

“AUSTRALIA FOR CHRIST.”

The Real Australian

Organ of the Bush Church Aid Society for Australia and Tasmania.

No. 58.

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THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA.

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H. VAUGHAN.

Dear Friends of B.C.A.,

Since the last issue of this little paper we have suffered a great loss. Our beloved President has passed from us to be with the Lord he so very faithfully served.

It is indeed hard to think of B.C.A. without Bishop Kirkby. For thirteen years he gave himself unstintingly for the building up of the Society. His goal was "Australia for Christ," and to this end he gave all that he had.

How great the gap his going onward leaves, no man can estimate; shall it spell defeat for the work of our Lord in the lonely and far-scattered places of our land? God forbid. Our Bishop died a victorious death; that must be the note for us, also. Victory!

The progress of B.C.A. must be onward and upward, ever towards the day when Australia shall be for Christ, and the Gospel of love and service heard in the remotest corners of our great continent. Then, and then only, will this fair land be great and good. As a people we are spending countless thousands in schemes for the development of our continent; roads, railways, transport schemes, improvement of stock, scientific treatment of soils, and goodness knows how many other things.

THE ANNUAL RALLY

of the

BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY

will be held (D.V.) in the

Chapter House, St. Andrew's Cathedral,

George Street, Sydney

on

Tuesday, 17th September, 1935

Chairman—The Most Reverend THE ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY.
Speakers—The Ven. ARCHDEACON W. L. LANGLEY.
Miss A. M. ASHE, M.B.E.
Deaconess D. HARRIS (Wilcannia Hostel).

A GENEROUS THANK-OFFERING IS ASKED

A BIG B.C.A. TEA will be served in the basement of the Chapter House.

First sitting (for about 200) at 6.15 p.m.

Tickets for the Tea, 1/3—to be procured from all parish representatives
or from B.C.A. Office, Church House.

Meeting to commence at 7.45 p.m.

A Musical Programme from 7.15 to 7.40 p.m.

NEW PICTURES OF THE WORK WILL BE SCREENED.

Yet, for Australia's greatest need—the making of new men and women—little money can be found. B.C.A. exists to win the people of our back-country to God.

For this, our Bishop gave all his energies. We must carry on. Bishop Kirkby has left us a splendid legacy of service—shall we be found reluctant of taking up this challenge to our love for God and our fellows? Rather let us, with a fresh enthusiasm and a clearer vision, continue until we have won the people of our land for the God Whom we worship.

Yours in His Glorious Service,
TOM E. JONES,
Acting O.M.

A PRINCE AND A GREAT MAN.

The Ven. Archdeacon W. L. Langley.

“Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?”—11 Sam. iii. 38.

It is impossible for me to give an adequate estimate of Bishop Kirkby. He was one of the most Christ-like men I have known—very human and affectionate. Our hearts went out to him, and his eager tenderness made him loved by all with whom he came into contact. He was a great centre of force and his influence was

felt all through the Church and Commonwealth.

His death has made a great rent, not only in his own circle, but in very many outside it. By all who knew him and by hundreds who did not know him, he was regarded with deep affection.

It is fit, therefore, that something of his fine and noble life should be spoken by one who had the privilege of close intercourse with him.

The Bishop's years were not very many, but he had lived long and to the full. He seemed never for a moment to be still—preaching, writing, travelling, raising money and fighting the Lord's battle.

Sydney James Kirkby was born in a Christian home; he began his ministry at the dawn of his manhood, through the guidance of my father, Henry Langley, and he remained steadfast and valiant in the chosen path to the going down of the sun. From the Lord Jesus he accepted his life's task; and he wrought at it with loyal devotion, absorbed in it, dominated by it, as the one supreme business of his existence, until the summons came from the Captain of his salvation to cease from his labours and receive the everlasting reward.

The central quality of the Bishop's genial spirit and the unforgettable fact of his ministry was his loyalty to his Lord and faithfulness to duty. At Pyramid Hill and Malmsbury, at Moore College with the students, at Ultimo and Golden Grove, at Ryde, and as Organising Missioner of B.C.A., as Archdeacon of Camden, and Bishop Coadjutor, he fulfilled his ministry as a faithful and wise steward. He was indeed the shepherd of the flock.

Our first and last thought of the Bishop is that he was a Christian—a true believer. Though he was an able and cultured man, it is not of his gifts of knowledge one thinks, but of the deep Christianity he diffused.

He loved the innocent glories of life, and yet, somehow, it was clear that for him to live was Christ. On no subject did he talk more freely than on personal religion. He delighted to speak of the beauty of God in Christ, of His wealth of love, and especially of His readiness to forgive.

Of his work as a Bishop not much need be said. He accepted his call to the Bishopric with genuine humility and as a matter of duty. In his new task he brought all the best he had; his impulses were noble and generous; he never feared new ideas and new movements. He saw that something must be done—sometimes at the risk of making a mistake—he did it. He did not hang back. His religious experiences made him courteous in debate, patient in defeat; sustained him for years in heavy labours, under sharp trials and in endurance of physical weakness.

In the life of the Diocese he proved himself a wise administrator, a kind and understanding man, a friend of all the world. He gave to his beloved Church all he had to give, and it was much. In his contributions to the public life of the State, whether on the platform or in the

press, he was always fair and just. The memory of his life will be a stimulus and a reproach—a stimulus in the path of duty and a reproach when we grow slack and careless.

All that was pure and high in him was reinforced by faith, by earnest and unceasing prayer and by the presence of Christ.

We praise God for the assurance that his work cannot die and that he has entered upon the larger and richer life of the world of the Spirit to which he belonged, and that he is forever with the Lord.

“Wherefore my beloved brethren be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

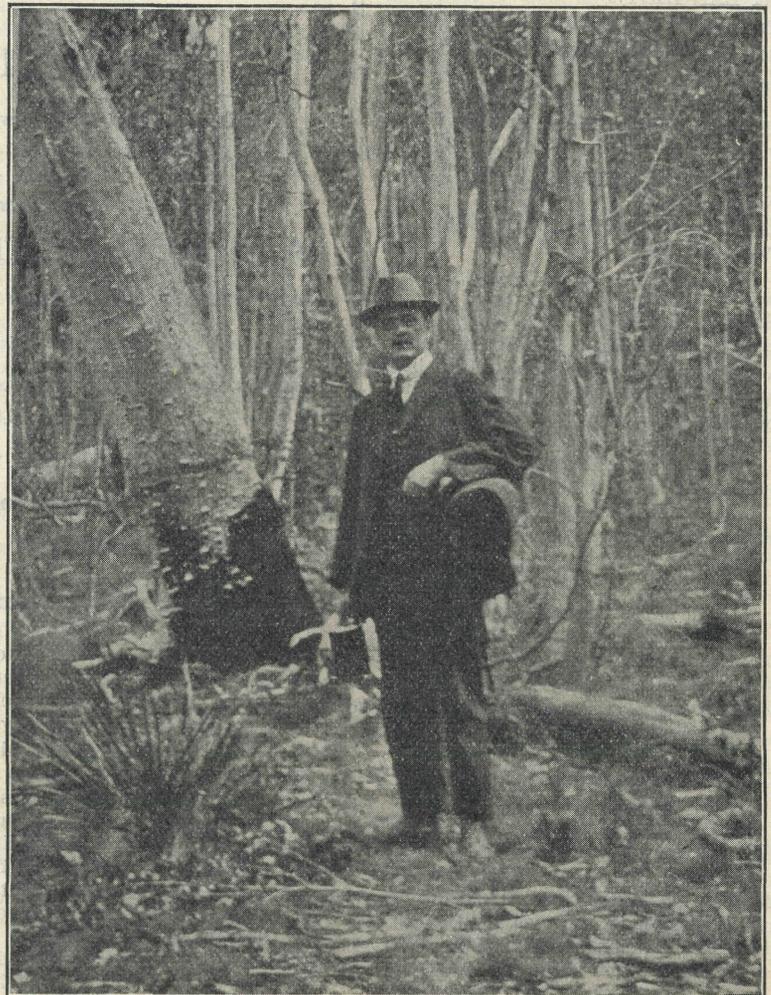
WITH SWAG AND SURPLICE.

[One of the best known exploits of Bishop Kirkby was his trip on foot through the forest country of Croajingalong. We feel that the following article, written at the time, February, 1921, will be of interest to our readers. Editor.]

Victoria is the smallest State in Australia (Tasmania excepted). It is also

the most closely populated. It boasts about seventeen people to the square mile. Yet it does not follow that it has no ‘back blocks,’ no areas unreached by the ordinary agencies of the Church. There are some areas in Victoria which, for isolation, make a man feel surprisingly far away from the city. For distance, in Australia, is not always to be stated in terms of actual miles, but rather in the terms of unformed roads, flooded streams, broken bridges, and all those exigencies of country life which make a journey long, and progress next to impossible.

The Organising Secretary has forcefully realised this during his recent visit to the Upper Murray districts, in the Diocese of Wangaratta. Train from Wodonga took him to the pleasant little town of Tallangatta. Fifty miles by motor coach then had to be negotiated. The country on each side of the road is wild and mountainous. Comfort is not ensured for the traveller, since the round corduroy formation in many places has worn through with much traffic. At last the remote township of Corryong came in sight, and the Secretary who, though he had enjoyed views of distant snow-clad Kosciusko, had been frozen stiff with the cold, was duly thawed out



Croajingalong, 1920.



—By kind permission of Falk Studio.

by the Rector. Work at this centre (and let it be said that it is a centre with a mighty big circumference) had hitherto been supported by our parent Society. Besides one or two church buildings, State school houses are used for worship. Services in these are none the less hearty and

reverent, even though instead of the legally required Table of Commandments and Apostles' Creed, the walls are adorned with a chart of the venomous snakes of Victoria and a diagram of weights and measures.

A sulky journey thirty miles further in-

to the back country brings the traveller to Walwa. Rivers and creeks may bar the way, but the parson must not be daunted. If the horse will face the stream, he must be prepared to do likewise. What the local settler endures, who faces it year in and year out, is increasingly realised. For

settlement in these parts is of no recent growth.

Many years ago, by specious promises, men were enticed to take up land and give themselves to the arduous toil of clearing. A railway to serve the community was projected. The visit of occasional survey parties lent colour to the promises; so hope kept alive. But years have passed and men have grown bald and their beards long and grey, but the railway—well, it exists on some carefully pigeon-holed plan in some dusty, dingy departmental office in Melbourne. Communication with the outside world is irregular. Stores are conveyed in great lumbering, covered wagons, that is, when the road permits of their passage. The amenities of city life are rarely enjoyed, and for women and children, life often is dull and dreary.

In these conditions a fine work is being carried on. The Upper Murray knows the Gospel, and regular ministrations are maintained on both sides of the river, in N.S.W. as well as Victoria. In the Walwa and Kiewa districts there are no vicarages, no Church buildings, no school halls, but there are men, earnest and faithful, who minister to men. Surely should they be encouraged with help from us all.

The Secretary's next journey was down through the Monaro of New South Wales. Nimmitabel was the train terminus. Strange place this, and in contrast, say, to Wilcannia, if we take newspaper reports as true. For on one day, recently, while the latter place showed a heat reading of 90 degrees, the former only registered 36 degrees. From 'Nimmity,' as it is locally designated, a coach journey of 54 miles through Bombala to Delegate was undertaken. Then experiences commenced, for if the writs of God do not run beyond Delegate, neither do the coaches, and for the venture across the Victorian border into East Gippsland, nothing on wings, wheels or legs was procurable. Needs must be that the traveller go on foot, with his belongings packed into a swag and shouldered in professional manner. Crossing the border after a morning's tramp, the township (or rather, ghost of a township) of Bendoc was reached. The mining glory of the one-time flourishing mountain centre has long since passed away, and but a dozen or so residents are left. A neat little church stood in the settlement, but there was none to minister. (We rejoice to hear of an appointment made, Jan. 21). Visitation was made at each house and useful literature distributed. Next day a formidable stage of 25 miles, with two mountain ridges in the way to lend variety to the walk, was the programme. It proved to be a wild bridle track, with the "blazing" of the trees often obliterated, and with one stretch of the track lost in a wide ti-tree swamp. Scenery, especially in the mountain gullies, was superb. Tree ferns in luxuriant profusion bordered the way; maidenhair and fishbone fringed the silver streams. Clusters of star-white clematis hung from the trees. Wild violets and primrose nestled at the feet of the giant gums, and native lilac and

boronia added their beauty to the picture. Surely was it a veritable garden of God—and very few travellers ever pass that way to enjoy it.

It was a heavy swag that was dropped at the first house in the settlement at Buldah, and a gladdened heart that accepted the unqualified invitation to come and put up for the night. Folk in these forgotten corners of the earth may not worry much about points of Church doctrine, and perhaps have never heard of hermeneutics, but in their generously practical way know how to fulfil the scriptural injunction, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers." Pleasant was it to sit at the little organ that night, in the big slab-sided living room, and play and sing the hymns in which the little family joined.

Twenty miles or more the next day led to a scattered and attenuated settlement along the Cann River. Time passed quickly as homes were visited, the word of witness given and leaflets provided. Opportunities crowded in, sometimes with men following the plough or sowing the maize, sometimes with the women busy in the house or yard. Again at night was the hospitality of another roof offered and enjoyed.

Genoa River, 35 miles distant, was the next objective. A lift in a coach made the journey easy, but was not economical of time. They don't run to exact schedule in these parts, especially when the coachman holds up His Majesty's mails and his solitary passenger while he repaired a way-side settler's cream separator. It was Sunday, and so Genoa (about four farm houses and a "pub."), had service. A little knot of people gathered in a dining room to worship. Prayer Books we had, but no Hymn books, no organ or piano for music, no, not even an accordion. Hymn singing tended to resolve itself into a solo by the preacher, until a gramophone was espied and, with some hymn records, requisitioned for service. Thence forward the congregation joined in heartily, helped by the strains of that far-off American choir.

The track then led up to Mallacoota Inlet, that place of exceptional beauty—a combination of Middle Harbour, Sydney, and the Hawkesbury River. What a wonderful holiday resort it would make! Owing to its inaccessibility, but few tourists visit it. Only eight families reside at this lonely spot, which, like many other settlements in the big East Gippsland scrub, knows nothing of shops, and gets a mail just once a week. House to house visitation and religious instruction in the tiny school house took up part of two days, and then the track was retraced to the Cann River to Noorinbee settlement. In unbroken company with the swag, days were spent here. A useful little horse was lent for travelling purposes, and thus a wide area was covered. Sunday services at this point, at Tonghi, were splendidly attended, also week-night services at Combenbar, which, with Club Terrace, was visited towards the close. Response to the appeal of the Gospel was encouraging everywhere, and these mountain dwellers

seemed to appreciate the administrations of the Church. Road-making camps were visited and big, rough navvies were quite willing to join in the service. Miners' huts were occasionally met. At two settlements, unbaptised children were found. In all places there was unmistakable evidence of spiritual need. There is no shame of face or diffidence in talking religion. The topic is natural. The confession must be made that our Church and other orthodox Churches have failed to take advantage of this characteristic. Considerable length of time has passed since a parson worked through that country. But the representatives of some of America's "crank" religious "isms" had assiduously worked the field, flooding it with volumes of lurid eschatology of the Russellite and Mormon type. 'Tis pathetic to find people spending anything up to 45/- for a volume of this worthless trash, but it is infinitely more pathetic to find that our Church practically prints nothing to counteract it.

However, it is easy to indulge in reflection. The need is of action. The three-week venture, briefly described above, leads to some practical suggestions. First, our Church should have for such areas—and there are many in Australia—a mobile ministry, composed of keen and active men who will go out to specialise in personal evangelism and pastoral work. They should be released from any fixed round of Sunday duties and be free to go where opportunity leads.

Second, there should be diocesan or provincial colporteurs. This means a wagon loaded up with Bibles, Prayer Books, Christian literature, healthy fiction for adults and children, all for sale. Why should the alleged revelations of Joseph Smith, of Utah, or Mary White, be the sole religious reading of folk out in the bush? The B.C.A. Society has long entertained a notion about such a wagon. Who will back us up?

EVENING PRAYER IN A SHEARING SHED.

During the Bishop's visit to the Werri-mull district, opportunity was taken to hold an Evening service at the Millewa sheep station, which is situated in the extreme north-west corner of Victoria. To get there one must first pass through three other stations, Culnine, Ned's Corner, and Berribee, travelling along a road which follows closely the course of the River Murray. After rain, parts of the road become impassable, and a wide detour has to be made, for the black soil turns into treacherous, soft mud. Fortunately for us, there had been little rain, so the road was in fairly good condition.

Scattered here and there along the river are many bag humpies—clean and comfortable—where fishermen and their families live. Until recently it was not possible to minister to these people, with the result they had grown careless spiritually. As one woman said, "The only time the name of God is spoken here is when dad is drunk or when the kids have been playing up." Or again, when the

possibility of holding service was being discussed, a man said, "We have almost forgotten what a church service was like." It was for the benefit of these people and for the station owners and their employees that the service was arranged. On our way through, we visited a number of families and found them looking forward eagerly to being with us that night. In fact many were quite excited over the prospect of the Bishop's visit, for never before had a bishop been that way. On our arrival at the homestead we were given a hearty welcome, and here during our stay we were recipients of the warm hospitality one associates with these station folk.

The service was to be held in the shearing shed, and this had been made ready; a packing case draped with a sheet served as a Holy Table; planks of wood placed across empty boxes did duty as seats, and kerosene lanterns which had been used to light the way to the shed supplied light for the service. It was a cold night, yet twenty-four people came, and the look of happy expectancy on their faces was at once an inspiration.

It cannot be said that the hymns were heartily sung for even such general favourites as "O God our help in ages past" and "Rock of Ages" were unfamiliar to many present that night. To make matters worse the print in the hymn books was very small, and we had no musical accompaniment to help the singers along. Yet in spite of this a very happy spirit of fellowship prevailed. The Bishop's address, based on the words of Peter, a fisherman saint, appealed to all, and the faces reflected the earnest questionings of their minds, and their growing comprehension of the truth. When the Bishop told the story of his visit to the sick "bullocky," who was not sick enough to call in the parson, smiles appeared, then, apparently deciding that the Bishop might not approve of smiles during service, they quickly straightened their faces again. (They did not know our Bishop!)

It was certainly an impressive service, and as the happy band of worshippers started back to their homes, many words of appreciation and thankfulness were heard.

T.G.

The Christmas Season seems a long way off yet, but we must needs think about it early. B.C.A. has always endeavoured to see that every child in the many areas under its control shall be remembered at Christmas time. It is necessary to get the cases away very early in November, in order that they will arrive in plenty of time.

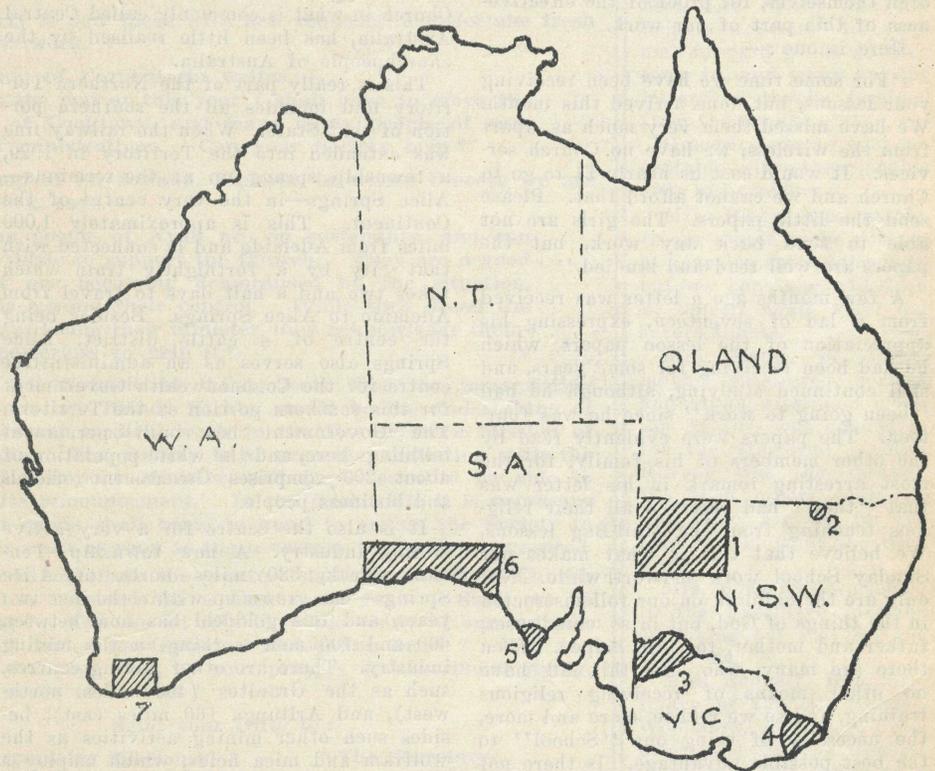
Our friends have been very kind in previous years, and as a result, B.C.A. Christmas trees are looked forward to very eagerly by many hundreds of kiddies.

Last year I asked that, as far as possible, our friends would send cash, rather than toys. The response to this request was excellent. This method enables us to go to the warehouse and buy to the very best advantage. Will you do the same

again this year? For those who would rather bring the gifts themselves, may I remind you that, at Christmas we only send new toys. If you could see the happiness the gifts bring, you would certainly realise that the little extra for the new toy is so well worth while.

Please send your gift to :—

The Acting Organising Missioner,
B.C.A. Society, Church House,
George Street, Sydney,
or
The Secretary,
B.C.A. Society,
Cathedral Buildings,
Flinders Lane, Melbourne.



THE MISSIONS OF THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY.

The shaded portions represent the areas in which B.C.A. ministers.

- No. 1— is the West Darling Mission area, in charge of the Rev. L. Lambert. In this area is B.C.A.'s first Hostel for Children (Wilcannia), in charge of Deaconess D. Harris and Miss Caroline Ross.
- No. 2— The town of Mungindi on the N.S.W. and Queensland border. B.C.A.'s second Hostel is here, in the capable hands of Miss Cheers.
- No. 3— This is the Werrimull District, in the north-west Mallee of Victoria. The Rev. Tom Gee ministers in this area.
- No. 4— Cann River Mission area, where Rev. T. R. Fleming is located. Here also is the very fine Nursing Home, in charge of Sister H. Gason.
- No. 5— This is B.C.A.'s newest charge, Kirton Point, taken up in January, 1935. The Rev. K. Luders ministers in this district.
- No. 6— Here we have that great stretch of country the Far West Mission of South Australia. Two hospitals, one at Penong and the other at Ceduna, are here. The staffs are Sisters F. Dowling and Grace Hitchcock, at Ceduna, Sister Sowter at Penong, and the Rev. H. R. Smith. We hope to send, very soon, another nurse for Ceduna, and a new missioner to replace Mr. Woolf, who has returned to Victoria.
- No. 7— Denmark, Western Australia, the furthestmost station from headquarters. The Rev. L. M. Dunstan looks after the pioneers of the settlements of this mission area.

MAIL-BAG SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Miss E. Huntley.

Should the worthwhileness of our Mail-Bag Sunday School ever be questioned, it should not be necessary to look further than some of the many letters we are continually receiving from parents or the children themselves, for proof of the effectiveness of this part of our work.

Here is one:—

“For some time we have been receiving your lessons, but none arrived this month. We have missed them very much as, apart from the wireless, we have no Church services. It would cost us nearly £1 to go to Church and we cannot afford that. Please send the little papers. The girls are not able to send back any work, but the papers are well read and studied.”

A few months ago a letter was received from a lad of seventeen, expressing his appreciation of the lesson papers, which he had been receiving for some years, and still continued studying, although he had “been going to work” since he was fourteen. The papers were evidently read by the other members of his family, for the most arresting remark in his letter was that “they” had received all their religious teaching from the Mail-Bag lessons. We believe that this is what makes our Sunday School work so worthwhile. Not only are the children on our roll instructed in the things of God, but in so many cases, father and mother, too, are helped. Then there are many, who, like this lad, have no other means of receiving religious training, and so we realise, more and more, the necessity of using our “School” to the best possible advantage. Is there not a great danger that many of our boys and girls in the outback may grow up into men and women without having been taught of the truths of the Kingdom of God? For how can they know and believe the great Gospel truths, which are the foundation of right living and true happiness, unless they be taught? How can they be taught without there are teachers?

We find that our lesson papers, where they give definite teaching, are greatly appreciated by parents and rectors for their helpfulness in preparing the children for Confirmation. In many cases the great difficulty is for children to be prepared when they are at almost inaccessible distances from the parish clergy. We feel that we are greatly privileged to be able to help in this way, for without this help, many of our children would doubtless never be Confirmed, often to their great regret and loss in later years. In spite of this we feel that even this teaching does not altogether fill the need. We, therefore, hope to compile, in the near future, a small booklet on Catechism teaching and Confirmation preparation, to be sent out to our Mail-Bag families, in conjunction with our lesson papers, when required.

This, however, will mean the outlay of a few pounds for printing. But we have no doubt that this will be forthcoming from

some of our friends who are always ready to share in this worthwhile work.

Wanted for Sunday School Use.

Hymn Books, Hymnal Companion and A. & M., also a quantity of Bibles.

ALICE SPRINGS.

The opportunities which await our Church in what is commonly called Central Australia, has been little realised by the churchpeople of Australia.

This is really part of the Northern Territory and includes all the southern portion of that State. When the railway line was extended into the Territory in 1929, a township sprang up at the terminus—Alice Springs—in the very centre of the Continent. This is approximately 1,000 miles from Adelaide and is connected with that city by a fortnightly train which takes two and a half days to travel from Adelaide to Alice Springs. Besides being the centre of a cattle district, Alice Springs also serves as an administrative centre for the Commonwealth Government for this southern portion of the Territory. The Government has built permanent buildings here, and the white population of about 200 comprises Government officials and business people.

It is also the centre for a very active mining industry. A new township—Tennant Creek, 320 miles north of Alice Springs—has grown up within the last two years, and this goldfield has now between 600 and 700 men working in the mining industry. There are other mining centres, such as the Granites (400 miles north-west), and Arltunga (60 miles east), besides such other mining activities as the wolfram and mica fields, which employ a number of men. The white population in this area is not more than 1,500 souls, and there are a considerable number of blacks and half-castes. At Alice Springs there is a home at the old Telegraph Station, where 120 half-caste children are being cared for and educated by the Commonwealth Government.

What is our own Church doing in this area? The Parish of Alice Springs is over 500 miles long and 400 miles wide, and the distances to be covered, in order that the minister shall reach the men and women in scattered mining camps and on grazing selections, can hardly be imagined by those who live in the closely settled parts of Australia. There is, at present, only one man to cope with this huge area, and he was licensed as the first Rector of Alice Springs in 1933.

The Methodist Inland Mission and the Roman Catholic Church both have places of worship, homes and motor cars for their representatives. The Church of England has no buildings of any kind and no means of conveyance, and we have been using the Presbyterian Hall for services for over eighteen months, and during this time the Rector has had to limit his activities to Alice Springs, patiently waiting for a motor car so that he can cope with his huge parish. These thinly populated parts of Australia cannot possibly support them-

selves and must be included in our missionary work, and therefore needs the support of churchpeople who live under more favourable conditions. We want money to build, both at Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, and we need funds to purchase and upkeep a motor car. We are now placing our needs before the Church public in Australia and appealing for your help. When the odds which have been against us in this outpost are realised, and how crippling it is to the development of such work, to lack financial support, we have every confidence that the help that we need will be forthcoming.

Subscriptions can be sent direct to the Rev. P. Mac. Smith, Alice Springs, or will be received by the Bush Church Aid Society. We need £1,000 to build at Alice Springs and a similar amount will shortly be needed for Tennant Creek.

THANKS.

We tender our thanks to the members of St. Peter's Mothers' Union, Watson's Bay, for a splendid gift of groceries, the result of an “evening” in the parish.

St. Alban's Communicants' Association, Lindfield, also sent in a large parcel of very useful foodstuffs for Hostel use. We are grateful indeed, for such practical and kindly help.

Miss Broadbent, of St. John's, Rockdale, and a number of her friends, sent in groceries, also, the result of an “evening” in Miss Broadbent's home. Miss Broadbent was a B.C.A. enthusiast at St. Mark's, Ormond, Victoria, before coming to Sydney. We are indeed glad that she is using her enthusiasm at Rockdale for B.C.A.

Grocery evenings are a tremendous help in our work and we do appreciate the help thus given. May we ask for many more such functions.

We specially wish to give thanks for two very fine gifts to our funds. A sum of £50 from two Melbourne friends, who wish to remain anonymous, and also £50 from Mr. J. R. Schutt, of Melbourne. Such splendid support causes us great joy and much thanksgiving.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We desire to acknowledge the following gifts received for our work:—

12th July, 1935.—Postal Note, No. 564435, 3/6, Postal Note, No. 564436, 3/6, 7/-; issued at Mitcham P.O., Vic. (Received without name and address).

30th July, 1935.—Two £1 notes from A.Y.Z.

7th August, 1935.—Anonymous Subscriber, 2/-.

7th August, 1935.—10/-, Miss A. Riley, Bronte, address incomplete, Memorial Fund; 5/-, Miss A. Harrison, address not given, Memorial Fund.

12th August, 1935.—Parcels of Missionary Papers and Magazines, from South Sea Evangelical Mission, (Newington Road, Stanmore).

Large Bible from St. Nicholas', Enfield, per Rev. R. P. Gee.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.

The shadow which has fallen upon the B.C.A. as a whole—the death of Bishop Kirkby—not only the founder of the Society, but its inspiration, is a heavy one to the Auxiliary.

When he asked us to form the Auxiliary he promised his whole-hearted support, and generously he fulfilled the promise—often at cost to himself. When our Central Members needed a meeting place the Bishop and Mrs. Kirkby welcomed us to St. Philip's, and now on the 12th of September we are still to hold another gathering, Mrs. and Miss Kirkby feeling that he would have wished us to continue there. Surely, though we have lost the visible presence, "We shall taste of the joy of the life within the veil as we think of him."

We are rejoicing in the formation of yet another auxiliary. Through the interest of Mrs. Kershaw, Miss Ashe was invited to address a meeting at St. Peter's, Burwood East, on August 8, and though warned that the meeting would probably be a small one, was delighted to find a hall nearly full.

Keen interest was displayed, and at the close of the address, over the tea cups, a branch of eleven members, with the promise of more, was formed. The Rector warmly approved and promised his support. So we take courage and go forward.

On Monday, August 26, the Auxiliary organised an "At Home," at the Y.M.C.A., Pitt Street. Archdeacon Langley was the pleasantly informal chairman and filler of gaps. It was called a Florin Evening, and was very enjoyable, through the kindness of Dr. Osborne, geologist, in giving a most fascinating lecture on the Scenic views of New Zealand. He had a most valuable collection of slides, which the audience much appreciated, and accorded him a real vote of thanks, or rather a vote of real thanks.

Then Miss Betty Higgins, who is always so good to the B.C.A. Women's Auxiliary, gave four songs. Miss Higgins and her gifted accompanist, Miss Joan Charteris, are giving a Recital at the Forum

AN URGENT CHALLENGE.

The Bush Church Aid Society has for fifteen years given a wonderful ministry to the people of the remote areas of our land. We are indeed grateful to the many hundreds of our Church people who, by their generous giving, over many years, have made this work possible.

The Society is now faced with new requests to undertake fresh and important work.

The Bishop of Carpentaria writes:—

"At the end of this year I shall have to move the Rector of Cooktown, and leave many people of ours without ministrations. Can your Society help?"

The Bishop of St. Arnaud, Victoria, in whose Diocese we are already at work, says:—

"The people of Nyah are on sustenance, and can do very little to support the Church. They are a good lot, but are becoming demoralised by the situation, which is beyond their control. While they dread the thought of losing their minister, they acknowledge themselves powerless to help it."

Further, the Council of B.C.A. feels that the most fitting memorial to our late Bishop Kirkby would be the undertaking of new and necessary medical work in the Far Western Mission of South Australia. The Society is at present negotiating with the responsible Government Minister, and hopes soon to be able to make a definite announcement. In the meanwhile it is necessary that sufficient funds shall come to hand to enable the Society to undertake this work as soon as the necessary permission is granted.

These needs constitute the greatest challenge the Bush Church Aid Society has received for a number of years. Shall we be found wanting? Can we sit idly by while many of our outback people are still denied the Gospel of Redeeming Grace? Will you take up this challenge, and, by your prayers and sacrificial giving, enable these needs to be met?

Send your Gifts to:

The Acting Organizing Missioner, Bush Church Aid Society, Church House, George Street, Sydney. (Tel.: M-3164.)

The Secretary, Bush Church Aid Society, Cathedral Buildings, Flinders Lane, Melbourne. (Tel.: F-5675.)

THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY.

I have pleasure in enclosing the sum of..... towards:

- (a) NEW AND IMPORTANT WORK.
(b) BISHOP KIRKBY MEMORIAL FUND.

(Please indicate how you wish your gift to be allocated.)

Signed

Address

served the very hearty vote of thanks accorded her.

We fear she may be kept busy if she desires so to be.

Mrs. Dixon Hudson has continued to send down parcels of fine things from St. Alban's, Leura. This Auxiliary is a most substantial help to us, and Mrs. Lee Smith and her helpers continue to pack and forward goods as they come in, and many are the letters of thanks received from the agents.

Groceries are an ever acceptable gift—they enable bills to be reduced.

Mrs. Bragg was unable, to our regret, to be with us at our recent gatherings, but we hope she will soon be herself again after her severe illness.

Mrs. Bates, of Drummoynne, interested herself, and at an afternoon meeting £2/10/- was handed in for the Memorial. Miss Harvey was the speaker. We wish others could do the same for us, for the field is wide and the need great.

Mrs. Bode was welcomed to the Executive Meeting on taking her seat for the first time.

Miss Bennett, Hon. Secretary of the All Saints', Woollahra, Auxiliary, was nominated for the General Committee, but owing to a cold, could not take her place till next month.

St. John's, Darlinghurst, Girls' Guild, sent in a very nice gift of knives and forks. They have given us yearly gifts of cups, saucers and spoons, and have a very warm place in the heart of the Auxiliary.

We would remind all our Auxiliary friends that ours is a fellowship for prayer and service. Somehow, in these busy times, prayer is apt to be neglected. A more simple reliance on the God Who has promised to supply our every need would accomplish far more than all Councils, Committees, etc., can do, and would give more abiding satisfaction. Let us not be

found wanting. Club, on the evening of September 11. As so many were disappointed that a final number could not be given, owing to the necessity of our supper arrangements running to time, they may be glad to avail themselves of this opportunity to hear her.

Miss Friend, who took all supper details off our hands, capably and cheerfully, de-

Women's Auxiliary. All Saints' Branch.

Our Branch has just completed its third year of existence. For on the 16th August, 1932, a meeting was held in All Saints' schoolroom to form a branch of the

Women's Auxiliary.

Archdeacon Langley opened the meeting and presided, and the late Bishop Kirkby—then the Organising Missioner of the B.C.A.—gave us an address, and explained the aims and needs of the Society, which was formed to help those people of the lonely places of our "cut-back" settlements.

Mrs. Langley, our Branch President, suggested that we should specialise in helping the Hostels and Hospitals; this the members gladly agreed to do. We hold two meetings a year, when members are asked to bring their contributions.

The Sisters at Ceduna and Penong Hospitals say they can never have too many baby clothes. They so often help clothe a baby whose mother lives too far away from shops.

With the funds in hand, we have at different times sent sheets, pillow cases and blankets to the hospitals, and were able to supply Penong Hospital with a much needed verandah blind.

Sister Sowter, at Penong, required a sewing machine last year. It was quite beyond our means to buy. But when the need was known a friend gave us the machine. We had the machine packed and sent to Penong.

This year, with some of our funds, we have sent five pairs of warm grey blankets to Wilcannia Hostel, where the supply did not meet the demand of the many little boys, in the winter.

Then, just as we heard that Ceduna Hospital required an obstetric bed, so urgently that they did not know how to manage the increasing work without it, we received a generous donation from Mrs. Boyce, in memory of her sister, and the Branch gratefully and proudly sent a new and up-to-date bed to Ceduna.

Mrs. Langley always invites us to the Rectory for our meetings, where we have a most pleasant gathering, and afternoon tea.

Later, when President and Secretary count and pack all the gifts to be sent to Head Office for the real packing and distribution, they are very thankful for their loyal and helpful members.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, 19th September, at 3 p.m., so that Christmas gifts may be sent away in good time.

MURIEL BENNETT, Hon. Sec.

"REAL AUSTRALIAN" SUBSCRIBERS.

To the following we give thanks for subscriptions received during the past three months:—

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WANTED!

Double Certificated Nurses for Service in the Out-back.

Our waiting list is exhausted, and soon there will be vacancies on our staff. We shall be glad to receive offers of service from qualified nurses. Write to:

The Acting Organising Missioner,
The Bush Church Aid Society,
Church House,
George Street,
Sydney, N.S.W.

A PRAYER FOR USE WITH OUR PRAYER LIST.

O Lord God of our nation, Who has commanded men to subdue and replenish the earth: Look in Thy love upon all those who is the distant parts of our land are striving against many difficulties, and are deprived the access of the means of grace. Strengthen and guide the Bush Church Aid Society and its Clergy, Nurses, Deaconesses, and Students. Cheer and encourage them in discouragements and loneliness, and bless their ministrations to the good of those they serve, and grant that the message of redeeming love may thus be rooted and grounded in our national life, to the glory of Thy Great Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

To those who wish to hear of a fine Private Hospital or Rest Home, we can confidently recommend "Tuerong," Campbell Street, Eastwood, N.S.W., conducted by Sister Harvey, A.T.N.A. (General and Obstetric).

'Phone: Epping 1034.

THE PLACE OF PRAYER.

All B.C.A. friends are invited earnestly to use in daily prayer the suggestions made in the following list of subjects:—

SUNDAY—pray for:

The Missions of the B.C.A. in various parts of Australia; the Missioners of B.C.A. as they minister of the Word and Sacraments, Rev. H. Smith, at Penong; Rev. L. T. Lambert, at Wilcannia; Rev. T. Gee, at Werrimull; Rev. K. Luders, at Kirton Point, S.A.; and Rev. T. R. Fleming, at Cann River.

MONDAY—Pray for:

B.C.A. Hospital work in the Far West country, where patients must be received in spite of their inability to make any return for service. Pray that God's good cheer may be with Sisters Dowling and Hitchcock at Ceduna, Sister Sowter at Penong, Sister Gason, at Cann River.

TUESDAY—Pray for:

The B.C.A. Children's Hostels at Wilcannia and Mungindi, that the work be increased of God, and that we persevere knowing that such ministry to little ones cannot be in vain in the Lord. Remember by name Deaconess Harris and Miss C. Ross, Wilcannia, and Matron Cheers, at Mungindi.

WEDNESDAY—Pray for:

The Sunday School by Post with its Gospel message for little children; also for the teachers of this department.

THURSDAY—Pray for:

All Students, Deaconesses, and Nurses in training and preparing for B.C.A. work in the Bush, that they may be equipped with power, wisdom, and zeal, and become "able ministers of the New Covenant." Also remember the Council, Committees, Women's Auxiliary, and workers on the Home Base Staff.

FRIDAY—Pray for:

The Council, that it may be specially guided in the appointing of a new Organising Missioner.

SATURDAY—Pray for:

A spirit of thankful giving to be upon all B.C.A. friends, that the Society be kept out of all God-dishonouring debt.

AT ALL TIMES—Forget not to give thanks: for kindly givers who have helped us with their self-denials.

For friends, known and unknown, who have rallied at our call to keep our ministries going.

For cheering reports from fields that God's Word is still with power.

For offers of service for the filling of pending vacancies in our work.