



No. 109.

December, 1950.

2/6 per annum, post free.



The Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Fisher visit B.C.A. at Cook. The B.C.A. 'plane, VHAG1, is in the background. Standing, left to right, are Sister Loane, Sister Portch, Mrs. Fisher, Rev. T. Hayman, the Archbishop, Dr. F. Gibson, Sister Horsburgh, Sister Barber, Sister Ross.



# The Bush Church Aid Society for Australia and Tasmania

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# *B. C. A. Activities and Staff*

## MISSIONS.

**Ceduna, S.A.** } Rev. T. J. Hayman, Th.L., Ceduna, S.A.  
**Penong, S.A.** }  
**Cowell, S.A.**—Rev. D. A. Richards-Pugh, A.L.C.D.  
**Minnipa, S.A.**—Rev. G. Fuhrmeister, Th.L.  
**Streaky Bay, S.A.**—Rev. P. Connell, Th.L.  
**Croajingalong, Vic.**—Rev. J. Shilton, Th.L., Cann River,  
Vic.  
**Delegate-Bonang, Vic.**—Rev. D. H. Wicking, Th.L.,  
Delegate, N.S.W.  
**Heytesbury Mission, Vic.**—Rev. E. G. Beavan, M.A.,  
Timboon, Vic.  
**Otway Mission, Vic.**—Rev. K. Seymour, Th.L., Beech  
Forest, Vic.

## WEST DARLING MISSION:

**Wilcannia, N.S.W.**—Deaconess B. Clarke, Deaconess  
P. Spry.

**Menindee, N.S.W.**—Rev. W. Mitchell, Th.L.

**Rappville, N.S.W.**—

**Denmark, W.A.**—Rev. J. Johnston, Th.L.

**Werrimull, Vic.**—Grant-in aid.

## MAIL BAG SUNDAY SCHOOL.

**Director**—Miss R. Campbell.

## SCHOOL HOSTELS.

**Broken Hill, N.S.W.**—Mr. and Mrs. A. McLaughlin.  
**Mungindi, N.S.W.**—Miss E. Cheers, Miss E. I. Cheers.  
**Wentworth Falls, N.S.W.**—Mr. and Mrs. Hustler.  
**Port Lincoln, S.A.**—Miss N. Stokes, Miss M. Farr.  
**Bowral, N.S.W.**—Deaconess Dixon.

## MEDICAL SERVICES.

**Ceduna, S.A.**—

Matron: Sister F. Dowling.

Staff: Sisters J. Miller, G. Hitchcock, B. Tierney,  
E. Thomas, R. Metcalie, J. Armstrong.

**Penong, S.A.**—Sister L. Loane, Miss F. Lawtey.

**Wudinna, S.A.**—

Matron: Sister R. Portch.

Sisters: V. Holle, D. Yorke, B. Barber.

**Cook, S.A.**—Sisters M. Horsburgh, M. Ross.

**Tarcoola, S.A.**—Sister V. Page.

**Cann River, Vic.**—Sister I. Gwynne.

## FLYING MEDICAL SERVICE.

**Pilot.**—Mr. A. Chadwick, Mr. W. Bedford.

**Doctor.**—Dr. F. Gibson, O.B.E.

**Pharmacist.**—Miss E. M. Page.



## *We Received a Call*

MR. A. CHADWICK

We received a call one day from Mulgathing, to say that one of their out-station Managers was seriously ill, and from the information Doctor obtained over the telephone regarding his condition, she thought it advisable for him to be in hospital. It so happened that at this time, the staff at Ceduna were very busy with almost a full hospital, so I flew to Tarcoola, and picked up Sister Page who came on to Mulgathing to prepare the patient for the journey and attend to his needs en route back to Ceduna. When Doctor made her routine trip to Mulgathing and Tarcoola a few days later, Sister Page returned home with us to carry on her work there from where she had left off at so short notice.

Doctor Freda was on holidays when the following incident occurred. One Sunday evening her locum was waiting for me at the Church when the service ended, with the news that he was wanted up at the Koonibba Mission Station, some 25 miles from Ceduna. A woman up there had slipped and fallen over on the kitchen floor, and was suffering great pain from a hip injury. We drove up there, and from Doctor's examination, a rather serious fracture of the neck of the femur was indicated. She was brought to Ceduna hospital on a mattress in the back of a utility, and an X-Ray confirmed the original diagnosis. This meant a repair operation by a bone specialist in Adelaide, and arrangements were made for me to fly her over next day. An early start was made, with Sister Morgan in attendance, and the trip to Parafield was uneventful, until we descended to the lower levels approaching Parafield, and were met with strong gusty, dusty, winds which rocked the aircraft to some order, and blew small tufts of scotch thistles well over 500 feet into the air around us as we came in for a landing. A quick look round showed me Sister, who, with both feet braced firmly against the cross members of the cabin floor, and one arm around the frame supporting the stretcher, was doing a very useful job with a paper bag in the other hand.

However, sheltered from the wind by the hangars, we soon had our patient comfortably settled in the waiting ambulance, and bound

for hospital, with our turbulent arrival soon forgotten. The return trip to Ceduna was begun soon afterwards, but owing to the strong head winds, we were only able to make Wudinna that night, and spent the night at the hospital there. Returning to Ceduna next morning, we left early in the afternoon for Tarcoola as this was Doctor's regular visiting day up there, and the afternoon start meant an overnight stop up there also. Sister Morgan travelled in the aircraft on the three days, and we covered in all a distance of about 920 miles.



Mr. Chadwick and Dr. F. Gibson.

During a visit of Mr. Jones to us, opportunity was taken to visit points on and north of the Transcontinental Railway to arrange details of some extensions to our work; this also gave Mr. Jones the chance of visiting parts served by the Flying Medical Service that he had not been to before. Flying first to Mulgathing Station, he was able to see something of the country and the people of the extensive grazing lands situated north of the railway where, from this centre alone, the medical scheme caters for people working an area of about 5,000 square miles of sheep grazing country. Continuing our journey that afternoon, we flew to Tarcoola, and as I have not mentioned it before, it might be interesting to note that from this centre, another large area of about 3,000 square miles of grazing country is served.



The next stage of our journey was to be along the railway to Cook, a distance of 250 miles, and while the "Dragon" was away on this trip, we had our "Fox Moth", with Mr. Bedford standing by at Ceduna to handle any emergency call that should come. To most readers, the name "Fox Moth", and the lettering VH-AAA, have meant one and the same thing for the past 11 years. However, owing to the fact that those letters in some way break into an official code grouping, the Department of Civil Aviation has withdrawn them, and allotted us the new registration group of "VH-GAS", by which the "Fox Moth" will be known in future.

While we were at Tarcoola, an emergency call did come for Doctor, from Cook, and while Mr. Bedford prepared to leave Ceduna with Doctor, I prepared to leave Tarcoola, and both our aircraft arrived at Cook within a short time of each other. It was a haemorrhage case Doctor had to deal with, and as Sister Dowling was travelling with us, she was able to assist at the operation. The patient was in a very critical condition, but by the following lunch time, Doctor had done all that was possible for her up to that stage, and she then needed plenty of quiet rest, and careful nursing. So we took off for Ceduna, this time with both aircraft flying in company, and landed at Ceduna, only to be greeted with the news that Doctor was wanted down at Wudinna for an appendix operation. The refuelling agent had been notified, and was there waiting for us when we taxied up to the hangar, so the refuelling of both aircraft did not take very long. Mr. Bedford, having the greater distance to fly to Kyancutta, took off immediately after refuelling, as the afternoon was drawing on, and when Doctor arrived back at the aerodrome with Nurse Barry who had come up from Wudinna, we also took off, and landed at Wudinna in an emergency field available to us there, just on sundown, and in due course the operation was successfully carried out.

Next morning before leaving Wudinna, Doctor rang the Blood Bank Department at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and ordered a quantity of blood to be sent over on the air service leaving Adelaide for Ceduna the following day, with the object of taking it up to Cook and giving our patient up there a blood transfusion.

The blood duly arrived at Ceduna by air at mid-day, and transferring the containers from the airways Douglas to our Dragon, we took off shortly afterwards and flew again up to Cook where the patient was given the blood transfusion. This worked wonders, and the improvement in the patient was sufficient for us to transfer her as a stretcher patient from Cook back to Ceduna where she would be under the close observation of Doctor. A further operation and a fortnight's stay in hospital transformed the patient from one whose life was almost despaired of at one stage, into one who regained her health very rapidly, and began counting the days when she could return home to Cook again. This she did when we made our next scheduled trip up there, and sitting up this time to enjoy all the scenery! Well, there is scenery until the Head of the Bight is passed, for the coastline is well within view on our left, as those of you who have been over here will know.

Next two emergency calls we received were two flights to Parafield within a fortnight of each other. A young Greek woman who could speak practically no English had to be taken over for a major operation by a specialist. Two other members of her family travelled with her, also Sister Miller. The flight over was quite uneventful, but when leaving on the return journey, one of the flight instruments refused to function normally, so I returned to Parafield to have the matter adjusted. This called for a test flight after adjustment, which prevented us from leaving again that day, and the return trip was made the following day, when I was able to bring back our Ceduna Missioner, Mr. Phil. Connell, and so save him the long journey by surface transport so soon after his big operation. Next came the victim of a motor cycle accident who had to be taken over. Travelling home towards Penong late one evening, the motor cycle failed to take a corner in the orthodox fashion, and it and its rider parted company. They were found shortly afterwards by a party of motorists; the cycle lying in the ditch practically undamaged, but the cyclist unconscious and badly cut about the face and head, lying in a pool of blood. He was taken into the Penong hospital where he remained unconscious and signs developed that indicated there was a depressed fracture of the skull. Doctor decided that he ought to be



under a specialist's care in Adelaide as soon as possible so that an operation could be performed quickly at the opportune time. So flying up to Penong, we placed the patient on the stretcher, and as the fracture was causing pressure on the brain, which made the patient very restless at times, he was securely strapped down. With Sister Loane to attend the patient, and a relative and friend to lend

a restraining hand if need be, we left Penong late in the afternoon, and flying direct to Parafield, a distance of 393 miles, made a night landing on the flare path provided for that purpose. After spending several months in hospital, this man returned to Penong, quite recovered, but remembering nothing of his accident.

## *Mail Bag Sunday School in Action*

Have you had the fascinating experience of personally putting a country child in contact with the Mail Bag Sunday School and thus starting her along the road of Christian education?

Let one of our teachers tell of a child she met, and now has the joy of teaching.

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Elizabeth is keen about day school lessons, and enjoys playing with other children; some of them tell her of the interesting times they have at their Sunday School in the town, but alas! she has no means of travelling there on Sundays.

Like most children, Elizabeth loves stories, and her mother reads the Bible to her, as well as Bible Story books; with this she has to be content, although being eight years old, she very much wants to go to a Sunday School and have lessons like other children.

There came a day when a visitor holidaying in the district was invited to give Religious Instruction at the School. There Elizabeth heard for the first time that children could join a Mail Bag Sunday School. Thrilled with this good news, Elizabeth rushed home to tell Mother who was no less keen to have the lessons.

It did not take long for the first lessons to arrive, together with a membership card to hang up.

Now, Sunday by Sunday, Elizabeth and her mother have a pleasant hour together, for after enjoying the Bible story, taking part in the prayer and looking at the pictures on the lesson paper there is always some interesting handwork to do. Sundays cannot come quickly enough now!

After her work had been sent away for correcting, she watched for the Mailman each day, until the awaited letter came from her new teacher, together with helpful comments on the work Elizabeth had sent in.

A younger brother wants to join in for soon he will be old enough to do the beginners' lessons which the Mail Bag Sunday School supplies.

Elizabeth came to Sydney for a holiday and went to a nearby Sunday School. Imagine her joy when she found that the children there were doing almost the same lessons and work as she had at home. While on her holiday, she met her Mail Bag Sunday School teacher, and finally returned home more eager than ever to do her lessons well.

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## *Remember the B.C.A. in Your Will!*

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## An Anxious Year

All friends of the Organising Missioner will be glad to learn that he is to leave England by the "Strathnaver" on February 1st. He will disembark at Perth and visit the B.C.A. field before arriving in Sydney. Mr. Jones has had another strenuous and successful visit to Great Britain. His last report indicated that he had spoken in over 250 cities and towns, some of them on many occasions, and that since his tour had commenced almost £3,000 had been sent to B.C.A. What is even more important, the O.M. has made many more friends for B.C.A. The Society is most grateful to the Colonial and Continental Church Society, under whose auspices Mr. Jones has been working.



**Flooded Mungindi.**

*Photo by courtesy "S.M. Herald".*

I am writing this just after receiving news of the disastrous storm at Wilcannia, during which the Church, and the Rectory were extensively damaged and the Deaconesses suffered considerable loss of their personal belongings. The parishes in Sydney where the deaconesses used to work as well as other parishes and organisations have earned our gratitude by a most generous response to an appeal to help restore the loss. This disaster, which follows the fires at Denmark

and the floods at Mungindi earlier this year, are further reminders of the difficulties of out-back life and the constant need of the help which only such organisations as B.C.A. can supply.

We have now come to the end of another year of service to our Lord and His people. In many ways it has been a year of more than usual difficulty, not only because of the extraordinary series of disasters but also because of continued shortage of workers, particularly clergy and nurses, and because of the steep increase in costs. Yet at the same time it has been a year of wonderful advance for once again B.C.A. through the goodness of God has thrived on difficulties. The new Vans at Menindee and Wilcannia, the opening of the Broken Hill Hostel, the appointment of the N.S.W. Secretary, have been big steps forward which have all resulted in rich blessing. Despite increased costs, the financial need has been supplied in a very large degree, and there is very real hope that all the necessary finance will have been supplied by December 31st, the end of the financial year. It will be if we are all faithful in prayer and in giving, and so I commend to your prayers and generous response the present Christmas appeal with the reminder that donations to the B.C.A. Medical Services may now be claimed as rebates of income tax.

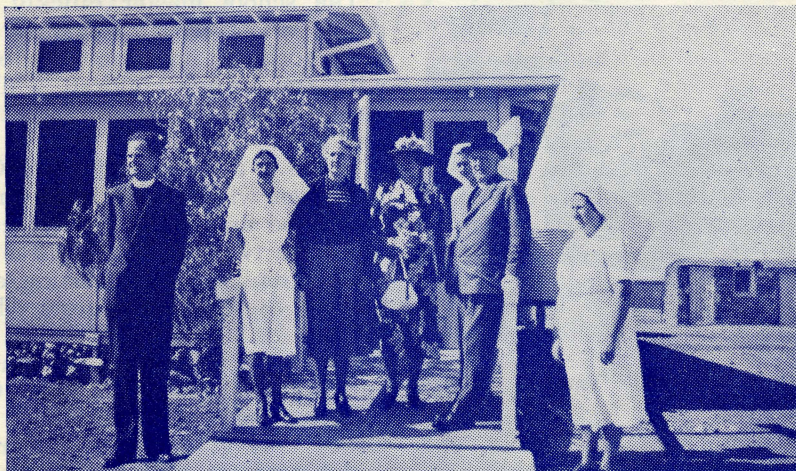
So another year has almost ended. It has been a year of many anxious hours and days, it has been a year with more than its share of troubles which have tested our faith again and again but it has been, as we look back, a year of inspiration, of victory and of triumph through the faithfulness of Almighty God.

The coming year promises to be one of even greater difficulty. There will be many more anxious hours but we are confident, supremely and gladly confident, that the God who has blessed B.C.A. so very, very wonderfully will grant us a new year of more inspiration and greater triumph which will enable us to say this time next year as we say now in heartfelt thankfulness, "Thanks be to God Who giveth us the Victory!" But at the same time let us never forget that much depends upon our prayers, our giving and our service.

The Asst. O.M.



## A Great Day in Cook



Dr. and Mrs. Fisher standing with members of the Staff in front of the Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital at Cook.

Some months ago we learned that we were to be honoured by a visit from the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Fisher on Friday, October 20th. So with mixed feelings we began to plan our preparations.

Our Missioner, Mr. Hayman, was due for his visit along the line and much to our delight brought his father with him to stay with us. We soon set him to work on all our odd jobs. There were stones to clean up from the front of the hospital where a new drainage pit had been dug, verandah blinds to fix and odd bits of painting to be done.

It was arranged that Doctor's monthly clinic should coincide with the Archbishop's visit so that the plane would be here for his inspection so that they might see more of our work.

We had hoped for a slack time from patients but unfortunately for us until a couple of days before we were almost full up.

However, through help and strength, which we felt sure were given by the Lord, the hospital looked like a new pin.

The two 'planes arrived together. The Dragon brought Doctor F. Gibson and Sister Barber, the latter from Wudinna. Sister L. Loane of Penong and Sister R. Portch of Wudinna were in the Fox. At the same time the train pulled in with Mr. T. Hayman aboard.

It was good to see so many of our family together and, although busy, to enjoy fellowship with one another.

The great day arrived. Unlike the usual Cook weather, the day was perfect. The train was due at 8.40 a.m. With much hustle and bustle we were almost ready when it was sighted. Somehow everyone fell into uniform and began to rush across as the train pulled in. Fortunately the party was still at breakfast so we were able to congregate while Mr. Hayman went up into the coach to make introductions.

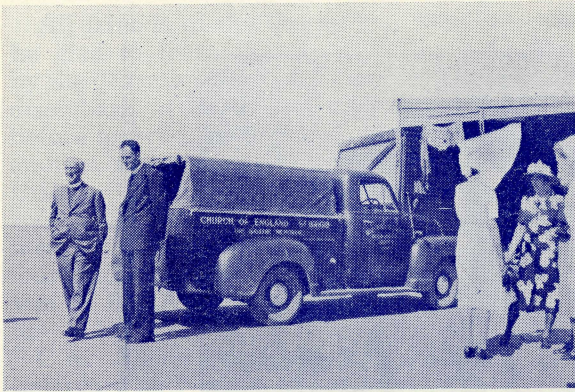
All formality soon vanished. Mrs. Fisher stepped down first and quickly came forward followed by His Grace and his chaplain, Rev. C. Pare.

We were struck at once by their friendliness. After chatting for a few minutes at the train, Mr. Hayman invited them to inspect our Hospital, 'planes and Van, all of which impressed them greatly.

Their sincere interest in the work was very evident by the questions they asked. His Grace took great delight in sorting us all out and finding from which centre each came. He seemed to have difficulty in the pronunciation of the place names. The distances, he said, were astounding.



The fact that Sister Portch came from England and had been a Queen's nurse there gave them added interest.



Inspecting St. Brigid's Van.

During the inspection of the 'plane, the school was pointed out, and the Archbishop, having been a school master, cast longing eyes in its direction. Mrs. Fisher, however, insisted that the time was running short so the party turned back to the station. Dr. Freda was walking beside him and he turned to her and said, "Doctor, if you were brought to see Cook and they took you to the school and pointed out the Hospital, wouldn't you want to go to see it?" We agreed that she would. He said, "That's how I feel about the school and they won't let me go."

On our arrival at the station it was found that some repair had to be carried out on the engine which meant delaying its departure, so we set off for the school, His Grace almost leading the way in his eagerness.

The school master quickly assembled the pupils who were all obviously very proud to have such an important visitor. He chatted with the bigger children while Mrs. Fisher very graciously gave her attention to the tiny tots.

There is a standing joke in Cook of a train passenger who was heard to remark that Cook would be an awfully hot place if it was not for those two big fans. These fans in reality are windmills for generating electricity. We pointed these to our guests who were highly amused at the joke.

Once again back at the station there was still time to inspect the Post Office, Railway Station and other points of interest. His Grace was glad of the opportunity to chat with some of the local people while Mrs. Fisher told of their family of boys of whom just like any other mother, she is very proud.

Eventually the engine arrived and the cry 'all aboard' was heard bringing to a close a visit which will long be remembered by each one of us.

It was a joy and an encouragement, in these days when the forces of evil seem so great, to find at the head of our Christian Church an Archbishop and his wife so simple and sincere in their faith.



On the way to the School.



## *The B.C.A. Medical Services Need Your Help*



A Small Patient in a B.C.A. Hospital.

**Will you remember small outback patients like this sick child and send B.C.A. your Christmas Donation to alleviate suffering in the Outback?**

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***Remember that donations to the B.C.A. medical work may be claimed as rebates of Income Tax.***





Congratulations to **Rev. W. and Mrs. Mitchell** of Menindee upon the birth of a son in October.

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We are grateful to a Fellowship at Merrylands led by Mr. Death for the gift of a **portable organ** to help **Deaconess Clarke** with her work.

\* \* \*

Our sympathy and best wishes go to **Rev. George Fuhrmeister, Sister Yorke, Miss J. Cheers and Deaconess Spry** who have all been ill in recent weeks.

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We regret that **Deaconess N. Dixon**, Matron of Bowral Hostel has been compelled to resign owing to illness in her family. Sister Dixon won the regard of all who knew her at Bowral. May God grant her every blessing in the future.

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Sister Dixon will be replaced at Bowral by **Miss E. M. Cheers**, who has been Matron of Mungindi for over 20 years. Miss Cheers will be sorely missed from where she has served so faithfully. May God's blessing rest upon her as she takes up this new work.

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Another resignation is that of **Archdeacon R. B. Robinson** from the Council of B.C.A. The Archdeacon has been on the Council since 1923, but his many heavy duties have compelled him to leave the Society. We thank him for the service he has rendered.

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The vacancy on the Council has been filled by a former missionary, the **Rev. L. H. Broadley** who will bring a wealth of experience to the Council meetings.

\* \* \*

The Victorian Secretary, the **Rev. L. G. Ball**, resigned that office on October 31st. Mr. Ball won many friends for the Society during his term of office. Our best wishes go to him for his future ministry.

The Society has been greatly encouraged in recent months by **special efforts** which have not only added substantially to the funds but also aroused much interest. Among these was a musicale organised by Mrs. L. R. Livingstone, Sr. of Kogarah, a play by the Parish of Eastwood, and a series of efforts at Leura and other centres.

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The **Mail Bag Sunday School Van Fund** continues to grow, and has now reached £300. A splendid effort by the young people of **St. Luke's, Mosman**, added £125 to the fund. The Society deeply appreciates their interest and faithful work.

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The Barwick family of Willow Tree, N.S.W. has presented a **washing machine** to Mungindi Hostel. The Society deeply appreciates this most generous labour saving gift, which will mean so much to the Matron.

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**Sister Page**, of Tarcoola, is grateful for the gifts of scissors, texts and other aids she has received for her Sunday School.

\* \* \*

The Council and staff of B.C.A. send their sincere Christmas and New Year greetings to every member of this great family. May the New Year bring much blessing to you all.

\* \* \*

Recent visitors to Sydney were **Sister Dowling, Sister Gwynne, Miss E. M. Page, and Rev. P. and Mrs. Connell**, who all enjoyed well-deserved holidays.

\* \* \*

At the invitation of the **Bishop of Willochra**, the B.C.A. through Rev. P. Connell and Rev. G. Fuhrmeister is providing services for the mission district of **Elliston** in South Australia.

\* \* \*

The Society offers its congratulations to the **Ven. Archdeacon H. G. Robinson** of Mackay, Queensland, upon his election as Bishop of Riverina, and prays that God will give him grace for every need.



**Sister W. Mansell** of Wudinna has had to leave the Society owing to ill-health. She has rendered excellent service and will be sorely missed from our ranks. This is a further reminder of the severe toll in health caused by overwork through having insufficient nurses. **Nurses! We plead with you to offer to share the burden borne at such cost by your sisters outback.**

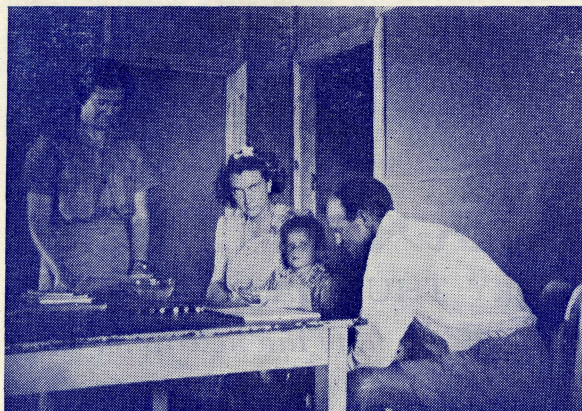
The Deaconesses are finding their gramophone a most helpful asset but they urgently need **more good records** of hymns and other sacred music.

B.C.A. recently had to part with one of its most faithful servants—**St. Patrick's Van**. This famous Van after eleven years' outback work was no longer fit for the task and had to be sold for £230. The money has been put aside towards the cost of another Van when that is needed—probably the Mail Bag Sunday School Van.

The **Dr. Roy Gibson appeal** has now reached £57. The Society is hoping for much more so that a worthy memorial can be erected to the first Flying Doctor of B.C.A.

The **Rev. Alun Pugh** will be grateful for Ancient and Modern Hymn Books in good condition. His address is: The Rectory, Cowell, S.A.

The B.C.A. financial year closes on December 31st. Will you please **open your Bark Hut now** and send in the contents without delay? **Remember that every Bark Hut counts.**



{Deaconess Spry Conducts a Baptism Service

## A Few Months

MISS M. FARR

Some months ago I came to Ceduna by 'plane and immediately was made to feel one of the family. I had often read in the "Real Australian" of the fellowship which was shared in this part of the work but it needs to be experienced to be really appreciated.

After a week's rest in Ceduna I went in our Dragon to Penong. It was a lovely hospital, set in rolling paddocks, among friendly people. They look upon Sister and the hospital as their haven in time of trouble and not only medical troubles are brought for help. Most of the children are quite happy to visit the hospital, either as "in" or "out" patients, some coming over from school on their own, to have an injury dressed or to tell Sister "they had a bad pain in the night and it has come again." As in so many of our outback places, lack of water is the main trouble and although I was there in the rainy months, the country was very brown until the last month. At the hospital all used water is saved and a nice garden makes it more homelike.

Over all is a very real sense of God's Presence. As the work is laid before Him each night and morning and guidance asked for, it is given and the Healing Hand of our Saviour is seen. Each night the young patients have a Bible story and the adults a Bible reading and we know that His Word will not return unto Him void.

Now after a few days at Ceduna I am on my way to Port Lincoln to help Miss Stokes. I go refreshed and strengthened with the memory of my farewell Communion at Ceduna and with the knowledge of the prayers of the family to uphold me. As I travel in the train, more of the family meet me, Rev. George and Mrs. Fuhrmeister at Minnipa and Sister Portch and Mrs. Richards at Wudinna.

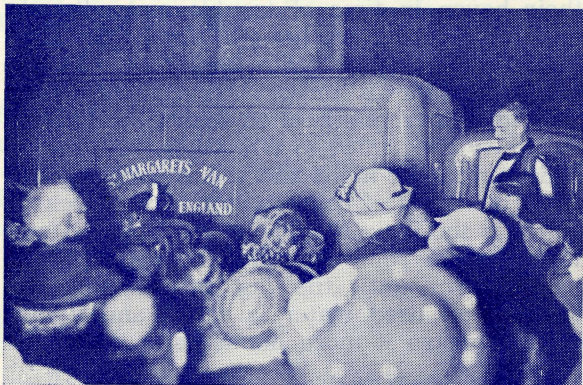
Only a few months but what a lot one can learn in that time.



# *If Only We Could Visit Them More Often!*

DEACONESS P. SPRY

"If you don't camp here overnight next trip you needn't bother calling!" These were the words which were called out to us as we left a very lonely homestead some 90 miles from Tibooburra. It's a lovely feeling to be made so welcome by the women of the outback. Often as we draw near the unknown homes we say to each other, "Well, I wonder what they are like?" but more often as we pull away the words are said with very heavy hearts "if only we could visit them more often."



Rev. E. Felton dedicates St. Margaret's Van.

We have just covered over 1,000 miles to visit between 40 and 50 homes. The trip has shown us how tremendously worthwhile the work is. There seem to be difficulties unsurmountable but it all comes as a challenge to us to keep on remembering "We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

"Cheerio for the time, we shall be back as soon as we can," I called out as I plodded through a very sandy yard to the Van. "I shall be looking for you," was the reply which came from a young mother with her 6-month old babe in her arms. She, as the other mother of six young Australians who wanted us to stay overnight, showed how glad they were that the Church had at last sent someone to visit them. But we must give them a regular ministry. It's very nice to have one visit from

the Church every few years, but how helpful is that to one's spiritual life? How can we visit them every couple of months when our area is 32,000 square miles and only two of us to work it?

We were agreeably surprised at the number of young married couples with young children for there are a number of new settlers in the area as big stations have been cut up. So we feel that it is a blessing indeed that we are able to visit these folk who have just begun a new venture. What a grand opportunity it is for us too, to start with them, giving to them all the love, understanding and helpfulness that is needed so much and which can only come from the Lord Jesus Christ. As the kiddies grow from babyhood we can give to them a regular ministry but we depend on you to make this possible by your prayers and gifts.

Before we arrived in Tibooburra I knew there wasn't a Church building there but it was only after I had been in the town for a little while that the tragedy of the fact came home to me.

It was a big week-end with races and dances, the hotels were doing a flourishing trade, many people had come for miles. The things of this world were in evidence—but where was the evidence of the God Who loved us so much as to give His Son for our salvation?

## *South Australian Listeners!*

The B.C.A. Outback Session is now broadcast through

**5 KA --- 5 AU**

**EVERY THURSDAY AT 4.30 P.M.**

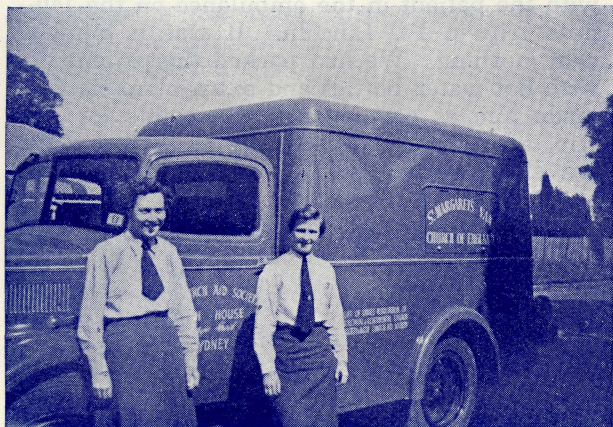
*Please note the new time.*

Be sure to listen to the fascinating story of the Church in the Outback.



There wasn't any; not a Church building of any kind or creed. It does seem incredible that in 1950 there is a town in N.S.W. that can run two hotels and yet there isn't a Church.

We held a service in the hall on the Saturday night after the races. We swept away part of the mess left from the night-before ball. Eighteen of us met to worship God. The singing really did my heart good. As we used



The Deaconesses with their Van.

a little portable organ it was great to know for once my mistakes weren't noticed, for they sang with real vim! The attention and atmosphere of that little gathering did much to encourage us both. As the sun was going down one night we were doing our best to get as far as possible along a very bad, boggy road before darkness came. There were 14 miles between Stations, there were many bogs and many detours, quite often we travelled along searching for the road, hoping the ground would hold under us. At last we saw a light of the homestead ahead and then down went "St. Margaret's" back wheels—yes, we were bogged—try as we would we couldn't move her. We put bags under the wheels, dug until the shovel handle broke, tried to jack her up without success—so having seen the light ahead, we set off to walk. It was a long two miles for our day had begun at 6 a.m. and it was now after 8 p.m. Our hearts were almost failing us for fear as we approached the homestead but we were soon put at ease by the manager who said, "Who is it? Two ladies!" in a most astonished voice. "Well come in—mother, here's two ladies to see you!"

I might add we felt far from being ladies with mud caked shoes and hands, we felt very grubby, weary and hungry travellers. I wish you could have shared the joy in that woman's face as she saw the two of us who had come to see "her". Words will never express her delight nor the blessing that came to that soul through our visit. We stayed the weekend. Next day, after the menfolk helped us out of the bog we went to visit the neighbours, only 25 miles away, taking the woman of the house with us and her 5-year-old daughter. It was an unusual experience for the women-folk that Saturday lunch time when 5 women and NO MEN sat down to a meal. These neighbours hadn't seen each other or enjoyed women's company for many long days. As we were walking out to the Van the neighbour said to me—"Do come and stay here the night next time." I promised we would.

We both feel we want to be out visiting all the time and indeed we should be to get the work done; but while we are away the work here just stops, there isn't even anyone to teach Sunday School. We do need more workers, will you come?

Never have I travelled over such terrible roads. How "St. Margaret" doesn't groan with us I don't know. When bedtime comes and we lie on those lovely comfortable beds in the Van our hearts go up in thankfulness to God to those who gave so that this Van could be supplied to give this worthwhile ministry and that we have a good bed in which to rest in preparation for another strenuous day.

## N.S.W. LISTENERS !

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FRIDAYS AT 11.15 A.M.



## A Sudden Trip

SISTER B. BARBER

It all seems a vague dream now, that last fortnight on night duty and its termination in a sudden trip to Adelaide!

During my first night "on" a patient was brought from almost 80 miles away in a motor truck—the result of a motor bike accident—unconscious and suffering from severe head injuries, compound fracture of the arm and injuries to the pelvis. He was taken straight to the theatre and after consultation with the Doctor who accompanied him, our Doctor decided on a course of action which meant the removal of fragments of bone from the head wounds and the patient sutured up.

Much prayer is offered up on behalf of our patients and as before, prayer was answered and the patient made slow and steady progress. That fortnight for me was a busy one. Sick patients require much attention and nursing care. We had a full house, too, for at one time we even had a patient in our lounge.

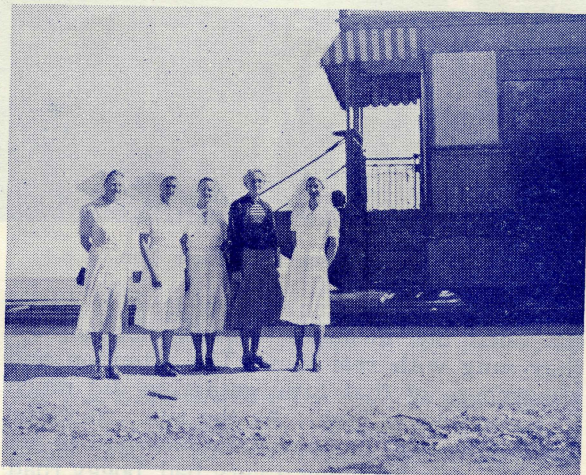
The fortnight sped by. I came on duty one Thursday night (the last night duty before two precious days off) with visions in the back of my mind as to what I could accomplish on my leave. Just before midnight Doctor rang up to say that he'd been able to arrange for the transfer of our patient to Adelaide for further treatment; an ambulance on its way from Pt. Lincoln, should arrive about 3 a.m., the men intended to leave again about 7 a.m. and did I think we could arrange to put them up for a few hours' sleep? I thought of the full hospital, the patient in the lounge and then answered, "Oh, yes, they can go in the lounge, too." The more the merrier!

Heavy rain fell during the night (almost thought I was back nursing in Sydney instead of Wudinna) and the ambulance did not arrive until 5 a.m. The roads were in a bad state. The men rested in front of the glowing mallee root fire and breakfasted while we got the patient ready for the journey.

I was finishing up the book work for the night as Matron was making final arrangements with the ambulance men. Who could she send with the patient? Casually I offered to

go. "Would you really go?" said the matron. "Well, leave what you're doing and get ready right away."

Less than an hour later found me travelling with the patient in the ambulance on the 140-mile trip to Pt. Lincoln. It was a bitterly cold morning. We had packed the patient up with hot water bottles and extra blankets and made him as comfortable as possible for the trip, administering a sedative as well and he travelled well.



Sister Barber and other nurses with Dr. Freda. In the background is a coach of the Transcontinental Express.

The rain had made the going difficult. The roads were soft with red mud through which we skidded and spun round again and again. There were great puddles, and ditches and ruts that made our teeth chatter! Sometimes we travelled 3 m.p.h., other times at 50 m.p.h. Always the scenery remained the same—just mallee scrub which gave place in more settled areas to farming and sheep grazing country. The road followed the single railway line and pipe line which supplies some of the West Coast with water from the Todd River.

At Cummins we stopped for a quick cup of tea (wonderful brew!) then on again.

Frequently we cast anxious eyes at our patient as the Van would strike a particularly



bad piece of road but naught seemed to worry him. He rested peacefully. Thirteen miles from the Port we turned on to a bitumen road. What a heavenly pleasure to travel on good roads! It was almost 3 p.m. when we reached Lincoln, 7 hours since leaving Wudinna.

The boat was due to leave Lincoln for Adelaide at 7 p.m. That left a few hours to spare. Lincoln Hospital extended their hospitality to us—they cared for my patient while I snatched a few brief hours' sleep. We had tea at the hospital and at 6 p.m. once more boarded the ambulance and were taken to the boat, the "Minnipa". It was quite an effort to get the stretcher up the gangway and down to the cabin below deck. The stewards and men exercised great care and kept the stretcher on an even level and after a short time had us safely settled in the cabin.

The stewards were kindness itself and placed themselves at our service. Packed around with pillows the patient made a comfortable crossing despite the rolling of the ship. It was good to reach Adelaide 12 hours later and find another ambulance waiting at the Port to take us the last stage of the journey.

We reached the Royal Adelaide Hospital apparently none the worse, apart from tiredness caused by our arduous journey of just 24 hours since leaving Wudinna.

It was very reassuring to know that throughout the whole journey, prayer was being offered by the staff at Wudinna on our behalf. I experienced much calmness and peace of mind knowing this.

After delivering my patient over to the care of the able medical staff at Adelaide my first thought then was sleep! This I accomplished at the Rectory in Adelaide. It was a lovely feeling to sink between the sheets, a hot water bottle at my feet and wholeheartedly engage in the wonderful occupation of sleeping!

Midnight the same night I left Adelaide by coach to travel nearly 400 miles overland via Port Augusta and Iron Knob to Wudinna reaching there 2.30 p.m. Sunday afternoon. It was good to be home again. I found Doctor's cheery smile waiting for me as the coach stopped and he waiting to drive me to the hospital!

## *The B.C.A. wants to increase The circulation of this magazine . . .*

*Will you help by—*

1. **Introducing it to your friends.**
2. **Paying one year's subscription as a Christmas present to a friend?**

The Annual Subscription is 2/6. Or the "Real Australian" is sent free to each holder of a Bark Hut.

*Join in this effort to make this great work more widely known by each subscriber getting another subscriber.*



## The Annual Rallies

The Sydney Rally was held first this year and it proved to be an outstanding meeting. Everyone was impressed with the fine lead given by Mr. T. Holt who made an excellent Chairman. The crowded meeting paid him a warm tribute for it is given to few men to be active on a Committee for as long as Mr. Holt. He was appointed to the first Committee in May, 1919, and has been an active and faithful member ever since, maintaining a splendid record of service for 31 years.

Deaconess Clarke spoke simply but in a most impressive fashion of the work she and Deaconess Spry are doing in Far Western New South Wales and many amongst the audience were deeply moved by what she said. The Assistant Organising Missioner followed by showing a number of slides depicting something of his experiences during a recent visit through the field.

The highlight of the evening was the dedication of St. Margaret's Van by the Rev. E. Felton when the Van was officially handed over to the Deaconesses to take to the Far West. It was an inspiring and heartening sight to see hundreds of people bow their heads in prayer as the Deaconesses and the Van were commended to the care of Almighty God. The offertory for this Rally was £660 for which the Society is most thankful.

### THE MELBOURNE RALLY

The Rally itself was chaired by His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne who paid a generous tribute to the pioneering work of the Society.

The Victorian Secretary read a message from the Bishop of Gippsland who stated,

*"Please convey my apologies for the Annual Meeting of the B.C.A. on 26th September, and also convey our very sincere appreciation of the great help given by the Society in coping with the very difficult Home Mission problem in the whole East Gippsland."*

*"We do appreciate the great help given, and the work is going on now better than ever."*

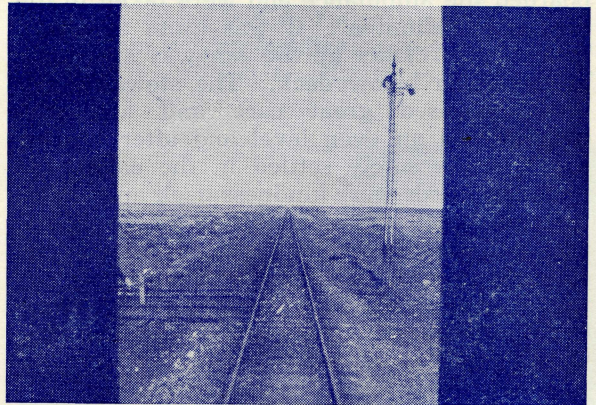
*"With warmest of wishes and prayers for every blessing on the great work."*

The Assistant Organising Missioner again described recent experiences in the field. He was followed by the Rev. E. F. Withington of

Leopold, formerly the Missioner at Cann River who told of his ministry in Croajingalong.

The meeting concluded with a lantern address by Miss Campbell, Director of the Mailbag Sunday School, who held the large audience enthralled with many pictures of all parts of the work.

The offertory was a generous one of £270.



A scene from the rear of the Trans-Continental Express.

### THE WOLLONGONG RALLY

A new venture this year was a South Coast Rally at Wollongong in N.S.W. Through the kindness of Ven. Archdeacon Gordon Begbie and other South Coast Clergy this meeting was a most heartening commencement of what is fully expected to be a forward movement for B.C.A. on the South Coast. The Mailbag Sunday School displayed an exhibition of the work of the scholars and several children were enrolled including one from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

The chief speaker was the Rev. P. Connell of Streaky Bay who told of the work in three centres he has served so far during his eight years with B.C.A., Rappville, the Far West Mission based on Ceduna, and Streaky Bay in South Australia.

The Assistant Organising Missioner showed slides of various B.C.A. activities. It was all enthusiastically received and we feel that the Rally made many friends for the Society and laid a firm foundation for the future.



## *Developments in the Heytesbury*

REV. E. BEAVAN

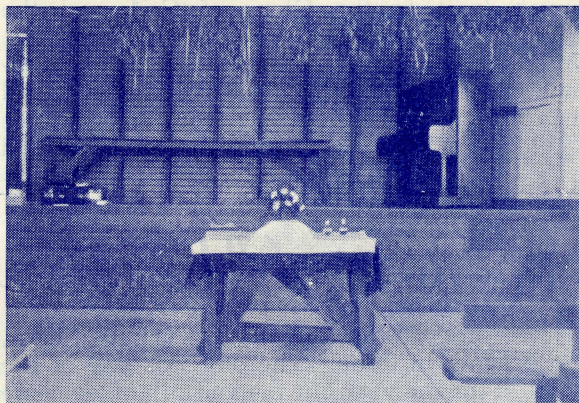
I concluded my article in the June issue by saying that we were awaiting further news about what has to be done to the Princetown Church. Shortly afterwards I saw the Bishop and it was decided that our only course of action was to dismantle the old building, obtain a more satisfactory site, and rebuild.

At a meeting of the congregation immediately after the announcement of a generous donation of land it was agreed that all essential materials, such as nails and extra corrugated iron needed should be obtained as and when available. This, of course, must be imported material, the local articles being unprocurable, but in these days we do what we can, so three days later hearing of an imminent increase in freight rates and a general price increase I managed with the kind co-operation of several Timboon residents in purchasing all the nails and new roofing iron required at a cost of £39.

The new Archdeacon of Ballarat had previously made a special visit to discuss the matter with me on the spot, and we both came to the conclusion, and this has been accepted by the congregation, that it will be best to erect a simple building which can be used for a time as a Church Hall.

We have been assured of full Diocesan support towards this our goal, and the Ladies' Association of the Col. and Con. has already sent us over £30, while the Diocese has granted another £50, so that there is every hope that by next winter we shall have the first section completed and in use. The congregation at Princetown is the oldest established in the Parish, and although there has been a grievous decline in numbers over the past 40 years, it would seem that this can go no further, indeed a reasonable, if slow, increase may now be expected. The present farming areas are no more than two miles or so from the coast, and plans are under consideration to open up some 100,000 acres of virgin bush lying between Princetown and Cooriemungle Prison Camp. It is possible that 20 to 30 new farms will be commenced in the next 5 years, especially if dairy produce

continues to be so much in demand. Therefore it is essential that the Church be ready to receive these new-comers with the needful public services and meetings which will enable them to join our present congregation without delay.



Ready for a Bush Service.

Last June it was decided to start a Young People's Club at Bruchnell in an endeavour to supplement with something a little more fundamental the sporting activities which up to then had been the only outlet the young people have had in the area. I was rather amazed at the response given to the invitation to attend an inaugural meeting, so with the experienced help of Mr. and Mrs. Hoader who had introduced similar organisations in two other Parishes we started it going by hiring the local Hall once a fortnight from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. We were charged 22/6 for these three hours, and although since then the charge has been reduced to 15/- the conditions laid down for this reduction are so onerous that I fear we shall have to revert to the former sum at the beginning of next year. The cost is met by charging each member 1/- an evening, and by trying to keep our numbers just one above the minimum necessary to balance the account. We started off very well indeed and numbers averaged two dozen each evening, but within three months eight of our regular members



left for other parts, including Mr. and Mrs. Loader and their family. This was a serious blow at such an early stage, but we are slowly making up for this loss. Debates, quizzes and religious talks illustrated by Film Strips are the means I employ in this endeavour to build up the spiritual and mental sides of their personality. A minority of our members are Churchgoers, the rest are sympathetic to the claims of Christ, but have not been able to make any definite confession of Faith. It is my hope that from this small beginning, the seed will be sown which in the future will bear much fruit to the Glory of God, and the welfare of the coming generation.

The Bishop is sympathetic towards our difficulties at Bruchnell as he is elsewhere, and has promised me the first vacant and suitable building in the Diocese which can be pulled

to Bruchnell to provide us with our own accommodation. Also here, as at Princetown, I have been promised a site where such a Hall can be placed, and I do feel that the money we now pay for hire could be much more profitably used to redeem any debt we might incur in such a venture.

To all our Church people who are fortunate enough to possess their own Church buildings I would ask you to visualise what things would be like if you had no such buildings in your district, but had to raise much money each year to hire suitable accommodation. With this in mind will you please endeavour to support us in these pioneering areas by prayers and increased gifts that we may have the material structures in which our people may be edified, and the Church extended.

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## *Central Women's Auxiliary Melbourne*

We enjoyed visiting Holy Trinity, Kew, once again in June. The day was one of the coldest for the year but the warmth of welcome from our friends at Kew more than compensated for the chilliness of travelling quite a distance in some cases. Mr. Alan Chadwick, pilot of our Flying Medical Service, was present and we were very thrilled to hear of his work first hand. About 50 friends were present and £21 was raised for our work.

On Saturday, August 19th, by the kind invitation of Mrs. I. Sergeant, we visited her home at Moorabbin. This is the second afternoon that Mrs. Sergeant has given us in fifteen months and we greatly appreciate her consistent help, for over £44 has been raised by these two efforts. We had a very happy time with music and elocutionary items. Mrs. Denchar, one of our faithful supporters outlined the work of the B.C.A. in general, while the President mentioned just how the money raised by our afternoons fulfils many very real needs in our Hospitals and Hostels.

A number of members attended the Rally Tea and many more were present at the Rally Meeting. Both these functions were much enjoyed. We have sent £50 to Penong Hospital to purchase any particular need that is urgent.

We held a very enjoyable Australian Tea at

St. Catherine's School, Toorak, on Saturday, October 14th, by work of the School Council and Miss Davis. It was a delightful day and over 60 friends came along to help us raise funds to purchase linen for our hospitals (we need £50 by the end of the year). £30 was raised on this occasion and several new members were enrolled in our Auxiliary. This encourages us greatly.

We look forward to our Annual Temple Day Service in the Lady Chapel of St. Paul's on November 21st at 2.30 p.m., to be followed by social intercourse in the C.M.S. fellowship Room at 3.30 p.m.

We regret that our Victorian Secretary, the Rev. L. G. Ball is leaving B.C.A. and we desire to extend our warmest thanks to him for all his invaluable help at our various gatherings. We wish both Mr. and Mrs. Ball every blessing in their new sphere of work.

We also regret the leaving of Miss Jean Baldwin of the Victorian Office Staff. Miss Baldwin was always willing to assist us in various ways. We wish her well in her new work. And we extend to her successor, Miss Moore, our very best wishes for a happy time amongst us.

We thank God for a very successful year and we extend warm Christmas Greetings to all B.C.A. Staff in the field and at home.



## THE PLACE OF PRAYER

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 who in 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 all members of the staff. Cheer and comfort them in discouragement and loneliness, 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.

### SUNDAY.

#### MORNING

The Far West Missions at Penong, Ceduna, Minnipa and Cowell; the Missioners, Revs. D. Pugh, G. Fuhrmeister and T. Hayman.

#### EVENING

The West Darling Missions at Wilcannia and Menindee: the N.W. Mallee; the Missioner, Rev. W. Mitchell, and Deaconesses P. Spry and B. Clarke.

### THURSDAY.

#### MORNING

For the Mail Bag Sunday School with its Gospel messages for the children. For the Director, Miss R. Campbell, the teachers and helpers, that they may find encouragement in their work.

#### EVENING

For the Organising Missioner, and Asst. Organising Missioner, that they may be strengthened and guided in all their endeavours for the good of the work and in their relationships with their fellow-workers.

### MONDAY.

#### MORNING

The Cann River Mission, the Bonang Mission, the Streaky Bay Mission; the Missioners, Revs. J. Shilton, D. H. Wicking, and P. Connell.

#### EVENING

The Denmark Settlement; and the missioner Rev. J. Johnston; for the Pharmacist, Miss E. M. Page.

### FRIDAY.

#### MORNING

For the Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital and Sisters Horsburgh and Ross as they minister to the people on the great Nullarbor Plain. For Sister Page and the Tarcoola Medical Hostel.

#### EVENING

For students and all in training for this work of God. For the Heytesbury Forest Mission, and the Otway Ranges Mission, and the Missioners, Rev. E. G. Beavan and Rev. K. Seymour.

### TUESDAY.

#### MORNING

For Sisters Dowling, Miller, Hitchcock, L. Loane, B. Tierney, E. Thomas, J. Armstrong, and Miss F. Lawtey.

#### EVENING

For the Cann River Dispensary, and Sister Gwynne and Wudinna Hospital, and Sisters R. Portch, V. Holle, B. Barber, D. York and Staff.

### SATURDAY.

#### MORNING

For the President and Council of the Society, that they may be guided by His wisdom.

#### EVENING

For the "Coorah" Hostel and its workers, Mr. and Mrs. Hustler.

For the Bowral Hostel, Deaconess N. Dixon. For Theological Students of the Society in training.

For the Home Base Staffs, Auxiliaries, and parochial workers.

For the N.S.W., Victorian and South Australian Secretaries.

For the Rappville Mission.

### WEDNESDAY.

#### MORNING

For the children in the Mungindi, Broken Hill and Port Lincoln Hostels, and for the workers, the Misses Cheers, N. Stokes, M. Farr, and Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin.

#### EVENING

For the Flying Medical Services, Mr. Chadwick, Mr. Bedford and Doctor F. Gibson.

For the wives and families of the Missioners and Air Pilot.

Each day pray that the many needs of the work may be met.

Running expenses of £7 per hour to keep the Medical Planes in the air.

Consecrated clergy missionaries and other workers for urgent work in the field.

That our work may continue to progress despite the difficulties of the post-war period.

### Give Thanks—

For the rich blessing and wonderful growth of the Society's work.

For all the kindly givers who have helped with their self-denials.

For the Flying Medical Services.

For the joy of service.



## *Suggestions for Helping B.C.A.*

*to face another 25 years outback through its Medical Services*



**£2,500 will keep the Planes flying for one year.**

**£250 will keep one nurse in a hospital for one year.**

**£25 will keep one plane flying for 5 hours and help save 5 lives.**

**25/- will supply small and very useful items of equipment**

**and**

**25d. placed in your Bark Hut will be a real help.**



**ALL DONATIONS TO B.C.A. MEDICAL WORK MAY BE CLAIMED AS  
REBATES OF INCOME TAX**