

Murray

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL WEEKLY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF CHRIST

IRA A. PATERNOSTER, Federal President, on the eve of Conference sends to the brotherhood

A FINAL WORD

Sydney, Oct. 4 to 11, has been well publicised, and now, with over 800 delegates registered, we are anticipating a great time of fellowship. Friends will meet friends, while others will meet leaders of the brotherhood who, until then, were but names to them. Ties will be forged that will remain unbroken throughout eternity.

We would ask those who come, to come expecting to contribute to the spirit of Conference by prayer and co-operative effort. Some things are bound to happen to some that will be disturbing to their souls. It could hardly be expected that everyone will be perfectly satisfied with all the arrangements. Should it be so with you, come to us and tell us, and we will do our best to set it right. The Sydney brethren and sisters will spare no effort to see you enjoy every moment of your stay with them.

We regret all the meetings could not be held in the one building, but are grateful to fellow Christians for the use of their buildings. You should have no trouble in locating them.

Some vital decisions will be made this Conference, and members should

not miss sharing in them. Remember, you are part of the brotherhood, and while only official representatives may vote, any brother or sister, in good



Ira A. Paternoster, Fed. Pres.

standing in the churches, may share in the discussion.

We believe the singing will inspire you, and the addresses challenge you. The Church must move out into this new day with the old gospel. This may involve new methods, without lowering our flag by being untrue to God and his Word. Denominationalism has come to the place where it is apologising for its divisions. Here is now our place to stress the New Testament way back to a united Church.

Those who cannot come to Conference, and may be free to tune in to 2 BL at 11 a.m., E.S.T., Oct. 7, or to 2CH at 7 p.m. on the same day, will be able to share in services from Chatswood and Enmore churches, when I will preside, and my son, as Fraternal Delegate from the American churches, will preach. Each morning of Conference, with the exception of Saturday and Sunday, interstate brethren will conduct morning devotions from 2CH at 10.15 a.m.

We extend grateful thanks to all who have registered, and to the brethren in Melbourne and Sydney who have had the work of preparation for what we believe will be a great Conference.

N.S.W. Bible College, Woolwich

D. J. A. VERCO

The church was only a small one. But it met in a rapidly growing suburb, where opportunities lay at every hand. The little band of enthusiastic members could not afford a full-time preacher, but felt that without someone able to present the gospel with eloquence and skill, they were losing the chances they had of building up a strong cause. And so, with the co-operation of the Home Mission Committee, the Board of Management of the N.S.W. Bible College sent a student-preacher there to give help and leadership in the work each Lord's Day.

This is only one of many examples where the presence of the College is proving of vital importance to the growth of Churches of Christ in New South Wales. Fourteen churches are at present being served by men in the College in part-time ministries. Through the work of Woolwich students, 63 souls have been brought to Christ in the first seven months of this year. In addition, 44 primary decisions (32 at Wingham and 12 at Mayfield) have been made during missions conducted by Woolwich students.

Important as is the work of the students while they are in College, it must not be forgotten that the primary purpose of the institution is to train men and women for full-time ministry. The churches of our brotherhood throughout Australia are dependent upon both the Federal College at Glen Iris, and the N.S.W. College at Woolwich, for the supply of trained preachers. And that supply at present is not enough. Although principally intended to help meet the needs of N.S.W., Woolwich now has its graduates in all States and in New Zealand.

At no time has there been such a need for men adequately trained and fully educated, to meet the demands upon the ministry in this age of advancing educational standards. The preacher and pastor of today must have not only the accepted learning of his vocation, but also an understanding of the problems which a complex society and progressive educational standards bring to young people in his congregation.

Woolwich, along with Glen Iris, is striving to meet this need. To do this task effectively the College needs many things, but three more particularly should be mentioned.

In the first place, the material resources to maintain and expand the College are needed. It costs £210 a year to train each College student at Woolwich. The College is dependent upon the regular giving of its supporters, the annual offering taken in N.S.W., and special gifts from its friends, for all this finance. Last year the annual offering fell disappointingly short of the previous year's figure, and desperately short of the College's need. We are confident that the Lord will provide for our need, and that he will put it into the hearts of our brothers and sisters in Christ to give generously to this year's annual offering.

Special commitments have to be met this year. The building needs painting, and this is a major expense. To provide the additional accommodation necessary, a flat, which had been let to private people, was this year taken over for College purposes; this flat needs furnishing.

The Board of Management has obtained permission from the Taxation Department to create a Building Maintenance Fund. All donations to this fund of £1 and over are allowable deductions for income tax purposes. In this way, the Board hopes to encourage gifts specially set aside for the purpose of keeping the building in good condition, and extending its facilities.

During the year, the E. C. Hinrichsen Memorial Appeal Committee was formed. This Committee has sought per-

mission of the Board to provide funds for the building of a Memorial Chapel at the College. Permission was gladly granted, and we look forward to the time when the spiritual life of the College will be enriched by the erection of a chapel to serve as the centre of its devotions.

Secondly, the College needs a greater number of students if it, with Glen Iris, is to meet the growing requirements of the churches of our brotherhood. We pay a tribute to those who, in the past, have heeded the call to full-time service for Christ, and who, often at great sacrifice, have entered the College as students. They will be the first to testify that he who gives much for Christ, gains an hundredfold; the rewards of his service are rich indeed. What are we doing to recruit preachers and pastors for the future? This, we feel, is an important question for the brotherhood as a whole to face. If Churches of Christ are to grow as they should, there must be men available, fully trained in the doctrines of our position, and ready to accept full-time ministry. Perhaps we need to put more directly to our young people the possibility of choosing the ministry as a calling. Perhaps we need to develop our leadership training groups within the churches. Perhaps we need to give some initial financial assistance by way of scholarships to those of our young men who would gladly come to College if the way were made possible for them. These are just some suggestions we would commend to the consideration of all who are concerned with the future of our brotherhood in this country.

Is it not evident that, above all, we need the prayers and interest of the brotherhood in all aspects of the task of training our preachers? So, in acknowledging with thanks this opportunity of placing before our readers the work of the N.S.W. Bible College, the Board of Management does solicit your prayers and your interest in this vital task. Pray for those who have given up so much to enter into training. Pray for those who have been called to teach them. Pray for those who minister to them in other ways. Pray for their work among the churches. Pray for the future of the work, for those who may be standing at a point of great decision, for those who would answer the call to service but cannot find a way, for those who sacrifice much to help some other enter training. Pray, we ask, for the Board of Management of this College, that we may be guided by God in our work, encouraged by the fruits of our labor, and supported by the knowledge that our brothers and sisters in Christ are working with us in a great enterprise.



Principal A. W. Stephenson

(We regret that a block featuring this year's exit students, which it had been planned to include with this article, has not yet reached this office, probably owing to the postal dispute.—Ed.)

"Foundlings on Our Doorstep"

Surely no world-wide ministry of our time is more true to the spirit of Christ than the work done by the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees. It has won increasing support, and deservedly so. From a 1950 total of ten million dollars, the value of church giving in funds, foods, medicaments and supplies rose to a 1955 figure of 46 million dollars. *In a World of Pain and Promise* is the arresting title of last year's report of the Division, and the figures justify its conclusion that "the contribution of the Churches involved is dramatic proof of the unalterable development and expansion of ecumenical co-operation, expressing itself in a genuine awareness of Christian concern and a recognition of undeniable responsibility."

Yet the needs are so vast that many more need to be stabbed wide awake to our Christian responsibility, which is certainly not lessening; indeed, the phrase "permanent obligation" is now being used by those who best know the situation. Much of the tragedy of post-war European conditions remains; in Germany, for example, every fifth person is still a refugee, and 400 a day continue to cross over from the East Zone, though the German Christians themselves are accomplishing marvellous feats of self-help and recovery. But it is Asia, Africa and Latin America which increasingly compel attention.

The anxiety of the world is now focussed on Egypt, Suez and the Middle East, and many prayers have rightly risen that a just and peaceful solution may be found to the present Canal dispute. But prayer in time of crisis, however important, is not our only Christian responsibility to our nation and the world. It is not easy to untangle the twisted threads of this and other issues of our time, but how many of us have ever made a serious attempt at any venture of Christian understanding?

Phrases like "the smouldering Arab world" are familiar enough in our newspapers today, but how many of us are aware, for example, that in one area of that Arab world a million refugees are living in conditions of hopeless misery, after eight years of homelessness, hatred, and enmity. This is the condition of Palestine Arabs who lost their homes when the State of Israel was established in 1948. A statement from the Second World Council of Churches - International Missionary Council Conference on Arab Refugees, held in Beirut last May, declared "This tragedy has not been healed by time. It has grown worse, and it creates a serious menace, not only for

peace in the Middle East, but in the world." The Hon. J. J. Dedman, who attended the Conference, reports the refugees "living in tents and hutments on a subsistence ration, without any hope that during what remains to them of life on this earth their lot will be much better than that of the animals grazing in the fields from which they have been driven into the desert."

Until political forces do something positive to bring about a real solution, these refugees are left, as one delegate put it, "like foundlings on the doorstep of the Churches." The United Nations Relief and Works Agency and various voluntary agencies are also at work in the situation—though the U.N. Agency has to depend on *voluntary* contributions from member governments of U.N., Australia (to her credit) giving £50,000 a year. But the Churches' work is invaluable, and last year the grand total of all non-governmental measures undertaken by Churches and kindred organisations for the relief of Palestinian refugees amounted to three and a half million dollars. Yet *all* that is given is still hopelessly inadequate, and Christians everywhere must step up their giving to this and other needy areas, whose plight is a continuing affront to the Christian conscience. Inter-Church Aid needs our gifts the whole year round—not just in the Christmas Bowl of Remembrance.

But monetary gifts do not free us from responsibility, any more than prayer for just and lasting solutions to such problems. As the Beirut Conference rightly put it: "Christians have a testimony to make at points which political measures and the succor of physical wants cannot touch. The overwhelming need in the Near East—especially amongst the refugees—is liberation from fear and frustration, and from the bondage of bitterness and hate. Acts of justice—imperative as they are—can only go part of the way towards meeting these things. While the cry for justice must not go unheeded, there are claims for justice which conflict with one another. The state of the world is so riddled with sin and its consequences that satisfaction for every claim is beyond human achievement. The human dilemma into which the search for justice takes us can only be resolved in that love of God which is shed abroad equally upon his children, whether they be Jews or Arabs."

It is that gospel of redeeming love which demands that, in penitent compassion, we think more, give more, and pray more for these desperate "foundlings on the doorstep of the Churches."

In provocative, straight-from-the-shoulder fashion, R. N. GILMORE, minister, East Malvern, Vic., writes, as a first article for this paper, on . . .

Overseas Missions As I See It

Before me as I write are the pictures of two men—the appealing, yet challenging, hands of Trevor Huddleston, and the shaggy greatness of Albert Schweitzer. I turn the pages and there leaps to my eyes J. B. Phillips' headline, "Dodging the Cross—where Christians are failing." Schweitzer did not seek to dodge the Cross, nor Huddleston; indeed, they took up the Cross, the one to wield it in the field of physical disease, the other to wield it in the field of that moral disease, racial prejudice. But we—what have we done?—we have lifted the Cross ever so tentatively, and, in so doing, have prided ourselves on our effort.

"The Uplifted Christ lifts men,
O preach it again and again;
The Uplifted Christ lifts men,
Yet we are earthbound still.

So few will lift him up—

Will you? Will I? Yea, Lord, we will!"

Gladly we affirm our intention, but to intend is not enough—we must lift him high—and ever higher.

Are We Dodging the Cross?

To the north of Australia are millions of people—God's own children—who have never seen the Christ uplifted. But we have shut our eyes, and dodged the Cross. Often, with almost an apologetic air, we have pointed to Our India and the New Hebrides as our responsibility as Churches of Christ, and have salved our consciences with the fine job we have done in these places. Fine job? Yes! but how small! When one compares our missionary effort and zeal with that of others, such as the early Church, the Moravians and the Baptists, one wonders with the missionary from the Upper Nile, "what kind of gospel we have been preaching—perhaps a cheap variety that costs nobody anything." What sort of gospel have we been preaching? Why do we have so little of the vision of the missionary task of the Church?

The stock cry of those who administer our overseas work is, "No money!"—and it has been said, "The brotherhood cannot give more than it is." Not give more? There is no Cross in that message—no Cross, when the Lord of Life gave himself for you and for me. I am afraid ours has been a cheap gospel if we cannot do more than we have done, and (more important) are doing. Our

mission work has been hamstringed for years by lack of funds to support our workers in the field. Our gospel has not been cheap in that we have not raised up those who were willing to go—we have raised them— young men—and young women, challenged by the Cross, eager to take the glorious gospel of Christ to those who live in great darkness. But we have not sent them. I well remember the disappointment and frustration of the young student of the College of the Bible who, in an interview with a representative of our Overseas Mission Committee, was told to "try Borneo Evangelical!" This to a man called of God! God has called men, and we have not sent—we have said, "No money!" Have you seen the cars outside Lygon-st. chapel at Vic-Tas. Conference time? Or we have said, "No openings!" God calls, and we say, "No openings!" Who knows the situation best, God or ourselves? This is not an isolated instance. At one stage of my College course no less than fourteen young men and women were offering for overseas service—fourteen felt the call, and three—and only three—reached the field! One young lady got a stage further than the rest—she was promised an application form to apply to the Committee—that was five years ago, and she has not heard another word!

Is Our Gospel Cheap?

We are failing—and the cause of our failure? We are dodging the Cross by the easy cheapness of our gospel. I believe that I am not alone in my concern at this state of affairs, and many felt anew the old sense of frustration at our last Victorian-Tasmanian Conference. Fellowship with missionaries from the field is a vital, quickening thing. Fresh from such fellowship, we came to Conference—eager for the report of the Overseas Committee. But what happened? Rushed through Conference, with much discussion time occupied by Committee representatives (and none would deny them their say), the report was not given full consideration, and two speakers who did open up a time of discussion on the report were ignored. We were "all good church members, law abiding citizens, and we offended nobody as we raised our hands to receive the report." Where is that vision of the great missionary task, when the ferment for a new field has been going on in the pew for at least six years.

It is true that on our present scale of giving we cannot support more missionaries, and neither we should, until we have a conviction concerning the welfare of those we have already placed in the fields. I have been in Papua, and have seen the quarters of the Seventh Day Adventists and London Missionary Society missionaries, and, if we can judge by photos of our own fields, the conditions on our fields are not up to standard. Should we send missionaries with the prayer offered by the church for their new minister, "O Lord, you keep him humble, we'll keep him poor"? Surely, when we do send missionaries, it is our responsibility to see that they are well housed and fed, and paid a decent salary which will allow for some saving for their return. Maybe the brotherhood would be surprised to know the salary of missionaries on the field, and whilst on furlough. It is reported that Churches of Christ missionaries in India are among the lowest paid in that country. The poverty of our gospel and our missionaries! Vic-Tas. Conference recommends for ministers a rent-free salary of £18/2/- per week (as from Aug. 1, 1956). What fraction of this is the salary of our missionaries? And, by the way, who pays for those excellent color slides used by the missionaries on furlough? The answer is—the missionary, out of his meagre salary. It is to the eternal praise of the missionaries that, in many discussions with them, I have never heard one complaint about their conditions or their salary—but it is to our eternal shame that they should have to say, "We seem to manage somehow." They are a great band, doing their best to hold aloft the Cross of the Saviour, backed by a half-interested and ignorant brotherhood.

Are We Challenged Enough?

Our half-interest, our half-vision, is largely due to ignorance—there is nothing so blind as ignorance. Where ignorance is, vision cannot be. We are not told of the conditions or the needs, or even of the missionaries on the field—only an informed brotherhood can be a generous brotherhood; but for the past few years we have looked in vain for some really warm, challenging information. Mere facts may challenge but they are cold, and

the personal information, whilst warm, has left us unchallenged to any great degree. Compared with the Overseas Mission propaganda prepared by other Churches for their offerings, ours has been, to say the least, uninspiring.

To talk to missionaries from the field is a revelation—one catches the glow of their zeal, the warmth of their love for those to whom they minister. There is human interest in the story they tell of the gospel in the lives of the people whom they call by name. One improvement in this year's propaganda was the soft-peddalling of "Indianisation" (one purist query: Can we "Indianise" India?). I venture to suggest that we are sick of the sound of this ugly word—we know that it is a wonderful achievement to hand over the control of the work to our Indian brethren, but it does sound like "withdrawal from India" to the average person, and no one will invest their money or their interest in a business that is folding up. Now, I know that "Indianisation" does not mean collapse, but this word is associated with the time-limits set on missionary activity in India, and looks like withdrawal.

The brotherhood cries aloud for news—news of human interest which will stress the crying need of India and the New Hebrides. These countries send up their long cry to God out of their poverty, ignorance, superstition and paganism, but we do not hear it unless face to face with

a missionary on furlough. The East Malvern church, when faced with a missionary on furlough from India, heard the cry of the poverty of these people and almost doubled their normal budget allocation last year—but missionaries on furlough are not available every year! It is our Lord himself who said, "Ask and ye shall receive." We have not been asked, except half apologetically. In our Jubilee-Year of Overseas Missions we were asked for a paltry £25,000—double that figure would be little enough in any year, and let none say "The brotherhood cannot afford it." Bear in mind the poverty of our gospel, and, more, bear in mind the generosity of our Island brethren!

Are We All Ready To Do More?

In any business where this state of affairs prevailed, the first move would be to call in a public relations expert—public relations between Overseas Missions and the brotherhood is at a minimum when the need of a jeep for our New Hebrides field must be made known by rumor. J. P. Syme defined public relations as "the business of conveying facts to supply every potential friend with evidence to form an opinion of the value and importance of the company to him." Do we believe that Overseas Missions is of value and importance to the individual of the brotherhood? If we do, let us give him the facts. It is easy to forget the business of conveying facts to

those upon whom we depend for support, but it is as fatal as it is easy. In their book, **Effective Public Relations**, Cutlip and Center stress another aspect of public relations which is necessary; that public relations is a two-way traffic—and information must not only be conveyed to the public from the company, but from the public to the company. It would seem to me that both channels are equally clogged and overgrown.

There are six easy principles of public relations.

1. Be frank and honest.
2. Tell your story directly.
3. Don't talk up to your public, and don't talk down to them.
4. Use simple words.
5. Tell one story at a time.
6. Be sparing in the use of figures.

These are simple rules to follow, but the result is great when they are carried out.

We are failing as Christians because we dodge the Cross, our gospel is impoverished, our vision dim, our interest un-fed, and our cry for knowledge unanswered; yet, through it all there comes the crystal-clear call of the Saviour, yearning over his suffering, sinning people "Who will go for us? whom shall we send?"

Let our excuse not be "They've never told me," but let the answer be, "Here am I Lord! Send me!" The ultimate responsibility rests not on any Committee, but on you and me.

AND AS I SEE IT

—replies ALBERT ANDERSON, Fed. F.M. Sec.

After reading the article by R. N. Gilmore, no one will doubt his passionate sincerity, nor his earnest desire to serve the cause of Overseas Missions. There are many things on which we agree and share a mutual concern.

Things on which we Agree

We agree that many Christian people shun the Cross. They are satisfied that Christ was uplifted on the Cross, but fail to see its implications. Christ said, "Take up the Cross." All too few have taken it up in any real sense.

We agree that the overseas work has not fully shared in the financial resources of the brotherhood. In one of the strongest States in the Commonwealth, both numerically and financially, out of the total monies raised for all purposes, overseas income amounted to a mere 7%. The Commonwealth figures would be lower. More than 80% of our total income

is spent on local work. The remainder is shared by brotherhood departments. A numerically small country like Australia, can spend roughly £200 million a year on defence, that, in the final issue, might be used to blast men off the face of the earth, whereas the world contributes to missions approx. £17 million per annum, in seeking to uplift men and point them to the Cross. We must share part of this common shame.

We agree that missionary salaries and allowances are inadequate. The Board would like to bring salaries and allowances nearer to the suggested salary basis of home preachers. We are not proud of the salaries and allowances paid, but there are many extras and additions that cannot be listed here. A missionary in India with two or three children of school age, would not have a salary range far behind the average preacher. It could be pointed out, too, that the salary range of

American preachers is as far above the average home preacher, as their missionary salary and allowances are above ours. We nevertheless agree with the contention that our workers are underpaid. We need to be careful in making comparisons between the salaries paid by some Mission Bodies and our own. Which yard-stick do we use?

We agree that there is frustration among young people, who have trained, or are being trained with the ultimate desire to serve overseas. One of the objectives in mind in the opening up of new work is that this reservoir of youthful energy, spiritual power and vision might be used.

We agree that Indianisation is an ugly word, but the word was not coined by missionaries or Home Boards. It was a word coined in official Indian circles, and made current throughout the whole of India through the newspapers. Whatever we think of the

word, it is understood and is being acted upon in all walks of life.

The first of the six easy principles of public relations mentioned by Mr. Gilmore reads, "Be frank and honest" — we thought we were both frank and honest in seeking to bring the idea of Indianisation before the brotherhood. In many quarters brethren were extremely interested in the subject. If Mr. Gilmore spent a few days in India, he would realise that Indianisation is not being "played down."

Mr. Gilmore rightly understands that Indianisation does not mean withdrawal, but means a partnership. The Board has emphasised, and will go on doing so, that our financial resources will continue to be shared fully by India. In the current year, the budget for India has been increased to allow for the functioning of the new High School.

Things on which we Disagree

We do not agree that we fail in publicity. Anyone who has sought to reach the brotherhood through the printed page knows that the task is not as easy as it seems. To sit on the side-lines does not give one a true appreciation of the tussle that goes on in the arena. There are many ways in which publicity breaks down.

In all publicity put out by Board, extracts from field letters and articles have first priority. If the brotherhood is ignorant, then the blame cannot be laid against the Board. It speaks little for the loyalty of the brotherhood if *The Australian Christian* is not read widely. The sum total of one year's Foreign Mission pages should give sufficient information, if people want to be informed.

Is the Foreign Mission annual number of the *Christian* of no value? Is the quarterly *Goodly Pearls* so little read? If these and other avenues afforded are insufficient, then the whole of our brotherhood publicity, in all departments, must be counted to have failed. We do not agree that the main stream of people are ignorant. We have too many evidences of brotherhood sympathy and practical support to believe this.

Mr. Gilmore also has in mind the publicity work of other Missions. He knows, however, that we are a relatively small body of people and our mission force is not large. Several of the Missions that put out excellent and costly pamphlets frequently are world-wide concerns, having many areas of work, and sometimes not merely scores of workers, but hundreds. In some cases, an office and staff are set apart to do this work. Many such Missions have an annual income of £300,000 or more per annum. Are we expected

to spend large sums every year on putting out such literature?

The possibility of a new field has never really been absent from the mind of the Board at any time, but such a venture must be backed by solid evidence that the brotherhood is prepared to support existing work on a sounder basis, and that any new work can be adequately covered. We trust that "the ferment for a new field that has been going on in the pew for six years" continues.

In urging us to realise "that on our present scale of giving we cannot support more missionaries — and neither we should, until we have a conviction concerning the welfare of those we have already placed in the Fields," Mr. Gilmore is reiterating what has been the mind of the Board for several years.

The matter of calling in a public relations expert is hardly one that can be touched upon here, but for Mr. Gilmore to say that "public relations between Overseas Missions and the brotherhood is at a minimum, when the need of a jeep for our New Hebrides field must be made known by rumor," thus using the need of a jeep as an illustration, when his only source of information comes via rumor, seems to us to be poor reasoning. Of course there are needs! A jeep could be listed among them, but we fail to see why every rumor (for this instance is not the only one) should be regarded as a break-down in public relations between Overseas Missions and the brotherhood. There are ample requests before the brotherhood at regular intervals, to discount rumor and deal with realities.

Finally, we would say that publicity of whatever kind, whether by the printed page, by missionary, preacher or church leader, will all fall in part, unless the average church member is awakened to a full sense of responsibility. All publicity falls short, until men and women stand face to face, look into his eyes and hear his voice say, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel."

During the last war a Commission was set up in Scotland to interpret God's will to the Church and nation during the days of crisis. After a summary of their findings this body stated:—

"We may not know all we should know—

We may not know all we could know—

But we know enough to make us better men and better women."

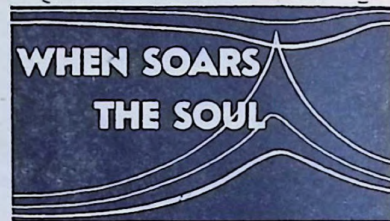
To the brotherhood we would say—

"We may not know all we should know—

We may not know all we could know—

But we know enough to make us better stewards."

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

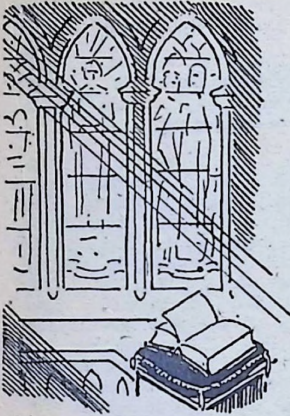


And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand. And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life . . . And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said unto him, Fear not . . . And they two made a covenant before the Lord . . . Paul went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.—1 Sam. 23: 14-18; Acts 18: 23.

William Guthrie, a Covenanting minister whom his Government had forbidden to preach, had gone with a company of friends to hear a young man preach. After the service they walked homewards, and much dissatisfaction was expressed with the sermon. "Ah," said Guthrie. "You are mistaken. It was an admirable sermon." It was a summer evening, near sunset, and he proposed that they should rest on the grass, and he would repeat the sermon. Under the sunset sky, the little company listened to the silenced preacher, and reversed their former verdict. They thought the sermon "a wonderfully great one." Now, one reverences the generosity which defended a beginner, but I am loth to believe that it was the loving extenuation of weakness and fault. Surely, Guthrie really did see more in the sermon than his friends saw, and he saw more because he expected more. He was alert for discovery.

O Lord, forgive my unexpectant heart. I ask, and seek, and knock too little for all that thou art eager to do in and through me. Help me to be alert for thee in the hour of worship, listening to the spoken word with responsive mind and heart, encouraging my minister both by my appreciation, and by the way I seek to live out his teaching. Make my whole life a strong ministry of encouragement. Amen.

I am listening, Lord, for thee;
What hast thou to say to me?



Sunday, October 7

OLD TESTAMENT

Proverbs 12: 17-28.

Summary.

In a cluster of contrasts we observe two main themes—the power of the tongue, and the profit of hard work. Under the heading of "talking," we are told that what we say is vital. Our words are assessed from various standpoints. They are seen as symptoms (v. 17)—for sincere or insincere talk is no superficial habit, but an outcrop of character; as instruments—for wounding or healing (vv. 18, 25); as products—tested by time (v. 19); as objects of God's delight or disgust (v. 22). Then, under the heading "working," we are taught to examine our habits, to account for our success or failure in life. We must qualify for promotion (v. 24), we must follow up our successes (v. 27), and we must actualise our dreams (13: 2).

Explanatory Notes.

"he that speaketh the truth" (v. 17). — "There are over one hundred verses in the book which have to do, in one way or another, with the use of the tongue. Even though one of the smallest, weakest, and softest of the organs of the body, it is one of the most powerful, because by it human lives are changed, and the course of nature is altered. It is also one of the most difficult organs to control (cf. James 3: 3-12). It can be the source of much sorrow and evil" (Fritsch).

"a prudent man concealeth knowledge" (v. 23). — "Still waters run deep," as the old proverb says. Here we see "the difference between reticence and forwardness in speech. The rashness of the fool in his speech is a common theme of Proverbs" (Fritsch).

"heaviness in the heart of a man, etc." (v. 25). — "Care boweth down a man's heart, but a good word maketh it glad" (McFadyen).

THE LIVING WORD

Studies on the planned Sunday morning readings

Suggested Theme.

"NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE."

Introduction. — The true significance of things is sometimes only realised when we view them in contrast with other things. So it is in this passage. Notice, first of all,

I. WORDS IN CONTRAST (vv. 17-23).—In this section we are urged to notice the difference between (a) words that are true, and words that are false—these are good and evil (v. 17), strong and weak (v. 19), loved and hated by God (v. 22), respectively; (b) words that hurt and words that heal (v. 18); and (c) words that are reticent and words that are rash (v. 23). Then observe, secondly,

II. WORK IN CONTRAST (vv. 24-28).—As we face life we can be busy or lazy (vv. 24, 27), we can be good or bad (v. 26), we can be happy or heavy-hearted (v. 25), and we can have the right goal or the wrong one (v. 28).

Conclusion. — By noticing the difference between things we are much better fitted to make the right choices. Have we really learned to choose well?

NEW TESTAMENT

James 3.

Summary.

This chapter falls into two parts. The first section deals with the tongue (vv. 1-12), which is discussed in the following way: the fact of it (vv. 1-2), its power (vv. 3-5a), its mischievousness (vv. 5b-6), its difficulty in taming (vv. 7-8), and its fickle nature (vv. 9-12). The second portion deals with the true wisdom (vv. 13-18), which is summed up in v. 17 as being pure, peaceable, practical, and positive. In our over-all reading of this chapter, we see how the tongue can guide life, harm life, and bless life. Therefore, those who are wise will pray a prayer like this—"O Lord, keep the door of my lips."

Explanatory Notes.

"how great a fire" (v. 5).—"Bush fires were common in Palestine. Cf. Ps. 83: 14; Isa. 9: 18; 10: 17. We in Australia know too well how hundreds of square miles of bush may be consumed by a spark from a locomotive engine, or a match thrown into the grass before it has quite gone out" (Sugden).

"the course of nature" (v. 6).—In the R.V. this appears as "the wheel of nature," and in the margin of the same translation as "the wheel of birth." This may be "a meaningless phrase to an English reader. Prof. Mayor explains the

phrase from 'the shape of the wheel . . . the circle or sphere of this earthly life, meaning all that is contained in our life'; . . . Others explain the phrase, 'our changeful life,' from the rapid motion of a wheel" (Bennett). It seems that James was pointing to what we call "our natural impulses" or "our natural passions."

"who is wise and endowed with knowledge among you?" (v. 13). — The same two words, "wise" and "understanding," meet us in the questioning of Job (28: 12). Of all the words which signify some kind of intellectual endowment (e.g., prudence, knowledge, understanding), wisdom always ranks highest. It is the word which expresses the typical wisdom of Solomon (Matt. 12: 42), the inspiration of Stephen (Acts 6: 10), and the divine wisdom of Jesus Christ (Matt. 13: 54; Mark 6: 2). James, therefore, quite naturally employs it to denote that excellent gift for which Christians are to pray with full confidence that it will be granted to them (1: 5-6), and which manifests its heavenly character by a variety of good fruits (3: 7)" (Plummer).

Suggested Theme.

"YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THAT."

Introduction. — How many times we have said to others, or they have said to us, "You shouldn't talk like that." As Christians, what we say is of vital importance. James points that out in this chapter. See

I. THE STRENGTH OF THE TONGUE (vv. 1-6). — If a man can control this, he can control anything. But that is just where we all fail. Three graphic illustrations of the tongue's power are given—the horse-bridle (v. 3), the ship's rudder (v. 4), and the tiny spark (vv. 5-6). The tongue is a thing of power. Observe next

II. THE STUBBORNNESS OF THE TONGUE (vv. 7-12). — James goes right to the heart of the matter, saying that the tongue is ungovernable (vv. 7-8) and unreliable (vv. 9-12). Finally, he refers to

III. THE SILENCE OF THE TONGUE (vv. 13-18). — Scroggie says, "Silence may be a sign of sanctification." James endorses that. He urges that we let our lives speak (vv. 13-16), and that we get our focus straight (vv. 17-18). There is a time when silence is more significant than speech.

Conclusion. — "Be careful what you say!" Heaven or hell are to be found in the words of men. Do our words help or hurt? There is a Christian way of using our tongues.



It is noted that J. E. Allan, who began studies at the Federal College of the Bible in 1907—the first year—was too unwell to contribute a brief article for the College Jubilee issue of this paper. Following an operation, he is now convalescing.

With Peter Retchford (Prahran, Vic.) as missionary, and John Machin as song-leader, the church at Coburg, Vic., is holding a "Friendship Circle Mission," Sept. 23 to Oct. 7 (Saturdays excepted). The church is looking forward to a time of rich blessing.

There is still time for all Christians who are conscientiously opposed to the proposed Commonwealth aid to denominational schools to make strong written protests to their Members of Parliament, especially to those belonging to the Government parties. We urge that such protests be made immediately. A resolution on the subject will be introduced at Federal Conference.

S. L. Patching will commence a three-month interim ministry with the church at Naracoorte, S.A. on Oct. 7.

Reg. Enniss, former World Convention President, has been in hospital again for a thorough check-up, following a recurrence of ill health. We regret this interruption to the excellent progress Mr. Enniss had made since his operation earlier this year, and trust that he will soon be fully restored.

There were 67 present at the panel discussion on Provocative Pamphlet, No. 13, Neither Male Nor Female, held at Lygon-st., Vic., on Mon., Sept. 17, with representatives of both the Vic. Christian Women's Fellowship and Vic. Church Men's Society sharing in the night. A very interesting evening was the result.

A complimentary and recognition evening has been arranged to honor Miss Marion E. Pittman, on Friday, October 26, at 8 p.m., at Lygon-st. chapel, Vic. The President of Vic.-Tas. Conference, K. A. Jones, will chair the evening, for which a delightful programme has been arranged. Miss Pittman has been the faithful official organiste of all Conference gatherings, as well as organiste to the Lygon-st. church, for over forty years. Her interests have

been many and varied, and all friends are cordially invited to attend and make this a brotherhood tribute to a worthy lady. Subscription lists are open for an intended presentation, and gifts may be sent to J. Atkinson, 39 Clarendon-st., West Coburg, N.13.

The October meeting of the Vic. Ministers' Fraternal will be held on Monday, Oct. 1, at the Swanston-st. church. Following lunch at 1 p.m., the meeting will begin at 2 p.m., when a guest speaker will discuss Australia, Suez and the Middle East.

Following on his return from Mackay, Qld., where he has conducted a fortnight's mission, R. Hilford, after only a week or two back at East Ipswich, will leave for New Guinea. There he will give two months' service as an Army chaplain. J. G. Wiltshire will act as interim preacher, and the mission planned for November has been postponed indefinitely.

It is heartening to learn of various members of our brotherhood excelling in the field of sport. Doug. Beasy, B.S. supt. at Hartwell church, Vic., was acclaimed "best and fairest" player for Carlton League Football team in 1956. Bob. Greene, North Williamstown church, Vic., with his partner, was successful in winning the "Open Championship" at the Australian Badminton Championship events recently held at Newcastle, N.S.W.

The church at Gympie, Qld., which tithes its general offering to F.M. work, has accepted the challenge of the need for funds for the newly formed work at the Baramati High School, and the Missionary Disbursement Committee has decided to give half of the tithe to this work for one year, to be reviewed for further consideration at the end of this period.

Sixty-sixth anniversary services were held at Surrey Hills, Vic., on Sept. 9, when F. N. Lee, R. P. Morris and K. A. Jones were speakers, and Mrs. C. G. Taylor and Keith Hall soloists. At a social evening on the 12th, Mrs. Allen, as oldest member present, gave "memories" of Surrey Hills. Howard Earle recalled highlights in his nine-year ministry, and Dr. G. H. Oldfield presented A Peep into the Future. Temple Day offering of £67, and a gift of £200 from the Ladies' Guild, go towards the

Manse Fund, a home having been purchased almost opposite the chapel.

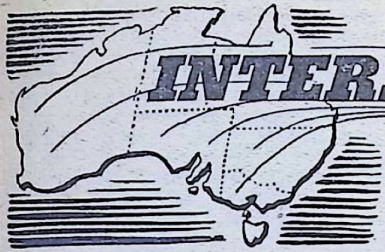
P. J. Retchford has announced that he will conclude his ministry with the church at Prahran, Vic., in December of this year.

The church at Brighton, Vic., has begun a Workshop on Worship course of Wednesday night meetings. First part of the programme consists of worship in prayer and Bible study, during which Ephesians is studied, each member of the group being given a copy of William Barclay's commentary on that epistle. During the second portion of the evening, the emphasis is on the practical out-working of worship, when those planned to read and preside on the following Sunday morning present their readings and presidential talk, and then listen to helpful comments by other members of the group. Readings and talk are tape-recorded, and played back following the group comments. The aim is to set the highest standards for the Sunday morning worship service.

Eighty-first church anniversary and Temple Day services at Warrnambool, Vic., on Sept. 14 and 16, were outstanding, with excellent attendances and much enthusiasm. Appropriate addresses were given on the Sunday by K. W. Barton, preacher of the church, with historical features and film, "Son of Man," on the 14th. At the gospel service on the 16th, a group of members impressively presented the candle-lighting pageant, "The Master's Lightbearers." The Temple Day offering received during the day amounts to £230, an all-time record. Port Fairy members joined in the celebrations.

Among other competitions arranged by the Zondervan Press, of Michigan, U.S.A., is a "Song Writing Contest," which is being conducted in an effort to offset the dearth of good new action songs and choruses for children. First prize (for best words and music) will be 100 dollars, and this, together with the 33 other prizes, will constitute an outright purchase of the chosen composition. Entries close on Dec. 31, 1956, and should be addressed to Zondervan Music Publishers, Attention Music Editor, 1415 Lake Drive S.E., Grand Rapids 6, Michigan, U.S.A.

Members of our Australian churches will be grieved to learn that further trouble has come to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Christie, of our British churches' Mission in India. After Mr. Christie's final acquittal in a law case which had dragged on for years, the family was almost on the eve of leaving for furlough in Britain when their ten-year-old daughter contracted polio. Our sympathy and prayers will certainly support them.



INTERSTATE CHURCH NEWS

Discipleship

- Susan Sprosen, Fullarton, S.A.
 Mr. Turner, Albert Park, S.A.
 Joy Drilling, Joan Deere, Margaret Fisher, Margaret McKennay, Pauline Thomas, Sandra Wright, Deane Fisher, Forestville, S.A.
 Mrs. G. McIvor, Mrs. Furlong, Edward, Vincent, Ruth and Glennis Furlong, Beverly Hills, N.S.W.
 Malcolm Trompf, East Kew, Vic.
 Jane Fraser, Alan and Denise Lange, Enfield Heights, S.A.

Membership

- G. Payne, from Lake-st., Perth, to Kilburn, S.A.
 Mrs. Templeton, from Nailsworth to Kilburn, S.A.
 Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. Bodin, from Glenelg to Albert Park, S.A.
 Mr. and Mrs. Blucher, from Fullarton to Albert Park, S.A.
 Miss Milne, from Kilburn to Albert Park, S.A.
 Mrs. Milne, to Albert Park, S.A.
 L. Holden, from Hindmarsh to Croydon, S.A.
 Sis. Thomas, to East Kew, Vic.
 S. Chivell, to Warracknabeal, Vic.
 Mrs. Vaines, from South Melbourne to Bayswater, Vic.
 Mr. and Mrs. G. Wall, from Thornbury to Ringwood, Vic.
 Mrs. Simpson, from England, to Colonel Light Gardens, S.A.
 Margaret Rawling, from Mile End to Colonel Light Gardens, S.A.
 K. Reid, to Bentleigh, Vic.
 Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Dockett, from Dulwich to Enfield Heights, S.A.
 Mr. and Mrs. Gray, Tom and Brenton, from Mile End to Enfield Heights, S.A.

Fallen Asleep

- S. Huddy, Kilburn, S.A.
 Mrs. Forde, Kalgoorlie, W.A.
 N. Ruddle, South Auburn, N.S.W.

- Mrs. Neill, Bentleigh, Vic.
 Miss A. Rogers, Enfield Heights, S.A.
 Mrs. E. Lewis, Horsham, Vic.

Marriage

- Joyce Morgan to Paul Haydon, Echuca, Vic.
 D. McPherson to W. Dyson, Hamilton, Vic.
 Barbara Bray, Unley, to Ian Mauger, Enfield Heights, S.A.

Western Australia

Kalgoorlie (F. H. Griffiths). — 17 members, both young and old, have recently reconsecrated their lives. Field sec. of B.&F.B.S. (Mr. Giblett) spoke at a morning service. Successful evening worship service was held by local branch of W.C.C., followed by business meeting; F. H. Griffiths gave address. C.E. visited hospital on Orange and Flower Sunday. Kinder has moved into new building, attractively painted by men of the church; primary dept. occupying old kinder hall. A young primary teacher has been farewelled. B.S. supt. took part in Supts.' Camp at Waterman's Bay. Conf. Pres., F. Stephenson, visited church to speak at recent Sunday meetings. He also spoke at successful C.E. anniversary. Three aged lady members have recently passed to be with their Lord.

Queensland

Albion (G. J. Andrews).—Chaplain L. G. Crisp addressed church at morning services on Sept. 2 and 16. At family film service on 2nd, What is a Christian? was screened. Women's Fellowship met on 6th, speaker being from Spastic Centre. Y.W.F. met on 10th, when Matron Malden spoke of her experiences as a Christian nurse. I.C.E. took communion service at Aged Christians' Home on 9th. Evening service on 16th was led by Y.P. and included Question and Answer session.

East Ipswich (R. Hilford). — C. G. Flood (Ann-st.) visited C.W.F. on 5th. Visitors on Aug. 26 included Mr. Page (Boondall), who has come to reside at Ipswich, and Mr. Wagner (Gatton). Church sec., Don Risson, has been in hospital suffering from pneumonia, but is now at home. Mrs. Dack is to take up residence at Aged Christians' Home, after being member of this church for many years, serving over a long period as church

organiste. On 9th, C.Y.F. fellowship tea was visited by Miss Barkla (Zenana Bible and Medical Mission). Miss Barkla showed colored slides of her work after evening service.

Ma Ma Creek (L. Larsen). — Fellowship with churches of Sth. Qld. Country Conference was enjoyed at Gatton on Sept. 8. Several Y.P. attended Downs Youth Camp at Shannon Memorial Park from 14th to 16th. Circuit ladies have good collection of new and old clothing for despatch to Aborigines Mission. A new Indian orphan has recently been allotted for church support.

New South Wales

Beverly Hills (G. H. Benjamin). — There have been good attendances during month. Six were received into fellowship on Sept. 9. Very enjoyable outing, organised by Y.P. was held on 8th, when 31 Y.P. attended. Attendances at mid-week meetings are keeping up well. Bible study discussions on passages considered are much enjoyed.

Mosman (D. W. Tonkin). — On evening of Sept. 9, L. S. Dewberry (South Auburn) completed series of four services in exchange with D. W. Tonkin. On morning of 9th, J. Hunter addressed church. Church has been working up to special Spring Campaign, and prayer meeting during week has been built up.

South Auburn (L. S. Dewberry).—Special series of Sunday evening meetings has been conducted by D. W. Tonkin. Good attendance has been maintained. Youth Planning Committee has been formed, with representatives from all youth auxiliaries. First venture of this committee was fellowship tea on Aug. 19. Church mourns loss of Newman Ruddle.

Georgetown (W. Hoffman).—C.Y.F. and mid-week meetings have been conducted in homes during winter. C.Y.F. has been studying F. Hunting's booklet, Facing Life Radiantly, and mid-week meeting has been discussing morning N.T. readings. Exchange meeting with Merewether was enjoyed. F.M. offering is now over £100. Attendances at all meetings and offerings are above average. On Sept. 15-16, J. (Scotty) Gibb and a party of Gospel Harmonists and Instrumentalists from Sydney gave excellent programmes. B. Waterman (Sydney) and F. Roberts (Woolwich) gave addresses. All meetings, includ-

ing a Happy Hour on Sunday afternoon, were packed to the doors. Series of open air meetings is being conducted before gospel services.

South Australia.

Grote-st., Adelaide (A. W. Candy). — At gospel service on Aug. 26, one young man made great decision. A man from Finke River, N.T., was immersed. Brian Pryor has been appointed sec. of Youth Council. W. J. Orr, as chairman, will continue to lead Council. Laurence Hughes and Lauris Candy were chosen as adjudicators to State C.E. Musical and Elocutionary competitions. Murray flood appeal reached £45, including £6/10/- from B.S. Elders and deacons were invited by B.S. to take charge of school's worship session recently. T. M. Glover spoke briefly on **The Functions of Elders and Deacons.** At M.B. meeting on 28th, Miss Grimmer spoke of her experiences in Tonga, and displayed samples of native work.

Albert Park (J. B. Baker). — Youth auxiliaries are active, as is women's group, which helped with purchase of piano. Attendances are keeping over 100 in the morning and slightly less at night. 120 were present on morning of Conference Sunday, including visitors from Tasmania and country churches. B.S. is preparing for first anniversary; well over 200 scholars are enrolled.

Colonel Light Gardens (F. G. Banks). — Church celebrated 31st anniversary at end of Aug. Week ended with a Temple offering and thanksgiving service. £156/10/10 was received as the offering which, with retiring offerings for several months, allows £200 to be paid off Youth Hall. Many past members attended Sunday services; av. attendance for the week's meetings was 76. Two members have been added by transfer, and a girl and a woman have made their decision. Av. attendances for Aug. were: morning, 62; evening, 50.

Croydon (W. N. Bartlett). — R. Holland addressed evening meeting on Aug. 19. B.S. held annual Parents' and teachers' social on 29th, when film, **What is a Christian?**, was screened. On Sept. 9, monthly youth tea was held. R. Battersby showed films at after-church fellowship. L. Higgins led tea and fellowship, and Dianne Langman presided at church service. Basketball girls won three premierships out of four teams, and the boys competed in grand final of Amateur Basketball Association and semi-final of Churches of Christ Association.

Forestville (W. A. Russell). — Work is well maintained. During past six weeks, there have been seven de-

isions. Annual basketball social was well attended, when trophies were presented to successful players. Geo. Thomas was thanked for untiring efforts as umpire, and was presented with a book from the club. At B.S. anniversary services, N. Gavros, I. J. Chivell, T. Robinson and G. Whiting all brought appropriate messages. There was one confession. Scholars sang well under leadership of Geo. Thomas, supt. An after-church fellowship was largely attended, when Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Lovell, recently returned from a trip to U.S.A., showed views of trip, and also gave impressions of churches in United States. Sympathy of church is extended to Mrs. Frank Samels in Home call of her sister, and F. G. Walkley in Home call of his mother.

Fullarton (A. W. Morris). — Morning service on Sept. 16 was well attended. Mr. and Mrs. Yelds and daughter (Bexley Nth.) were visitors. In the evening, baptismal service was held, prior to gospel meeting. Geo. Cox conducted song service. A. W. Morris continued series of prophetic addresses. After the service, film, depicting the work of Disciples of Christ in Thailand and Philippines, was screened. Church congratulates Mrs. Outlaw on being new Pres. of Women's Auxiliary of Conference.

Kilburn (A. J. Ingham). — Church sympathises with Mrs. Huddy and family in loss of husband and father. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey (Williamstown) are now living in district and attending services. Combined basketball clubs held successful social on Sept. 14. Foundations of new chapel building have been laid, and arrangements are in hand for foundation stone unveiling ceremony. Recent visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Jolly (Whyalla), and Mr. and Mrs. Palmer (Broken Hill). Mrs. Lawrance, senr., was also able to attend. Services on Sept. 16 were well attended, particularly at night, when two B.S. scholars were baptised. Soloist was L. Milne.

Murray Bridge (P. R. Whitmore). — Social evening was given at W. Gruhl's home to welcome Mr. Keen and family, recently come from England. Mr. Norris gave inspiring messages during preacher's illness. Messrs. Harper and Bywaters spoke at services while preacher attended Conference. Three car-loads of Y.P. attended youth night at Adelaide Town Hall during Conference. Church members affected by flood received encouraging offers of help, but lack of reasonably priced hay is main worry. Ladies' Guild gave £100 to reduce Hall debt.

Unley (I. J. Chivell). — Visiting speakers in A. E. Stevens (Whyalla) and J. McCormick (Loxton) gave

splendid messages to good congregations on Conference Sunday. A young married couple, visiting from Vic., made good confession. After evening service, sound film dealing with missionary work of our American brethren was shown. Services were taken by Ivan Hull and Trevor Turner while Mr. Chivell was away on a brief holiday. An appeal for support of Mutual Fund for Building Extension Committee was made by C. W. Hoffman. Social Service Dept. offering totalled £12/8/3. To enable officers to respond to appeals for donations from various organisations, without recourse to retiring offerings, a quarterly offering is to be taken; the first of which realised £11/5/3. Longwood Youth Camp was scene of weekend camp by 33 members of C.Y.F. In absence of preacher at Forestville B.S. anniversary, these Y.P. took local evening service — John Halbert and Peter Johnson (addresses), Dawn Chivell (reading), Christine Lawton (solo), and Ashley Byrne having special parts. Graham Forbes (tied for first and tied for second), Christine Lawton (first), and Robert Wharton (second), were successful in State J.C.E. Eisteddfod.

Enfield Heights. — Attendances are keeping up well. All auxiliaries report increased numbers. C.W.F. held first annual meeting in Aug. The speaker, Lady Messent, addressed a splendid attendance. Y.W.F. has been started. B.S. anniversary celebrations were held in Aug. Nallsworth and Kilburn still assist two Sunday mornings, and S. Neighbour (Prospect) and A. R. Jones take all other services. I. Mauger was presented with gift from church, prior to his marriage to Barbara Bray. Mrs. Henderson is still very sick.

Naracoorte. — Services have been conducted mainly by local brethren. C. P. Hughes (Christian Temperance Alliance) paid annual visit, and preached at one service. On Sept. 9, W. E. Fisher (Bordertown) preached at both services. L. H. Davie preached on morning of 16th. Several pleasant evenings have been spent at surprise birthday parties at homes of members, and a Y.P. social was held in the hall. On Aug. 31, B. Pallant screened films, including **I Beheld His Glory.** Ladies' Guild held special afternoon on 11th. Brethren from Bordertown visited Naracoorte Men's Fellowship at their Sept. meeting, and showed films. B.S. assisted at gospel service on 2nd. Some members visited Adelaide for State Conference.

Victoria

Tootgarook (A. Cant, B.Ed.). — During past two weeks there has been a pleasing increase in evening services, which have averaged 56. Morning meetings have maintained average of

48. Men's group has been formed, and is designed to help men of district get to know one another, and have their social life with other Christian men. B.S. Olympic Games campaign concluded with social on Sept. 2, when 120 were present. Average attendance during campaign was over 95 per cent., and there were 12 new scholars added. Work is progressing steadily on building, and baptistry is in course of construction. Present building should be completed by Christmas, but extensions are now required for B.S.

North Richmond (C. Dow). — F. Barnett (Burnley) presided at morning service during Aug., and R. V. Longthorp (South Yarra) was speaker. Favorite hymn service was conducted in evening, when soloists were Miss E. Chipperfield, Miss J. Winstone and J. Alderson (Hartwell). After the service, C.Y.F. was held at home of Mrs. McDougall. On 13th, Muriel Coventry showed colored slides of her trip to N.Z. On 24th, sale of work was held, and proceeds included with Talent Fund which, after being in operation for six months, raised an amount of £313 for Manse Fund.

Bayswater (R. Ryall). — On Sept. 2, evening service was observed as men's service, some men assisting on platform. A lady was received into fellowship by transfer on 9th. Social Service offering amounted to £14.

Bendigo (R. V. Holmes). — B.S. celebrated 60th anniversary with two special services on Sept. 9. Guest speaker, A. Graham (Ballarat), delighted all with his illustrated addresses. Children sang to capacity congregations. Scholars were entertained at tea and programme on 12th. In absence of preacher at Dunolly on 16th, A. C. Mudford and J. K. Martin conducted services. Sept. C.M.S. meeting was addressed by T. Girvin (Governor, Bendigo Training Prison). Ladies' Auxiliary has undertaken to renew chapel aisle carpets.

Blackburn (R. V. Amos). — Tea was held for Y.P. of 10-14 years on Sept. 16. Good Companions and Explorers later took part in gospel service. At half-yearly business meeting on 17th, it was decided to open a fund for new chapel. Many folk are ill, but those mostly in need of prayers are Jennifer Wadsley, who has a fractured skull, and Mrs. Graham, who is in hospital recovering from an operation.

Brunswick (R. W. Vautler). — Special prayer meetings were held at 8 a.m. each Lord's Day during Aug. in preparation for Loyalty Month. Two weeks' mission commenced on Sept. 16, F. N. Lee being speaker, and H. Hince song-leader. Messages

of F. Bradley (Black Rock) have been greatly appreciated. Congratulations are offered to P.B.P. basketball team on winning final match, defeating Ormond team by one goal.

Clayton (J. L. Reid). — B.S. is practising for anniversary. On Aug. 26, Gospel Harmonists conducted evening service, and R. Pugh was speaker. S.C.E. held 2nd birthday on Sept. 8. Building was crowded and E. Richards gave a challenging address. Gospel service concluded their weekend, when Mr. Andrews (Sudan United Mission) was speaker. B.S. gave £35/16/6 for quarter to Foreign Missions. During preacher's absence at Horsham on 16th, Messrs. Alms and N. Kingsley brought the message. J.C.E. combined with other societies in district for picnic at Dandenong.

East Kew (F. E. Buckingham). — Meetings have improved during interim ministry of Mr. Buckingham. Church rejoices in recovery of Sis. B. Still and Elliott from operations. Sis. Hilda King (Swan Hill) had fellowship with church, and has taken a position with the Legacy Club, East Kew. Church extends sympathy to Mrs. Snibson in passing of her father. A Grade tennis team won Eastern District final.

Echuca (C. E. Watson). — Ladies' Auxiliary enjoyed visit from Mrs. E. L. Williams, who spoke on Christian Women's Fellowship. A number of folk gathered at manse to see interesting slides of overseas work. Five ladies enjoyed Y.W.F. camp at Monbulk. Good Companions' Club, with help of other auxiliaries, held successful concert for local funds. Preacher and his wife are on holidays and will attend Federal Conference.

Hamilton (R. W. Saunders). — On Aug. 26, Amy Burne and June Goudie were welcomed back from U.S.A., and gave interesting accounts of their experiences. At later dates, colored slide pictures were shown to church and Y.P.S.C.E. On Sept. 4, a kitchen tea was tendered D. McPherson and W. Dyson. Gospel service was held on Sept. 3 at Coleraine, during which H. Mountjoy screened film, *Storms of Life*, and R. Saunders gave address. On 9th a young woman made good confession. Miss R. Jasper addressed Y.W.F. W.M.B. sent parcel to Aborigine Mission. K. Wilson and H. Mountjoy "briefed" C.M.S. for coming Reliability Car run, after which a salmagundi evening was enjoyed. B.S., staff and church were enriched by visit of L. A. Trezise and his team of eight from Youth Dept. on 15th-16th. Robert Young (Wycliffe School of Linguistics) brought gospel address on 16th.

Jordanville (B. McIntosh). — Four decisions were made in recent weeks. Film, *How We Got Our Bible*, has

been screened. Men's Fellowship held meeting, when election of officers took place; R. Prince is pres. and K. Taylor, sec.-treas. Women's Fellowship held re-election of officers with Mrs. Coates, pres.; Mrs. Taylor, sec.; Mrs. Parker, treas. H. R. Coventry is recovering after operation. Good Companions raised £6/6/- for Social Service Dept.

Moreland (J. Turner, B.A.). — Offering for final week of Loyalty Campaign was over £70. Since campaign closed, offerings are higher than pre-campaign figures. Men are showing further interest by working bees to paint and brighten up exterior of church buildings. Noel Skillicorn is new leader for B.S. Mr. Turner is giving valuable time and experience in planning work at Fawkner. Youth work is developing there, and everyone is looking forward to new building.

Northcote (W. Gale). — On Sept. 11, Miss N. Baxter gave illustrated talk on X-ray therapy to I.C.E. B.S. anniversary was held in Northcote Town Hall on 16th, with T. V. Weir and A. J. Fisher as speakers. R. Tippett was conductor of children's choir. Attendances were very good. New church buildings are nearing completion.

Ringwood (W. F. Nankivell, B.A., B.D.). — Attendances have been well maintained, communicants averaging 100, gospel meeting attendances between 50 and 60. Thirty-seventh anniversary services on Sept. 9 were pleasing. C. G. Taylor and B. Burt brought helpful messages. Soloists were Mrs. C. G. Taylor and Mr. George. Thank-offering for Temple Day was £89, plus contribution from Women's Fellowship afternoon group of £90. Registration for weekend Family Camp at Mount Evelyn reached 70. Social Service offering was record for church (£31/19/-); also B.&F.B.S. offering (£16/3/-) surpassed previous year's. Leadership of preacher is appreciated.

Warracknabeal (R. H. Patterson). — A man has been received into membership. Ladies' Aid had special afternoon with visiting ladies from Melbourne (Mrs. Wickham, Mrs. Ferguson and Mrs. Morrison), when helpful time was spent.

Horsham (H. M. Long). — Two reconsecrations were made following address on Egypt in Prophecy. Visit from H.M. sec. (B. J. Combridge) was appreciated by three district churches. J. J. Curtis represented B.&F.B.S. on Bible Sunday at Horsham and Haven. Open-Air Campaigners, who have just begun operations in Wimmera, introduced themselves and their work at mid-week meeting, illustrating with their film, *Truceless Warfare*. Haven W.M.B. celebrated their birthday with women

of sister churches participating. Tennis club held annual meeting. Monthly gospel film services at Horsham have been discontinued over summer months, in view of pending chapel alterations. Third annual Training Class concluded after three months, there having been fourteen participants this year. C.W.F. held Devonshire tea, realising £8/8/- for Carnarvon.

Bentleigh (J. Wiltshire).—Scholars, parents and friends enjoyed B.S. picnic at Mornington, on Sept. 8. At half-yearly business meeting on 12th, financial statement was presented, and preacher gave review of work. Some members entertained with items, after which supper was provided and served by preacher and Official Board. C. Pelling is away doing voluntary building work for Aborigines Mission at Bourke, N.S.W. Members sent gift of £28 for Mission. One was received into fellowship on 16th.

Spring Vale (E. Randall). — B.S. held anniversary on Sept. 9 and 16. Bright singing by school and kinder was enjoyed. Y.P. held fellowship meeting in home of M. Munyard on 15th. Prayer and Bible study group has been enjoying weekly meetings, with more attending. Mr. Poulton is recovering from illness. W.M.B. held afternoon on 19th, when Mrs. L. Williams was guest speaker at their birthday celebration.

Surrey Hills (Howard Earle).—Recent working bee redecorated interior of B.S. hall. Great interest is being taken in junior tennis club, under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Dexter. Junior tournament was held during school vacation, and a special church parade on Sept. 16. Several juniors will graduate to senior club in coming season.



Visit of Dr. Mace

There is immense significance for Australia in the coming of Dr. David Mace. All who are holding responsible positions of leadership in religious, educational and social work will do well to seriously seize the opportunity of meeting him and getting the invaluable help he can offer. Most of us have been aware that the family is the basic unit of Society and have been concerned about parent education, hitherto so sadly neglected. Dr. Mace, though only about fifty years of age, has given twenty years to the study of all aspects of marriage, which is the key to parenthood and the quality of family life and all human relationships.

I have known David Mace for ten years, and it was one of the most

memorable weeks of my life when, in 1947, he invited me to the first National Conference on Marriage Guidance in Britain. Since then the Movement has spread over the British Commonwealth and many other countries, and he is now welcomed everywhere as an international authority. Three years ago he accepted our invitation to come to Australia and New Zealand in 1956.

I have been with him in July in New Zealand, where his Conferences have been highly successful. Doctors, ministers, educationists, lawyers, probation officers, youth leaders and many others attended, and were most grateful for new insight and further understanding. There will be four public lectures in Melbourne and sessions with vocational groups, but I want to stress that all cultural organisations should be represented at the four days' residential Conference, which is to be held at "Clevedon," The Basin, Oct. 4 to 8.

Some are coming from other States and it will be a National Conference, with a national outlook potential for the future of Australia.

For many busy people it will be difficult to spare several days, but leadership constantly demands a readiness to recognise priorities and make adjustments for a long-range plan. It is just such people who, if at all possible, should come and make this Conference.—E. P. Blamires.

Jubilee Reunion

Federal College of the Bible
Old Boys' Club

Sacred recalling, fine fellowship and gaiety, marked the annual reunion of past students, together with the present students, at the College on Sept. 11. This year the gathering held special significance because of the 50th anniversary of the College.

W. J. Thomson was in the chair. L. G. Read uplifted all in his devotional message, reminding us of the essentials of our calling in Christ. Greetings came from many parts of the Commonwealth and overseas. It was a pleasure to "welcome home," and receive a greeting from, Ira A. Paternoster, junr., of Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A. A prayer of remembrance and thanksgiving was offered by W. R. Hibburt for the lives and service of eight "old boys," who had received the Home call since the 1955 reunion.

A. J. Fisher, who entered College in 1910, gave a stimulating address, recounting the varied nature and widespread influence of the College over fifty years. H. A. G. Clark led in singing some of the humorous songs of the College. Mrs. Grace Waterman made, and appropriately decorated, a large cake, which R. T. Pittman, a charter student of the

A BIG THANK YOU

To the Australian brotherhood, for messages of spiritual strength and comfort occasioned by the recent passing of Agnes Barlow, my beloved life's partner, and for the great thrill of appreciation from the same source

for our combined ministry, which, under the guidance and blessing of God, led to such a successful Golden Jubilee ministry. To God be the glory.

—Will H. Nightingale and family.



Will H. and the late Mrs. Nightingale.

College in 1907, was called upon to cut.

The session closed with an hour of friendly interchange among those who treasure deeply all that their "old school" means.—K.A.J.

Fifty Years Ago

Excerpts from "The Australian Christian" of Sept. 27, 1906.

Editor: A. B. Maston.

S.A. Conference Notes. — 2,826 scholars are enrolled in the Sunday Schools of the State; while there are 4,295 members in the S.A. churches, an increase of 230 for the year. . . . All speakers made "brief" remarks, but they were rather long before they got through. . . . The tea meeting in the tent was one of the best arranged meetings of the kind we have attended for a very long time. Everything was good. . . . E. T. Ball gave the Conference some good advice. Maybe it would be a good thing if Mr. Ball would show us how to do some of these things. . . . If some brethren we heard talk of baptism in their preaching as they spoke of it at Conference, we do not wonder that people do not want to be baptised. . . . A veteran brother at the opening devotional meeting prayed: "Grant unto us good Christian common sense. Help us to put away all nonsense." This is a good prayer for other than Conference occasions. . . . A Kadina delegate, alluding to Government mining purposes, said they wanted the H.M. Committee "to send a diamond drill" in order to find good ore for a second mine, or church, in that district. Can any church supply them with a "bore"? . . . T. J. Gore looks so solemn and sedate that you would not think he could crack a joke; but he is a funny man indeed. He told us of one of their

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Saturday, October 13, at 8 p.m.

Swanston-st. chapel

Speaker: G. S. Brown, N.S.W.
(appeal organiser)

Song Leader: L. E. Brooker

Special singing and items

As a brotherhood, we surely have
a duty to commemorate the memory
of this great evangelist.

Can we count on your support?

church babies which was "able to stand on its own bottom."—A.B.M.

D. A. Ewers in Sydney. — Mr. and Mrs. Ewers are expected in Sydney on Sept. 27, and on the 30th they will commence work at Nth. Sydney. Our brother will look after the small causes at Chatswood and Hornsby, as well as act as evangelist at Nth. Sydney. He will also be general advocate of Home Missions in the State.—Thos. Hagger.

Australians in American Mission. — The Christian Weekly of America says: "G. A. C. Gordon and W. L. Ewers, of Kentucky University and recently of Australia, conducted a sixteen days' mission at McKinney. A great interest was manifest, and a church consisting of 45 members, and a Sunday School of 40 scholars, was organised, and Mr. Ewers engaged as minister."

BIRTH

NIX (Joyce). — On September 9, 1956, at District Hospital, Warracknabeal, Vic., to Faye and Len, a son—Peter Robert. Both well.

MARRIAGE

The marriage of William Irvine Mills to Ruth Winsome Jones was solemnised on August 18, 1956, at Portland Church of Christ, Victoria.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

S. Chalmers (secretary, Boondall church), 17 Larwill-ave., Northgate, Qld.

DEATH

DOWELL.—On September 15, 1956, at 1 Kernan-st., Strathmore, Vic., Nancy, beloved wife of Bert, loving mother of Ray, Ken and John, loved sister-in-law of Rita, Alice, Hilda, Fred and Essie.

"In God's care."

IN MEMORIAM

ADAMS. — Treasured memories of Florence Maud, called Home, September 27, 1953, a loving and dearly loved wife, mother and grandmother. —Ever remembered by her loving husband and family.

BLACK. George Thomas. — Treasured memories of my dear husband and our loving father and grandfather, who was called Home, September 25, 1955.

"In God's care."

COUNSEL. — In loving memory of Jessie, loved mother of Alice and Fred Selby, loving grandma of Mavis and Gerald. September 19, 1953.

RITCHIE. — Fondest memories are ours to treasure of the years of happiness we shared together with my loved husband, Jack, and our dear dad. Died, September 18, 1955.

—Dulce, Anne, Margaret, Gwenda.

SAUNDERS, Albert George, September 26, 1944.

"The Dawn is not distant, Love is Eternal;

God is still God, and his faith shall not fail us."

—Adelaide and St. Clair.



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Coming Events

HARTWELL BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY. October 7 and 14. Speakers: 7th. 3 p.m., A. W. Milligan; 7 p.m., R. Brooker. 14th. 3 p.m., R. N. Gilmore; 7 p.m., H. J. Patterson. A hearty welcome to all.

NORTH WILLIAMSTOWN BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY. October 7 and 14. 7th, 3 p.m., R. E. McMillan; 7 p.m., G. Bowman. 14th, 3 p.m., Kinder and Primary afternoon; 7 p.m., S. K. Bannon. Bright singing. All welcome.

WATTLE PARK BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY. October 14 in R.S.L. Hall, Toorak-rd., Burwood. (Near tram terminus.) Special speakers. 2.45 and 7 p.m. All welcome.

THORNBURY BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY. September 30, October 7. 30th, 3 p.m., Ray Clarke; 7 p.m., Tom Fitzgerald. Bible model and departmental display of handwork open in hall from 4 p.m. till 9.30 p.m. continuously. All visitors are welcome to inspect. Oct. 7, 3 p.m., Kinder and Cradle Roll Display; 7 p.m., Arnold Weston. Bright services. Bright singing. Bring your friends and neighbors.

BALWYN CHURCH HOMECOMING DAY, October 14. 11 a.m., Every member present. Speaker: K. A. Jones (Conf. Pres.). 5 p.m., Fellowship Tea. 7 p.m., Speaker: J. E. Brooke; Soloists: Lyle Williams. Past members and friends cordially invited to spend the day with Balwyn Church of Christ.

BALWYN BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY. Sundays, September 23 and 30. Speakers: 23rd, 3 p.m., R. Edgar; 7 p.m., R. Brooker. 30th, 3 p.m., Dr. Killmier; 7 p.m., Mr. Stevens. Bright singing. All welcome.

FAIRFIELD CHURCH HOMECOMING DAY, October 7. 11 a.m., T. A. Fitzgerald; 3 p.m., K. A. Macnaughtan; 7 p.m., Dr. E. R. Killmier. All past members and friends cordially invited to these services. Hospitality provided.

NORTH FITZROY BIBLE SCHOOL invites past members and friends to come back home for the 83rd anniversary, Sunday, October 14 and 21. Reunion tea, 5 p.m., October 14.

EAST KEW BIBLE SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY. September 30, October 7 and 9 (concert). 2.30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Past members and friends, plan now to come back for these celebrations. A great welcome assured. Hospitality provided. Ring F. H. Elliott, WL 2983, or R. Prince, WL 3449.

Youth for Christ Rally

Saturday, September 29

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Lord's days, 6.45 p.m.

Weeknights, 7.45 p.m.

Meetings commence with singing

Temple Day: October 6

Anniversary and Home-Coming
Services

October 7

Speakers:

11 a.m., Dr. E. R. Killmier

7 p.m., J. Wiltshire

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Second Term Honors List

Apologetics: K. E. Crawford, B.
M. Nowitzke, F. W. Reynolds, G.
Wladysiuk, D. Tonkin; four others
passed.

New Testament: P. Kavanagh, B.
M. Nowitzke; six others passed.

Essays: L. F. Barker, Miss E. A.
Bunn, B. A. Roberts, C. Terry, G.
Wladysiuk.

Missions: K. E. Crawford, D. J.
Eagling, Miss J. Garrett, D. W. C.
Holmes, P. Kavanagh, G. F. Owins,
F. W. Reynolds.

Church History: L. F. Baker, K. E.
Crawford, G. B. Davis, P. T.
Kavanagh, B. M. Nowitzke, F. W.
Reynolds, C. Terry, G. Wladysiuk.

Homiletics I: Miss J. Garrett; three
others passed.

Homiletics II: F. W. Reynolds;
three others passed.

Homiletics III: L. F. Barker, B. M.
Nowitzke.

Religious Education: K. E. Craw-
ford, Miss J. Garrett, F. W. Reynolds;
five others passed.

Old Testament: K. E. Crawford, F.
W. Reynolds; four others passed.

Greek I: D. J. Eagling, P. T.
Kavanagh; one other passed.

Greek II: F. W. Reynolds; two
others passed.

Ancient History: One passed.

—A. W. Stephenson, Principal.

OBITUARY

W. E. Quirk.

The Victorian brotherhood lost one
of its faithful and heroic figures
when, on Aug. 13, W. E. Quirk was
called Home, at the age of 80 years.
At 16, he joined Churches of Christ,
and soon became very active in the
work, pioneering in the Echuca dis-
trict with the late Thomas Hagger.
He enlisted in the 1914 war, and came
home very crippled. His survival, and
subsequent abundant service under
tremendous handicaps, was a mar-
vel of faith and endurance, and a
tribute to the loving care of his
wife. He served ex-servicemen in the
National Federation, was the first
officially elected President of the
Totally and Permanently Incapacitat-
ed Association, and an advocate on
Pensions Appeals and Tribunal
Boards. With his wonderful cheer-
fulness, deep understanding of people,
and courageous example, he was
always in demand, serving the chur-
ches at Echuca, South Yarra, War-
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and East Doncaster. For many years an honored member of the Balwyn church, he latterly served as elder at North Balwyn. Deeply interested in young people, he served as both Pres. and Vice-Pres. of the Baptist-Churches of Christ Tennis Association. To his sorrowing wife, so well known in the women's work of the brotherhood, daughter Esma (Cloncurry, Qld.), sons, Maxwell Deuter (sec., Ringwood church), and Lance Deuter (Cottonvale, Qld.), our deep sympathy is extended. At the services in Balwyn chapel and Box Hill Cemetery, the writer was assisted by W. F. Nankivell (Ringwood), and T. O. Turriff and R. Deane (North Balwyn).—J.E.B.

Edna May Nation.

Early on Aug. 8, whilst on her way to morning worship at Northcote, Vic., Mrs. Nation received the sudden Home call. She had just left her husband, Don., who went by a direct route to distribute The Australian Christian, whilst she proceeded to the home of a friend with whom she would go by car to the service. Her friend saw her a few doors away, and they waved acknowledgment to one another. She never arrived, but was gathered by the Heavenly Gardener to bloom in the garden of the Lord. As E. M. Larkey, at the age of 18 she accepted Christ at Grote-st., Adelaide, during the ministry of J. Wiltshire, and took an active part in choir and Bible Class. In 1934 she married Donald Nation, and they moved to Victoria, attending the church at Northcote for 22 years. She was a very bright and happy person, generous and hospitable; a general favorite of youth and age. She served faithfully in the choir, Ladies' Mission Band, Mid-week Fellowship, Churches of Christ Choral Society and the local W.C.T.U. The crowded services at the funeral parlors and at the crematorium, and the large number of floral tributes, were expressive of the affection in which she was held by the church and her many friends. The Northcote church expresses its loving sympathy to her husband, Don., praying for him the sustaining grace of the loving Heavenly Father.—W.G.

ERIC J. PARKER, F.I.O.

RONALD W. PARKER,

L.O.Sc.

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