength, grace and wisdom that we need. In Jesus' name. Amen.

READING.

Matthew 6: 26-34.

MEDITATION.

Botanists bring forward many candidates for the honor of being Christ's lilies of the field. This is not to be wondered at, as Palestine is a land of flowers. Some of its fields are literally clothed with scarlet, yellow and blue, and the Eastern sun gives the colors a vivid brightness. Christ wishes us to take a walk in the open fields, and study these flowers that grow wild and owe nothing to the gardener. Those he referred to would probably be the commonest and brightest in the fields — the anemones — which are often a bright scarlet, also of purple, pink and white color. It is said that the wild tulips and poppies also grow in rich profusion, and can scarcely be distinguished from the anemone. These three flowers are still very common at Nazareth, and around the Mount where Jesus was speaking. Probably thousands were in sight of the people as he talked with them there.

Many things come to our mind as we "consider" the lily. We know that behind the flower which gives such a beautiful and cheerful aspect, there

was first the drab brown bulb, waiting for the transformation to take place — from the soil that would nourish it, and the rain and sunshine that would complete its development. Thus our lives are being transformed gradually by God's mercy and grace, to become living testimonies to his goodness. As we use the means for our development — read his Word, pray, and take part in Christian worship and service — we cannot fail to grow and give out some of the blessing received.

The Christian religion is, of necessity, one of "good cheer." It contains the greatest message for all time — salvation from sin — and cheerfulness of spirit should be one of the outward signs to the world that we have been redeemed from such an intolerable burden. Cheerful living and cheerful giving is in harmony with God's will. We are told to "serve the Lord with gladness."

There is no false optimism in the Christian religion. It is based on a sure and certain hope, which is the fountain of all true happiness. Such words as "joy," "gladness," and "re-joyce" run like a golden thread throughout the New Testament, and our Lord himself said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Let us follow in his steps.

How good is the God we adore!
Our faithful, unchangeable Friend,
Whose love is as great as his power
And knows neither measure nor end.

'Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe
Home,
We'll praise him for all that is
past,
And trust him for all that's to
come.

HYMN.

No. 602, Master speak, thy servant heareth.

BUSINESS SESSION.

MISSIONARY LETTER.

HYMN.

ADDRESS.

No. 172, Breathe on me, Breath of God.

BENEDICTION.



(Notes by A. Anderson, sec. F.M. Committee)

Dhond News

Dr. S. S. Patil writes:

We have just got through very hot summer this year, but are beginning to have cooler days, with the prospect of monsoons starting before long.

The hospital work during the two months of summer was quite busy; the service done was poor, but comforting; the receipts during two months were a little over nine thousand rupees, which is over our monthly average income. I am keeping over the expenses of the hospital, so as to be able to meet the current expenses but also wipe off the big amount of outstanding bills, of which a very considerable portion is paid off. I am hoping and aiming to balance things in a month or two.

I am missing the co-partnership of Dr. L. J. Michael. I hope that will be replaced by that of Dr. Crowley before long. He can be sure of our hearty co-operation and good-

will, and the joy of our co-partnership with him. We are looking forward to his coming, and I am sure he and the family will have a very happy, useful stay in "Our India."

The hospital work, at present, is going on well; the altered plan for the maternity ward will be discussed tomorrow at the Committee of Management.

I am finishing my last year's leave by going down South to join Mrs. Patil and Vijay, who have been away all summer, and we will all return by July 5.

I thank the Home Board for the last contribution of £50 towards the Hospital. I am able to manage fairly well with the hospital receipts, but for some of the accumulated, long-standing bills.

We may have to go in for some blankets for patients, and blinds for protection against wind, rain, etc., for patients on the front verandah of the hospital ward. I do not know where the money is going to come for these things yet. Our trust is in the Lord, who shall supply our needs.

here and there

The church at Strathalbyn, S.A., has just concluded a two weeks' teaching mission, under the leadership of the preacher, A. E. Cremin. Attendance and interest were high at all week-night meetings. These teaching missions are held each year by the preacher, and all have proved very valuable in deepening the spiritual life of the church. Singing and all items were under the leadership of Miss Grace Jackling, and maintained a high spiritual tone.

In the interim without a full-time minister, the church at Subiaco, W.A., has appointed a look-out committee to notice absence of church members. A visiting committee will inquire reasons for members' absence, in case any should be sick or in distress. Arrangements are made to supply firewood where needed. After-church fellowship meetings are planned for singing and conversation, to get to know visitors and strangers.

P. R. Baker, of Adelaide, concluded a successful fortnight's teaching and evangelistic mission with the church at Merbein, Vic., on July 8. The chapel was packed, with extra seating brought in from the B.S. hall, when 130 attended the closing gospel service. There were sixteen decisions, some being from the surrounding district. The support of district churches was appreciated during the mission. H. McDonald (from Warragul) and Mr. and Mrs. L. Jarvis and family (from Mildura) have recently been welcomed.

Victorian and Tasmanian members, who plan to travel by train to Sydney for Federal Conference (Oct. 4 to 11), are reminded that concession fares are available (return fare at single fare plus one third), for travel, either by daylight or other express, on production of a signed concession form, provided a minimum of twelve travel by train from Victorian stations. Full details have been sent to church secretaries. Since railway bookings open two months in advance, immediate application should be made for concession form to Miss Haines, Churches of Christ Office, T. & G. Bldg., 147 Collins-st., Melbourne, stating class and date of travel, also station for commencing of journey.

Many in our Western Australian and Victorian churches, who have happy memories of the Snodgrass-

Pollock missions of 1952, will be interested to learn that Dr. Ray E. Snodgrass resigned as pastor of Central Christian Church, Enid, Okla., U.S.A. on April 13, the resignation becoming effective on Sept. 1. After that date, Dr. and Mrs. Snodgrass plan to do evangelistic work, adopting, where possible, the "three-Sunday-meeting" plan, with the first week given to visitation evangelism, and the second to evangelistic preaching. Mrs. Snodgrass will serve as soloist. They will make their permanent home at Green Mountains Falls, Colo., where Dr. Snodgrass' twin brother, Roy, also has a home.

The next meeting of the Victorian Churches of Christ Ministers' Fraternal will be held at Swanston-st. lecture hall on Monday, Aug. 6, when R. V. Amos will speak on Trends in Theology and Modern Preaching. Lunch will be at 1 p.m., with the meeting commencing at 2 p.m., with devotions led by D. Mansell.

Both churches in the Williamstown-Kersbrook circuit, S.A., had a happy experience recently, when three young ladies made their decision for Christ in one centre, and three about the same age also made the good confession in the other centre. The church secretaries in both centres rejoiced in that each had a daughter among those making their decision. Then, on July 15, three young men stepped forward at Williamstown. The nine converts are all from different homes, and all are to be immersed.

On July 22, the church at North Essendon, Vic., celebrated the 30th anniversary of the commencement of the cause in the local State School, and good attendances marked all services. H. J. Patterson (who was minister at Ascot Vale at the time when three married couples, who had moved northwards from that church, decided that the time had come to set up the Lord's Table in this new area) spoke at the morning service. A. E. White presided, at a gathering of 127, while the lessons were read by two senior members, W. G. Mason and R. Thompson. In the afternoon, a musical programme, presented by the Strathmore Ladies' Choir, was enjoyed by those present. Church fellowship tea, organised by

the Women's Fellowship, was enjoyed by about 150 present and former members. Reminiscences, covering five-year periods, were given briefly by various senior and younger members, among these being former preachers, H. A. Hunt, L. A. Trezise, and Alec Wilson. There were 220 present at the gospel service, the preacher being L. A. Trezise, with A. E. White as chairman. Miss Jean Milne was soloist, and the church choir, led by Ray Drayton, presented two anthems. Temple Day offering totalled £164/10/-. Five of the six "founders" were at some services.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Munro left Sydney on the "Strathnaver" on July 24, en route to India and a further term of missionary fellowship.

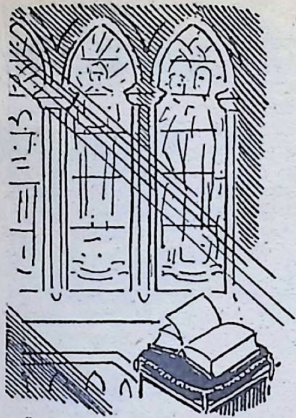
The Editor appreciates the encouragement received from those who have recently sent him personal letters, expressing their delight at his decision to continue to serve the brotherhood through these pages. We are glad also to receive appreciation of our book reviews, and will feature these as regularly as possible.

R. H. Sercombe, preacher at Semaphore, S.A., has intimated his willingness to serve a further twelve months with the church there.

Religious persecution continues to harass the Protestant minority in Colombia, where, among other oppressive acts since 1948, 46 church buildings have been destroyed by fire or dynamite, 75 believers killed because of their religious faith, and more than 200 schools closed by the government.

Dr. Jesse M. Bader, our World Convention Secretary, will be one of the sixty thousand expected at the seventh annual German Kirchentag next month.

F. Elwyn Jones, Q.C., M.P., of Britain, who recently visited China with twelve other lawyers from different Western European countries, reports in the *British Weekly* (7/6/56) that, while "prophecy is dangerous in the fast changing life of China," "at present religious toleration is the order of the day" and "the Communist Government is now firmly in the saddle." He concludes: "To the Communist philosophy as applied in China, Christianity presents a clear challenge—so long as Christianity is true to itself, and has a social content. So long as Christian governments content themselves largely with 'military containment' of Communism, without answering and meeting its moral, social and economic challenge, Christianity in Asia may well go into a decline, and the isolation of Asian Christians will increase."



THE LIVING WORD

Studies on the planned Sunday morning readings

Sunday, August 12

OLD TESTAMENT

Proverbs 4: 10-27.

Summary.

Two ways of life are presented to us in this passage, and they are shown in direct contrast to each other. The first part of the reading deals with the ways of the wise and the wicked (vv. 10-19). Verses 10-13 deal with the way of wisdom, which is straight, and leads to the abundant life. Then vv. 14-17 deal with the way of the wicked, which is filled with violence. In vv. 18-19 is epitomised the contrast between the two ways. The second part of the reading deals with the straight path of wisdom (vv. 20-27).

Explanatory Notes.

"thy steps shall not be straitened" (v. 12). — "Straitened" is given as "hampered" in the R.S.V. The root idea is "to be narrow." The Hebrew idea of "broadness" stood for prosperity, general well-being, whereas the idea behind "narrowness" was adversity, and enmity.

"the way of the wicked is as darkness" (v. 19). — "The way of the wicked is dark, and so they fall because they have no light. In the darkness they do not even know what made them fall" (Fritsch). The word for "darkness" is better given as "deep darkness." For this is not the ordinary word for darkness, but one which means "deep obscurity"—the entire absence of light.

"thine eyes look right on" (v. 25). — "Let your eyes look directly forward" (R.S.V.). We know that eyes that look straight forward are usually the evidence of a truthful mind. A modern expression like this would be, "To look one straight in the eye."

"ponder" (v. 26). — "Take heed" (R.S.V.). The word means "to be even," "to weigh," or "to make level."

"Turn not to the right hand" (v. 27). — To swerve from the straight

path of godly living means to fall into bad and ungodly ways.

Suggested Theme.

"LET'S TAKE A WALK."

Introduction. — Each day in the life of the child of God is like a 27). — To swerve from the straight Daily, our Father says to us, "Let's take a walk together." He wants to walk with us, for he knows the dangers and difficulties we will meet during the day. Some, very foolishly, choose to walk alone. There are some that choose

I. THE ROAD THAT HONORS GOD (vv. 10-13).—This is the road used by those wise people who govern life by God's teaching. It is the way of honor (v. 11), a way of freedom (v. 12), and a way of security (v. 12). On this road shines the light of God (v. 18). There are others who choose

II. THE ROAD THAT HURTS GOD (vv. 14-17). — This is the road used by those who prefer to shut God out of their lives, so that they will not be disturbed by his laws. It is a dangerous way (v. 15), a desperate way (v. 16), and a darkened way (v. 19). Those who do choose the first road, choose also

III. THE ROAD THAT HELPS GOD (vv. 20-27).—This is the road used by those who want to be of service to God and man. People on this road listen for God's instructions (vv. 21-22). They are marked by guarded hearts (v. 23), clean lips (v. 24), and clear vision (v. 25).

Conclusion.—So, when God says to us (as he does each day), "Let's take a walk," be wise, and say, "Yes, Lord, I'll come."

NEW TESTAMENT

Titus 1.

Summary.

Here we begin to look at a piece of personal correspondence. To begin with, there is a splendid salutation (vv. 1-4). Then follows a statement concerning the qualifications of the elder (vv. 5-8), and this leads to a word concerning his function, which is, to maintain sound doctrine in the church (vv. 9-16).

Explanatory Notes.

"Paul, a servant of God" (v. 1).— Paul does not elsewhere use this designation in his superscriptions. The word servant is given in the R.S.V. margin as slave, and emphasises the idea of complete dependence upon and unlimited devotion to his Master.

"promised before the world began" (v. 2). — The R.S.V. has "ages ago." It means literally "before eternal times."

"God, that cannot lie" (v. 2). — "The single Greek word means 'absolutely truthful'" (Dummelow).

"Titus" (v. 4). — "Chronologically, Titus first appears in the New Testament in Gal. 2: 1 & 3, where, accompanying Paul to Jerusalem as a result of Paul's evangelistic achievement, he is described as a Greek, i.e., a Gentile. In 2 Cor. 2: 12 he is in Europe, having been despatched by Paul to Corinth, both to carry the 'severe letter,' and to bring back news of the Corinthian reaction to it" (Gealy).

"mine own son after the common faith" (v. 4).—This emphasises the loyalty of Titus.

"a bishop must be blameless" (v. 7). — The bishop here is the same as the elder mentioned in v. 5, and means "overseer" in the spiritual sense.

"sober" (v. 8). — In the R.S.V. this is master of himself, this being a very needful quality for this high office.

"they profess to know God" (v. 16). — "They profess proudly and publicly to know God . . . Their actions, however, with equal publicity belle their profession and prove their vaunted knowledge false" (Gealy).

Suggested Theme.

"THE STANDARD IS HIGH."

Introduction.—Service for God demands from us loyalty, fidelity, and activity on a high level. From Titus 1 we see clearly that "God's standard is high." Paul begins with

I. A MESSAGE OF GREETING (vv. 1-3). — The servant of the Lord introduces himself with a reference to (a) his position (v. 1), (b) his God, and (c) his vocation. Then he pays tribute to

II. A MINISTER OF ABILITY (v. 4). — Here is a man who was loyal to his work, and loved by his friends. The benediction which Paul breathed upon him is very lovely. He next refers to

III. A MAN OF DISTINCTION (vv. 5-9). — That man is the elder—an office of great importance. The one who undertakes this work must be a man of personal integrity (v. 6), (b) a man of disciplined character (v. 7), and (c) a man of Christian generosity and ability (vv. 8-9). Finally, Paul has a word about

IV. A MINISTRY OF PROTECTION (vv. 10-16). — The elder is required to see that the life of the church is disciplined, peaceful, united, and active.

Conclusion. — God's standard is high, but it is satisfying, too.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Fallen Asleep

Mrs. Woolmington, Balaklava, S.A.
Mrs. Norman, Preston, Vic.
W. Woodbridge, East Kew, Vic.
Mrs. Fletcher, Inglewood, W.A.

Queensland

Boonah (R. Combridge). — A young lady made her decision on July 8. Concert conducted by C.E. and B.S. teachers raised £20 for youth work. Bible class, recently commenced, reports increasing attendance. New curtains have been donated by P. May, Mrs. W. Bryant and Mrs. S. May. Working bee attended to renovations at chapel and repairs to baptistry. Hot water service has been installed at manse, and many improvements made.

Maryborough (A. D. Mortimer). — Church continues to progress, both numerically and spiritually. Av. attendances are: a.m., 60; p.m., 35. Two decisions have been made in past few weeks. Virile C.Y.F. meets every Tuesday night, with av. attendance of over 30, and responds well to four-point programme. C.W.F. has started a Y.W.F., and interest is expected to increase. Meetings on July 15 were taken by M. Matthews (a convert of 12 months) and R. Heitman. A lady was welcomed into membership by transfer on 22nd. Church regretted losing Mr. and Mrs. E. Wiltshire and family, who have gone to live at Ayre, and also Mr. Rayner, who has gone to Mt. Isa.

North Rockhampton (W. J. Davidson). — B.S. continues to grow, having more than doubled in 12 months it has been in operation. Annual picnic was held at Botanical Gardens, in conjunction with South Rockhampton B.S. Good attendances at both morning and evening services are being maintained. Ladies' Fellowship is working hard to provide extra furnishings for chapel, including linoleum and venetian blinds for platform. Visitors during past few weeks were Mr. and Mrs. Bauernfeind (Maryborough).

Western Australia

Cottesloe (G. W. Smith). — On June 24, F. Stephenson (Conf. Pres.) was morning speaker, on occasion of 40th anniversary of church. Banquet was held on 21st, when many past members, including Messrs. Hunt, Fewster and Sewell (past minister), shared fellowship. Mrs. Verco (Fremantle), and a foundation member of

Cottesloe, cut the cake. Presentations were made to A. E. Jefferies and E. Jeffery, who have faithfully served church over many decades. Men's Fellowship was held in home of R. Manning on 26th. R. Hillier was speaker at both services on July 8, during absence of preacher, who conducted week of special services at Geraldton. 31 attended C.W.F. evening meeting in home of Mrs. Nelson.

Harvey (T. D. Maiden). — During preacher's absence in Bridgetown, on July 1, local brethren conducted services, T. Ottrey, morning, and L. Jones and M. Livingstone, evening. Junior choir, under Phil Newby, gave an item. On evening of 8th, a youth service was conducted. Prior to service, the two sons of Mr. and Mrs. S. Felton (Roelands Mission) were baptised. W.C.F. packed and sent three cartons of clothing to Norseman and Carnarvon Missions. F.M. offering to date is £58, of which £12 was raised by W.C.F. at a "bring and buy" stall, and £4/10/- by J.C.E., during month of self denial. J.C.E. also raised £14 for new church Building Fund at an entertainment, to which they invited church members.

Inglewood (R. W. Marshall). — Eleven decisions were recorded during June and July. Services are well attended; on July 15, record number of 97 broke bread at morning service. Church regrets passing of aged Mrs. Fletcher, 30th church anniversary was celebrated on 22nd, with special services, and tea on 18th. Talent scheme has been launched among members for 20 weeks to raise funds for church and building extension. Mr. and Mrs. Whitford recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Women's Fellowship held successful concert, raising £15 towards manse funds. On July 6, W.F. conducted Y.P. Endeavor meeting, with Mrs. J. Collins (South Perth) as speaker. On 13th, Y.P. had excellent meeting at home of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Peacock, and Miss Sharp spoke of her experiences in China. Mrs. Paul has returned from Eastern States.

New South Wales

Georgetown. — A. Burns and S. Rogers have been added to diaconate. D. Wade has been re-appointed elder. At 16th anniversary services, W. Howard brought greetings from district churches, and was preacher at gospel service. C. J. Mackenzie gave devotional talk at Saturday evening function, and A. C. Thurrow-

Discipleship

Mary R. Treloar, Boonah, Qld.
Frank and John Stanford, Murray Sharp, Hannie Jasper, Yvonne Fryer, Dianne Newby, Harvey, W.A.
Althea Sim, Dawn Turner, Maryborough, Qld.
Anne Sneddon, Richard Lowrey, Mr. Jones, Blackburn, Vic.
Wendy Till, Semaphore, S.A.
Maureen Alder, June Barrett, Hindmarsh, S.A.
Mrs. Wayne, Dawn and Diana Turk, Mosman, N.S.W.
Joan Dodd, Reuben Fox, Coral Jordan, Karen Robottom, North Essendon, Vic.
Mr. Spiker, Jim Spiker, Jennifer Scott, Vivien Humphries, Alma Henderson, Shirley Flett, Dunolly, Vic.
Miss P. Wilson, Kingsford, N.S.W.
Susan Sprosen, Fullarton, S.A.
Mr. Currie, Judy Rooke, Trixie Brown, Beverley Bulder, Dorothy and Rae Michael, Margaret and Joy Collins, Glenys Berry, Ken Hodkins, Graham Weaver, Inglewood, W.A.

Membership

Mrs. T. Howard, from Avon to Balaklava, S.A.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Laird, Miss Potts, N. Lacy, to Colac, Vic.
Mrs. Turner, from Gympie to Maryborough, Qld.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Bardwell, from Mildura to Bendigo, Vic.
Mrs. A. Spiker, from Blackburn to Dunolly, Vic.
Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Thompson, from Kaniva to Warrnambool, Vic.
Mrs. M. Crocker, from Horsham to Warrnambool, Vic.
Mr. M. Crocker, from Warracknabeal to Warrnambool, Vic.
Mrs. Watson, from Semaphore to Fullarton, S.A.

good addressed morning service. Plans are in hand to liquidate debt on manse during current year. 133 were present recently at Men's Fellowship tea. Gospel service on July 22 was conducted by Y.P. Brief addresses were given by S. Ogilvie, K. Garnham and G. Taggart.

Mosman (D. W. Tonkin). — On evening of July 6, at home of Mr. and Mrs. Stephens, a musicale was held, to help North Balgowlah Piano Fund. Over £50 was donated. On 8th, B.S. examination was held, when 23 scholars and three teachers sat. Visitors to services on 8th were Mrs. Verity (Caulfield, Vic.), and Mrs. Reesby (Eastbourne, N.Z.). L. Hall was speaker. A Picture Night was held on 14th, when £4 was donated to B.S. Equipment Fund. J. Blankley (Woolwich) was speaker on morning of 15th. Baptismal service was held on 22nd, when three were immersed.

North Sydney (A. Norling).—51st church anniversary services were time of happy fellowship with past and present members. 50 were present at the tea, after which Faith of Our Families was screened, and choral items rendered by Northern Choral Society. B.S. has been encouraged by addition of six new scholars during last few weeks. Mrs. B. Harlum was appointed supt. of kinders on resignation of Ivy Fleetwood, on eve of her marriage. C.E. has been formed, with av. attendance of 12, under leadership of D. Norling and N. Fleetwood. Morning services are quite well attended, but evening service is much smaller. Plans are being made for forward move.

Kingsford (P. Kavanagh). — On July 8, R. Stanhope addressed morning service on brotherhood work and giving. P. Kavanagh has preached to well attended meetings. A young lady from Bible Class made her decision on 22nd.

Beverly Hills (G. H. Benjamin). — Concert in aid of Building Extension Scheme realised £26, while cooking demonstration for same cause brought in £23. After prayer meeting on July 18, church presented Mr. Munro with wristlet watch, and Mrs. Munro with fountain pen and pencil. During meeting, Mr. Munro gave a stirring address. On 22nd, Mr. Munro gave address at evening meeting, and conducted baptismal service, when a young woman was immersed. At monthly fellowship tea, Mr. and Mrs. Munro had opportunity to say farewell to their many friends.

South Australia

Balaldava (L. G. Armstrong). — Attendance at morning services during past few weeks has averaged 120. On July 8, J.C.E. held fellowship tea, and later attended church

parade, taking part in gospel service. Ladies travelled to Whyalla on 18th, to attend Northern District Conference Auxiliary. All enjoyed rich fellowship. B.S. scholars have commenced practising for anniversary. Two church deacons had to go to city for medical treatment during past month. J. Gibson underwent an operation, and A. Webb had special eye treatment. Both are now back in fellowship. Mrs. Deuter has had to re-enter hospital, and it is hoped she will soon be well again. Mrs. Woolmington was called to higher service at the age of 80 years. Sympathy of church is extended to her family.

Hindmarsh (J. E. Shipway). — Ladies' Fellowship held happy birthday evening recently. Other societies visited, and 96 were present. Seven recently baptised were received into church membership on July 22. Programme of tea at chapel, followed by film and Gospel Bells service on 22nd, was very encouraging. Service was led by P. Pickering, address being given by J. Allan. Items by school were appreciated. Two senior girls made decision. More than 40 girls and boys are now meeting in gym classes, held each Friday evening. Mrs. R. Price is at present in Memorial Hospital to undergo operation.

Semaphore (R. H. Sercombe). — Film, *Decision*, was screened at evening service on July 1, when a young lady confessed Christ. Ladies' Guild held annual meeting on 3rd, when Mrs. Kutcher (Seamen's Mission, Pt. Adelaide) was speaker. Representatives from various churches brought greetings. Afternoon tea was provided. C.M.S. tea was held on 15th, and discussion followed concerning proposed Visitation Campaign. J. P. Brooker led evening service, and J. Thoday and R. Stacey delivered short addresses. A young man made good confession. Annual church business meeting was held on 17th, when following were re-elected to office: elders, A. C. Samuels, G. Spring; deacons, H. Dunning, P. W. Brooker, V. C. Taylor. G. Wormald and J. Thoday were added to Board. Good reports were received from all auxiliaries. Mrs. Oram and Mrs. J. Matthews are on sick list. Av. number of communicants for June was 63.

Strathalbyn (A. E. Cremin).—Work generally is sound, and ministry is consolidating well. Preacher has been released to attend Federal Conference in Sydney. Men of church are to meet and receive instruction from preacher, as to duties as officers and helpers in church. Y.W.F. held last monthly meeting at manse, and enjoyed interesting lecture on *Cooking*. Y.P. are doing well in table tennis

competition, with one team leading, and the other holding its position well in competition. Ladies' Auxiliary has donated wall unit for kitchen in hall. All offerings of church are good, and church meets all its liabilities by direct giving.

Fullarton (A. W. Morris). — Prevalent sickness has resulted in smaller attendances. A. W. Morris addressed both services on July 22. A lady was received into fellowship by transfer at morning meeting. At gospel service, there was one decision and a reconsecration. Miss J. Overland was soloiste.

Kilburn (A. J. Ingham). — B.S. attendance on July 22 was 252, including two new scholars. Large number of children stayed for morning service, sitting in classes with teachers. Dean Hamilton presided and Mr. Ingham spoke, object being to allow school to witness communion service. Mrs. Lawrie, senr., will be missed as B.S. teacher, as she transfers to another district, but Mrs. Penhearn has consented to teach her class. G. Payne is addition to teaching staff, and Marlene Gower and Pam Pendle are now trainee teachers.

Naracoorte. — Church looks forward to the arrival of new preacher, M. D. Williams, in New Year. In the interim, services continue to be led by local brethren, with help from Bordertown. Inspiring gospel service was conducted by Men's Fellowship on July 15, and at close, a young man made the good confession. Mr. McKenzie rendered a solo. At Men's Fellowship annual meeting, W. T. Pomery was elected pres., and W. H. Francis, sec. Ladies' Guild functions with same officers as last year. Annual business meeting was held on 24th, when reports from auxiliaries were presented, officers elected, and work discussed. There has been much sickness among members.

Victoria

Colac (K. Milne). — Four members have been received by transfer. Men of church are busy painting inside of building. Ladies are making preparations to provide new carpet. Attendances have been good.

Bendigo (R. V. Holmes).—R. Story (U.F.M.) screened *Where Head-hunters Reign* at after-church service on July 15. Obligations of church membership and present church programme were presented to youthful members, when they were entertained at tea by official Board, and their co-operation solicited. Chapel was packed to capacity for District C.E. rally on 21st, for programme of music and witness—two decisions resulted. *Faith Triumphant* was

screened as evening film sermon on 22nd. Preacher is conducting "preparation for membership" class. Good Companions and Explorers combined to honor their friend, J. Ellis, on his 83rd birthday. Groups of members and Y.P. have accepted responsibility of church cleaning.

Blackburn (R. V. Amos). — At after-church fellowship on July 15, Les Stevens gave illustrated talk on his visit to Norfolk Island. Church rejoices in number of decisions recently. All depts. of work are active.

Dunolly (D. Beanland). — Meetings are well attended, despite much sickness. After baptismal service on June 24, a B.S. scholar made her decision. C.E. held social evening, with pastie supper, on July 7. Church treas. lost his home and contents in a fire on 18th. Some members have been isolated by flood-waters.

Echuca (C. E. Watson).—Attendances dropped owing to floods, but are now improving again. One church family has had to leave its home. Ladies' Auxiliary was able to help needy flood victims with clothing. T. Norris is in hospital; others have been sick. A debenture scheme is operating to assist Manse Fund. Y.P. assisted in evening service on July 22; items by youth choir and duet by Margaret Frencham and Margaret Ireland were appreciated.

Morwell-Newborough (D. H. Smith). — Church is pleased to report encouraging increase of auxiliary activities. Ladies' Guild, at annual meeting, elected Mrs. Hurford, pres., and Mrs. Fletcher continues as sec. Syllabus items of special interest have been travel talk and demonstration of artificial flower making. At social evening, Guild raised £5/10/- for funds. J. Blucher showed colored slides of interest. Recently-formed K.S.P., Junior Boys' and Girls' Clubs show increase in numbers. Following resignation of N. Schilling as B.S. sec., Milton Parr was elected to position. Attendance of scholars averages 70. Preacher continues faithful service, and gives helpful messages. Morning services have been well attended and offerings show increase. Evening attendances fluctuate. Recent films, *Dust or Destiny* and *Shield of Faith*, were shown to large congregations on each occasion. Mission has been planned, and it is proposed to introduce new methods in presentation of gospel on Sunday evenings. Support continues to be given to work at Newborough, where Y.P.F. is conducted by E. Sherman on Sunday evenings.

North Richmond (C. Dow). — 120 were present at marriage re-dedication service on July 1, when film, *Invitation to the Wedding*, was screened. Jean Milne was soloiste. C.Y.F. programme on 8th took form of craft

night. Tennis club held theatre night on 20th, and on 21st eleven Y.R. journeyed to snow with C.S.Y.F. John McLean (Brighton) presided at morning service on 22nd, and after evening service 18 attended C.Y.F., held at home of Mrs. Winstone. Recent visitors have included Val. Williams (Drouin) and M. Haines (Tas.). Members are still working for Talent Fund, which has now been in operation for five months.

Red Cliffs (C. L. Lang). — At annual B.S. meeting, C. L. Lang was elected supt., Ivan Milne, asst.-supt., J. Cunningham, sec. and treas., Mrs. Sprigg, kinder supt., Miss E. Milne, asst.-supt. B.S. gave £25 for Kinder Hall. Boys' Club recently held barbecue at Quandong Park. Instead of weekly C.E. meetings, members attended mission at Merbein. W.F. held annual meeting on July 12. Officers elected were: pres., Mrs. R. Gray; vice-pres., Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Cook; sec., Mrs. Sprigg; treas., Mrs. Bennett; hospital visitors, Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. Thwaites. W.F. held picture night on 13th, when £7/16/- was raised. Henry Milne was welcomed back after trip to N.Z., and his services in all youth work are appreciated.

Warrnambool (K. W. Barton, L.Th., Dip.R.E.).—Claims of Social Service Dept. were presented by W. W. Saunders at morning service on July 15. Youth tea, followed by C.E. parade, featuring Intermediates, was encouraging. Following devotional exercises and business session on 19th, members of Men's Society were conducted over local daily newspaper plant. Interest is evidenced in Y.P.C.E. and I.C.E., fireside gatherings and visit to home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Houston of Y.P.C.E. being happy fellowship. Enthusiasm was evident at monthly meeting of W.M.B. on 11th, when arrangements were made for various progressive activities. On evening of 22nd, as part of their birthday celebrations, members of W.M.B. conducted whole of service. Address, *Life Essentials*, given by Mrs. Barton, was challenging. Much sickness is prevalent. Church sympathises with Mrs. K. Harrop in passing away of her mother. Officers met in conference with brethren at Port Fairy on 14th, when various aspects of work in that place were discussed, and plans formulated for future.

Latrobe-terr., Geelong (T. A. Ferguson).—On July 13, members of Y.P.C.E. travelled to Melbourne and attended C.O.B. concert. The evening was greatly enjoyed. Due to absence of preacher, who was confined to bed with severe cold, services on 15th were conducted by local brethren; A. McDonald (elder) spoke at morning service and R. Lenanne (aboriginal missionary on furlough) was speaker in evening. On 18th, members of C.M.S.

were entertained at dinner by Shell Company of Australia at their new ultra modern oil refinery in Geelong's northern suburb of Corio. After dinner, the 31 men present were shown around the installations. The management of Shell Co. were thanked by E. Davies and G. Smith for a most informative evening. On 22nd, speaker at morning service was J. Smal and in evening K. A. Macnaughtan (Swanston-st.). Preacher is still suffering from after-effects of illness, and has decided to spend a fortnight at Anglesea.

Ringwood (W. F. Nankivell, B.A., B.D.).—Loyalty of members to communion service continued during July, despite wintry conditions. Average communicants exceeded 100. Gospel meeting attendance showed a slight decline. B.S. had record attendance of 158. Shortage of teaching staff prevents intensive campaigning for new scholars. Growth has compelled mixed senior B.S. to meet in Mr. and Mrs. F. Burden's home. W. Atkin addressed church in interests of C.F.A., with result that a branch has been formed. N. Dickason was appointed agent. C.M.S. invited men of other churches in district, and S. Gilmour addressed 40 men at quarterly tea. Women's Fellowship (evening group) is very active, and presented an attractive programme.

Reservoir (R. E. Burns). — Interesting travel talk on Fiji was given to C.W.F. by Mrs. Peeler, and Mr. Peeler showed his colored film of the same place to a crowded theatre, proceeds going to Building Fund. C.M.S. held cleaning night for church and hall as their last monthly meeting. Church held 22nd anniversary on July 22. The three meetings were very well attended, despite a lot of sickness. Mr. Burns spoke in the morning, Fred Lee at the P.S.A., and John Turner at night. Mrs. Jan. Wookey arranged musical programme, which everyone enjoyed. Two young people reconsecrated themselves at close of series of addresses, *The Personal Jesus*, given by Mr. Burns. Fellowship was enjoyed with Mrs. Thodey (Tas.) and several past members at anniversary. Owing to a relapse, Mr. Notman has had to re-enter hospital.

Balwyn (J. E. Brooke).—Speaker at evening service on July 22 was Clayton Thompson (Hawthorn footballer). On 25th, church annual business meeting was held. Preacher reported year of progress, with increasing attendances, and fine potential for evangelism in many Y.P. attending. Such projects as new organ, new school hall, new manse and Missionary Hostel had quickened interest. B.S. av. attendance has been 118. School is supporting an Indian boy. Deaconesses paid 188 visits to sick in hospital and at home. Nearly

£700 was given by church to others during year. Officers elected were: H. Turnham, sec.; D. Russell, asst.-sec.; K. Sharp, L. Warmbrunn, treas.; C. Berg, J. Cuthbert, J. Drummy, E. Duff, S. Hogan, K. Sturgess, W. Sturgess, deacons; Sis. Cuthbert, Drummy, Evans, Hoffman, Oliver, Seely, Sharp, deaconesses.

Vic. C.E. Committee

VISIT TO SHEPPARTON

Approximately 50 people were present, and others joined in later, for the fellowship tea held on July 14 on occasion of the visit of the Vic. C.E. Quartet (L. and G. Barlow, L. Stewart, and A. Haskell). Several other members of C.E. Committee were also present, including L. Finger. Mooroopna brethren were also invited to attend.

Following tea, a service was held in the chapel. It was ably led by the C.E. party, who, with the Mooroopna folk, rendered several appreciated items. The message was given by A. Haskell. The party then indicated the desire of the Vic. C.E. to furnish the platform of the new native chapel to be built at Mooroopna.

Both morning and evening services on the Sunday were led by the C.E. party, with L. Barlow bringing the messages. After a P.S.A., arranged at Mooroopna by the native church, at which L. Finger was speaker, the C.E. visitors went to Base hospital and were able to sing to some of our members there.

The visit was brought to a climax with the gospel service, when again our native folk were present. In response to the invitation, one married man stepped forward to give his life to Christ, while another woman and a man made a reconsecration.

The Doxology ended a weekend full of blessing and encouragement.

—Mrs. D. E. Fitzsimmons.

Federal College of the Bible Notes

1. The students have appreciated the gift of books recently given from the library of the late Lionel E. Dudley. The members of the Young Women's Fellowship at Glenelg, S.A., sent a parcel of goods for the use of students. Their thoughtfulness is much valued.

2. As part of the practical training in Religious Education, students regularly give religious instruction in nearby schools at Glen Iris and South Camberwell.

3. The annual students' concert was very well received by large

July 31, 1956

audiences. The sacred drama, *The Backyard Miracle*—a story of the incarnation—was presented with moving effect.

4. In the busy life of College, there are many minds and hands at work in happy co-operation. We specially appreciate the work of Miss May Russell, our Housekeeper, and her assistant, Mrs. G. Waterman. These two good ladies bring to their tasks the true spirit of Christian service, and for years have brought to the "daily round" efficiency and friendship.

5. The annual College retreat day was held at Dawson-st., Ballarat church on July 17. Dr. J. A. Munro gave interesting and helpful messages. Much appreciation was expressed of the warm fellowship of the Dawson-st. members, and the generous catering provided by the ladies of the church.

6. Applications for the services of Exit students have come very early this year, and most of them have already made arrangements for ministries to begin early next year. It is not too soon for those who are intending to apply for admission to College for 1957 to get in touch with the College secretary. Do it now. —K. A. Jones.

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DEATHS

GREENWOOD. — On July 20, 1956, at Ascot Vale, Rose Edith, dearly loved wife of the late John, loved mother of Harold (dec.), Will (dec., 1st A.I.F.), Lillian (Mrs. Thomsen), and Bartlett.

"Resting in God's care."

GREENWOOD. — On July 20, 1956, at Ascot Vale, Rose Edith, sixth daughter of the late Emily and Bartlett Woodbridge, sister of Esther, Emily, Alice, Lucy, John, Anna, Bartlett, George, Agnes, and Will. (All deceased.)

NORMAN. — On July 20, 1956, at Emmaus Rest Home, Murrumbidgee, Mrs. Laura Norman passed peacefully to be "forever with the Lord."

—Inserted by her dearly loved friend, Mrs. Vic. Brown.

WOODBIDGE. — William J., of East Kew, Vic., was called to rest on July 20, 1956, in his 85th year; beloved husband of Elizabeth, father



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of Millicent (Mrs. T. J. Warne), Elizabeth (Mrs. C. C. Dawson), Stan and Marjorie (Mrs. C. J. Wright), grandpa of Beryl and Ron, Brian and Daryl, Anne and Peter; great grandpa of Greg, Ross, Bruce, Christine and Robin.

IN MEMORIAM

CASPERSONN. — Walter Lewis. In fond memory of my husband, and our father, called to higher realms July 26, 1955.

—Inserted by his loving wife and children.

CHIPPERFIELD. — Fond memories of our dear friend, Mary, who was called Home, July 25, 1955.

"Safe in our Father's keeping."

—Inserted by Maud and John Killey, Burnley.

GRAHAM. — In loving memory of our late beloved minister, W. G. Graham, who was called into higher service on July 29, 1954.

"Always a kind and loving friend."

—Inserted by J. I. Duncan and family.

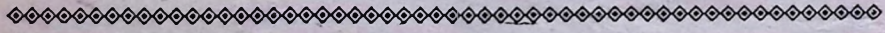
NORTHEAST. — In treasured memory of my dear wife, Catherine, who passed peacefully away on August 2, 1955. In silence we remember a loving wife, a devoted mother.

"We loved you well, but Jesus loved you best."

—Inserted by her loving husband Sam, and sons Jack, Edwin, Ray and Cliff.

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OBITUARY

Mrs. Minnie May Fletcher.

After a short period of indifferent health, Mrs. Minnie May Fletcher passed to be with her Lord, on the morning of July 2, at the age of 82 years. Baptised at Bunbury, W.A., by G. T. Fitzgerald, in 1913, she moved to Perth, where she entered into active membership at North Perth, Maylands, and, about two years ago, at Inglewood. Whilst at Maylands, she was for many years church organiste, B.S. teacher, cradle roll supt., and leader of the Band of Hope. Regular in her attendance, she graciously witnessed till the end. She always had a smile and a cheery word for old and young alike. Although she will be greatly missed, we thank God for every remembrance of her. A service was conducted at the Crematorium by the writer, and the large attendance was a fitting tribute to one who loved the Lord, the Church, and the brotherhood. She is survived by her husband, and family of one son, and four daughters, whom we commend to the Father of all comfort in glorious hope.—R. Will Marshall.

Charles L. Johnston.

The Unley church, S.A., and the brotherhood have suffered a heavy loss in the passing of Charles L. Johnston on July 15, at the age of 56 years. He took ill soon after his return from the World Convention. For several years Mr. Johnston was treasurer of the Union. Previously, he had been a member and chairman of both the Youth Department and the Overseas Missions State Committee. His wise counsel and gifts of leadership were invaluable. Since boyhood he was identified with the Unley church, where he filled various important offices. For 21 years, until stricken with illness, Mr. Johnston served the State as Secretary to the Attorney-General, at one time combining the duties of secretary to the Minister of Education. He also represented the Government on the Public Service Board. His grasp of public affairs and conscientious devotion won for him the esteem of all. A large gathering of church people, representatives of Government departments, and personal friends, almost filled the Union chapel to pay their tribute, and express their thanks to God for a life so well lived. I. J. Chivell and H. R. Taylor conducted the service. At the graveside, the former attended to the last offices. The aged father, W. L. Johnston, and sisters (Miss Phyllis and Mrs. W. Ferris) and relatives are assured of the Christian sympathy of all who shared in a life completely dedicated to God.—H.R.T.

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Ernest Jury.

Ernest Jury was baptised by the late F. T. Saunders during his ministry at Carnegie, Vic., in 1923. Since that time, until his death on June 23, he was a most faithful member. He was doorkeeper for many years, and will be remembered by his word of welcome as he handed out the hymn books. Mr. Jury served for a period on the Officers' Board. He always attended to the heating of the water for baptismal services. He will be missed by those who were closely associated with him in the work at Carnegie. In the C.M.S. he was ever ready to help. Mr. Jury had not been well for a few days prior to his death, but the end came suddenly, and he passed to be with his Lord in a few moments. A. R. Lloyd conducted services at the funeral parlor, and again at Brighton Cemetery. We express loving sympathy to his sister and brother, pointing them to the God of all love and comfort, until the day dawns and shadows flee away.—S.J.

Mrs. Birt.

On Sunday morning, July 22, Mrs. Birt received the Home call, suddenly, at the age of 71. A member of the church at Peel-st., Ballarat, Vic., for over 30 years, our sister enjoyed fellowship with the church to the end, having been present at the mid-week prayer meeting on July 18. She was bright and happy to the end. The services at chapel and graveside were attended by a large gathering of members, relatives and friends. Services were conducted by A. H. Graham, who spoke of the quiet Christian witness of our sister. We commend her husband, daughter, sons, and relatives to our Heavenly Father.—P. Graham.

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