

THE BUSH CHURCH AID MAIL-BAG SUNDAY SCHOOL

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THE SCHOOL HOSTELS FOR OUTBACK AND COUNTRY CHILDREN

Broken Hill, N.S.W.—Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Calder.

Mungindi Boys' Hostel, N.S.W.—Mr. and Mrs. S. Colefax.

Mungindi Girls' Hostel, N.S.W.—Miss M. Farr.

Dr. W. Stewart Ziele Memorial Hostel, Bowral, N.S.W.—Mr. and Mrs.
A. McLaughlin.

Silver Jubilee Hostel, Port Lincoln, S.A.—Miss G. Banks, Miss D. Duver.

The Official Organ of

THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY

Church House, George Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

Edgar Bragg & Sons Pty. Ltd., 4 Barker Street, Sydney.



No. 16 (New Series)

JUNE, 1956,

2/6 per annum, post free.



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The Official Organ of

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Church House, George Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

Registered at the G.P.O., Sydney, for transmission by post as a periodical

The Bush Church Aid Society

for Australia and Tasmania

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Minnipa, S.A.—Rev. A. Williams, Th.L.

Cowell, S.A.—Rev. D.A. Richards-Pugh, A.L.C.D.

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DIOCESE OF GIPPSLAND, VIC.

Croajingalong, Vic.—Rev. L. Luck, Th.L.

DIOCESE OF TASMANIA.

Tarraleah, Tas.—Rev. W. Warburton, Th.L.

The Organising Missioner's Letter.

I should like to thank all the friends of the B.C.A. who have been good enough to send me their congratulations on my recent appointment, by The Archbishop of Sydney, to a Canonry in St. Andrew's Cathedral. I have been deeply appreciative of the many kind letters that I have received.

Amongst the many problems in B.C.A. there is one that we have endured for years in order to save money in administration costs, but which can no longer be endured without doing despite to the Society's well-being. I bring it to your attention in the hope that you may be able to help us.

For twenty years the B.C.A.'s extensive work has been administered from two poky little rooms we have in Church House; before that we had one room. Staff has been kept to a bare minimum and it has been due solely to the devotion and zeal of the office staff we possess that so much work has been done with so great a measure of effectiveness.

The time has come, indeed it is long past, when we can no longer go on in this way. We must have larger and more modern office space.

We are prepared to rent, lease or buy suitable office space if we can get it within reasonable distance of the Cathedral. Can any reader help us in this matter? If so, please get in touch with us at Church House.

In this issue you will read of the progress of the Radio School which is conducted from the Radio Base at Ceduna. This new work is providing one of the most outstanding services we have ever undertaken to sponsor.

Although the work is undertaken by the Education Dept. of South Australia, it is only right that I should point out that the concept of the scheme was B.C.A.'s.

We were concerned for the many children in the country and outback who, receiving their education through the Correspondence Dept., did not have the inestimable benefit of daily contact and help from a teacher.

We were aware of the good work being done by the School of the Air sponsored by another organisation, but we felt that children who were not already connected by transceiver for medical purposes were unfairly handicapped.

As a result, we made representations to the P.M.G.'s Dept. that special consideration should be given to this matter so that a scheme might be drawn up to include all children on the Correspondence Lessons.

After some months of negotiations it was decided that if the B.C.A. would undertake the great cost of supplying suitable transceivers at a small annual rental and guaranteeing that they

would only be used for lesson work, the Dept. would accede to our request.

The proposition was then put up to the Dept. of Education in S.A. that they should enlarge their facilities by financing a teacher for this purpose, if the B.C.A. found a suitable person.

The result has been that the new service began with the commencement of the first school term this year and has steadily grown over the months.

Some idea of how the school works can be gleaned from the article appearing on another page. What I want the readers of this paper to appreciate is that the greatest expense of this new venture has been undertaken by the B.C.A.

The whole of our Radio Base facilities have been placed at the disposal of the Correspondence School. We have also made available specially designed and manufactured transceiver sets at a small hire charge that amounts to the equivalent of 5/- per week. This is not because the parents have refused to go to the expense of purchase, but because this is the only way to come within the regulations of the P.M.G.'s Dept. But it has meant the expenditure of a very considerable sum of money that has already amounted to over one thousand pounds, and will, as the scheme grows, be even greater.

We of the B.C.A. feel that this is one of the greatest steps forward in the field of education for the children of the outback. Do you agree with the judgment? If you do, some practical help would be very much appreciated.

Stones and Bread.

Rev. T. Hayman.

Yesterday Jim Smith and I arrived at Cook. The road from the highway is good, by comparison with others. We have a morning service in the Cook Hospital. Then I left Jim Smith to take the evening service.

Complete with a packed lunch I set out across the Nullarbor by van. This track is familiar to me. It is some time since I used it since I usually go by train. There is no train to suit to-day so I must go by what is called a "road", feeling my way from stone to stone and from clump to clump.

There is a temporary easing of tension as I cross a flat. Up the next slope there are so many stones that they resemble a cemetery set in the red earth.

Now I must stop to remove a large stone. The track twists and turns constantly to miss other stones. No time for day dreaming. Each part must be "sized up" quickly to decide whether it is low enough to drive over.

The track comes closer to the railway. I glance at a mile post and see that there are many more miles by road than rail. It is hard to average more than twenty miles per hour.

Now I am on the flat again. They call them "dongers". Thanks be for dongers.

I remember when, some years ago, I looked at the track from the train. It appeared to be a gentle winding track. I soon learned it was far from gentle. So often we view others' professions as easy too. Perhaps if we were to try them we would be surprised. But no time for reflections.

Coming down to earth suddenly, I swerved to miss a rabbit warren and then another. It is fatal to land in one as I have discovered before to-day!

The camp should be in sight soon. Finally it appears, much enlarged in the heat mirage, even in the month of May.

At the railway camp I obtain a "pass" to go to the forward area. Many men are there, all busy building.

Although prior notice has been sent, no-one seems to have been informed. The pressure of the work is great. Notices are put in the mess huts and I try to speak to as many as I see.

In the morning at 6.30 a.m. a service is held just before breakfast. At real sacrifice, arising before daybreak, a number come to the service. One lad is particularly keen. He tells me it is many weeks since the last service. He and a companion worship in their tent.

And now we go to another camp on the Nullarbor. Then face that sixty mile track again. It is worthwhile to journey over the stony track that we may take the "Bread of Life". Our work is being accomplished—to give men, even in remote parts, the opportunity of hearing, believing and worshipping.



A brand new
Real Australian
arrives at Ceduna.

"It's Hot!"

Rev. P. Connell.

"Good morning. It's a hot day." As it was well over the hundred in the shade I made this remark very often on this hot Sunday.

After 8 a.m. Communion and a quick breakfast I got ready for this sixty-mile trip and left at 10.30 a.m. I arrived at my first service centre at 11 a.m. and the congregation—two brothers and their wives and families—was there before me, but I had the key of the hall, so they were glad to get in out of the heat.

The service was that of Holy Communion and the congregation knelt on the seats of chairs as the floor was fairly dusty. The little boys were very helpful and counted the offertory as well as assisting me in many other small ways.

As I was unrobing in the hall supper room I remembered that one of the little girls had her birthday that day and I managed to find a present for her among my things.

When I arrived at the farm where I was to have lunch the people came out and welcomed me as soon as the car stopped. They were very friendly people. As soon as I got inside the verandah I and my host—an old man, nearly blind—sat down and began to yarn. At least the old man did. I feel he loves to talk to someone. Beside us the two dogs lay stretched out and looking nearly done.

Very soon it was dinner time and so we went inside.

After dinner the old man and I went in and sat down in the cool and he began to yarn again. They were the stories you will hear at any time from an old man in the bush: how the drought of 1914 was paralysing everything; trouble with a very difficult neighbour; the ease and comfort of the present day and generation compared with the horse and buggy days of his youth.

The hands of the clock moved round and soon it was time for Church. So two members of the home, with a carton of gifts of product, as it was Harvest Festival, came along with me down to the hall.

When we arrived it was hotter than ever. We went inside the main hall and it was so hot we came out again—recoiled is perhaps a better word—and looked at each other wondering if perhaps there was a cooler place elsewhere.

Soon another car loaded with four people and another carton of gifts—eggs, figs, grapes and tomatoes—arrived. They expressed similar horror of the heat. We found a part of the hall where, with the windows open, it was tolerable, and so the service began.

During the service I took occasion to express to them how much I appreciated such a little gathering there in that hot hall. They had come miles to get to Church. They had a really sturdy spirit and I was proud to worship with them.

The service over, I packed up the harvest gifts in a big carton. The people very kindly decided to give all the perishables and the eggs to me to take home, and asked me to present the rest—some

tins of jam and cheese—to the local hospital. Then I took my hostess of dinner-time home, and the old man was again glad to see me while his wife made tea. Before leaving they and I bowed our heads for a moment in prayer and thanksgiving to the Giver of all.

When I was nearly home I stopped at another little farm house where lives an old parishioner. Her husband and brother are not able to do much for her and her hands are bent up with arthritis. She was sitting resting in the front room, which housed the treasured bric-a-brac of two generations ago, old photos with fretwork frames, and her Mother's Union certificate of membership, signed by a former rector. We had a few words and a prayer which she always appreciates.

Now I must close, asking again for your continued prayer, for the work of God in this place and for the necessary equipment of health and grace for my dear ones and myself.

A Nullarbor Emergency.

The following is a factual report of a serious accident on the Nullarbor. It graphically illustrates the tremendous value of B.C.A. Medical Services in just such emergencies—though we cannot say in this case that lives were saved. Do be generous in your giving for this work so that we shall never have to refuse such merciful aid to those in distress.

In consequence of a report received of a serious traffic accident on the Eyre Highway, 46 miles west of Eucla—390 miles from Ceduna—Mr. Chadwick with Dr. Taylor set off in the Proctor at 6.10 p.m. and landed at Nullarbor Station, 170 miles away, at 8 p.m. There were few facilities for night landing here but a safe landing was made in spite of difficulties.

From Nullarbor the journey had to be made in a utility. The manager was away at the time and only a lad of 16 present at the homestead, so Mr. Chadwick went to help with the driving.

The distance to the scene of the accident was 165 miles and the party arrived at 2 a.m. to find the injured man had been placed under cover. Doctor's examination revealed he was suffering from severe shock, fractured skull, fracture of lower leg, and probable fracture of pelvis as well as many cuts and abrasions and much bruising. His condition was most dangerous.

Apparently he and his friends had collided head-on with a big semi-trailer, in thick dust. The friend was killed instantly and was still jammed in the front seat of the car with multiple fractures of the skull, compound fracture of both thighs, crushed chest and abdomen.

The sick man's condition improved after treatment and at 4.30 a.m. Doctor decided to transport him to Forrest on a mattress in the back of the utility. For a distance of 90 miles they travelled over the shockingly bad road to Forrest and arrived at 10.30 a.m.

There is a big aerodrome at Forrest and Doctor arranged for a message to be sent to Kalgoorlie to ask that the Flying Doctor

THE PROCTOR



Mr. Chadwick ready for an emergency.

service send a plane to take the patient to Kalgoorlie, but owing to disruption in telephonic services and transceiver communication there was much delay and the message was not received for some time. At 12 noon, just as the Flying Doctor plane was about to take off from Kalgoorlie, the patient's condition quickly deteriorated and he died. A radio message was able to stop the plane from coming.

The first part of the return journey was by way of Reid to Eucla—a distance of 101 miles which took $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours. They had planned to go right through to Nullarbor Station for the night but as it was so late when they arrived at Eucla they were easily prevailed upon to spend the night there. After spending all the previous night under such trying circumstances one could imagine how welcome bed was to the travellers. But alas, it was not long before Doctor was hauled out of bed to make statements to the Police who had arrived. How popular they must have been!

Next morning was spent putting the transceivers at Eucla and Koonalda in good working order. These transceivers were the only means of communication the folks had at the time of the accident and the west end was completely cut off as all the telephone lines were down. Finally the journey by road was completed when the utility reached Nullarbor Station at 5.45 p.m. and the last stage of the journey from Nullarbor to Ceduna—170 air miles—was done in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours, arriving about 8 p.m.



We are glad to welcome back to our family Sister B. Barber who has had nearly a year's stay in England. For some months Sister gained valuable experience in the Potteries which will help very materially in her work at Wudinna.

The Annual Report of the Burwood East Auxiliary shows a work well done. They have raised £71 during the year. Much of this is entirely due to the continuing keenness and effort of Mrs. Kershaw, who, over a long period of years, has been unremitting in her efforts for the B.C.A.

Our thanks go to Mrs. Standen and Mrs. Borrows of Five Dock for a Street Stall that netted £16. This is an idea that many of our friends could copy and we commend it to all.

Thank you, to Mr. P. H. Falconer for an electric iron for Tarcoola Hospital. This useful implement is greatly appreciated by the staff.

We are grateful to Mr. R. J. Cashman for the gift of an electric floor polisher for the Mungindi Girls' Hostel. Miss Farr will find such an aid a valuable help with the domestic work.

The Pennant Hills B.C.A. Auxiliary held their Annual Meeting recently and the Treasurer's Report disclosed that the members had raised the splendid sum of £103 during the year. Well done, Pennant Hills!

Our congratulations go to Bishop Clive Kerle on his elevation to such high office, and we assure him of our prayers that he may fill it with distinction.

Our congratulations go to "Barny" and Beryl McLaughlin on the birth of a son. Another B.C.A. missionary of the future, we hope.

Our best wishes go to Miss Myra Patterson on her recent marriage to Mr. Keith Macintosh. Myra was for some years assistant to Miss R. Campbell in the Mail-Bag Sunday School.

Congratulations to the Organising Missioner on his appointment as a Canon of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. Friends of B.C.A. will be pleased that such an honour has been conferred upon him after so many years of faithful service.

Topics for

Prayer and Praise

For the Society.

O Lord God of our nation, Who hast 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.

For Nurses and Doctors.

O God, Who didst choose a beloved physician to set forth the life of Him Who went about doing good, grant that Thy strong tenderness and compassion may be manifest in the work of country doctors and bush nurses. Make them at all times alert to be faithful, as those whom Thou hast burdened and inspired with the honour of their calling. In lonely emergencies strengthen them with confidence that, having done all they can, they may with good conscience leave the issue to Thy power working within Thy law. Make them resourceful and of sound judgment, and hearten their labours with the energy of compassion and the firmness of duty that conquers weariness. Through Him Whose power is called forth by suffering. Jesus Christ our Lord.

For Church Life in Country Districts.

O Lord, Who art present when two or three are gathered together in Thy Name, bless, we beseech Thee, the little far-scattered groups of brethren who in our wide land meet together to worship Thee. Give them a perpetual freshness of spirit, and the power to inspire in each other holiness, helpfulness, and understanding of Thy help. Refresh with the joy of enthusiasm those who endure weary journeys to Thy trysting place. Grant that these little companies of Thy servants may be united in the spirit of Christian charity, awaiting in love the time when there shall be one fold and one Shepherd. Grant that the common life of all communities may be purified by this spirit of charity from all meanness, falsehood, malice and idle gossip, and grant that they who share a common lot may draw strength from each other's virtues, and in their weakness help one another, through our one Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise.

For the Blessings vouchsafed to the Society, for all kindly givers, for the joy of service.

YOUR DAILY REMEMBRANCE

SUNDAY

For all the Clergy-missioners of B.C.A., their wives and children, and the people to whom they take the Gospel of Christ. For all students of the Society in training for this special ministry.

MONDAY

For the Doctors at Ceduna and Wudinna, the Nursing Sisters in our hospitals. For the spiritual and physical needs of patients who come under their care.

TUESDAY

For the staffs at the Children's School Hostels at Broken Hill, Bowral, Mungindi and Port Lincoln, the children who come under their care and the teachers who instruct these children.

WEDNESDAY

For the Mail-Bag Sunday School as it reaches out into far-distant homes to touch young lives with the challenge of Christ. For the Director, her assistant and staff of voluntary teachers, and the parents of the scholars.

THURSDAY

For the Flying Medical Service pilots and all staff and patients who travel with them. For the Radio Base and its Control Officer. For the Pharmacist at Ceduna.

FRIDAY

For the Administration of the Society—the Council—the Home Base Staffs and Auxiliaries and all Parochial Workers.

SATURDAY

For generous givers, that all necessary finance needed for so large a ministry may be forthcoming. For guidance in the right application of all such gifts.

SCHOOL BEGINS



Miss Miller and Mrs. Jones calling the School Roll.

A Radio School

At Ceduna on the west coast of South Australia, the Bush Church Aid Society has established a Radio Control Station, and from this station they conduct their Flying Medical Service.

Some time ago the B.C.A. offered its radio facilities to the Correspondence school of the South Australian Education Department in order to provide additional assistance to the outback children and their parents.

This kind offer was accepted, and on February 7th, 1956, many children (and their mothers) of Eyre Peninsula, the far West Coast, and the North Western areas, sat beside special transceivers and eagerly waited to hear a teacher speak to them from the control room at Ceduna. The transceivers were supplied by the B.C.A. and the Correspondence School supplied the lesson papers. Miss K. Miller, a member of the Correspondence School staff, was sent to establish the school, and to conduct regular sessions dealing with the lessons set out on the papers supplied. The children place the lesson papers in front of them while a lesson itself is being explained. Miss Miller is ably assisted by Mrs. K. Jones.

Each day three school sessions are conducted, and children in each grade from Grade I to Grade VII have at least one lesson explained to them.

The "Classroom" is unique. It covers an area of 100,000 square miles of mallee scrub, salt bush grazing country, farm lands and salt lakes. This area is greater than that of the United Kingdom. There are 20 families with transceivers and there are 41 children on the Radio Roll. The children live in places as far apart as Koonalda, near Eucla, on the far West Coast, Coober Pedy opal field, and Woomera in the Interior, Iron Knob near Whyalla, and Coultan near Pt. Lincoln.

Many more enquiries have been made, and many parents have requested that more lessons be given, so, in the near future, it is hoped that there will be many more pupils enrolled, and many more lessons taught.

The scheme allows the children to hear a lesson just as it is given in an ordinary classroom. Children, mothers and supervisors may ask a question simply by turning a switch, and lesson problems are dealt with immediately. The teacher may also ask questions, and by doing so, she can test the ability of her pupils. The question time lessons have become very popular, as, when a question is asked, all listeners can hear it, and, when it is answered all listeners can hear again. In this way the children hear their classmates, even though they are three or four hundred miles away. The children no longer feel so isolated or alone in their work, and already competition is keen.

The scheme is new but the interest is great, and the Radio

School, without doubt, has proved a help to the outback children. We will let the mothers themselves tell you what they think about the new venture.

Here are some extracts from letters received by Miss Miller and Mrs. Jones.

"We wish to thank all concerned for starting the Radio School, and especially the teachers for the tremendous job they have undertaken."

"I thank you for the great interest you are taking in the country children, and I also thank the B.C.A. for the wonderful work that they are doing."

"The Radio School is the best help we have ever had in the bush. It is indeed a great help and comfort that so much is being done to benefit the mothers and children in the out-back."

"The children now realize that they are not alone in their classes, so they try harder because there is competition."

"There is no doubt about the good influence the Radio School has on children's minds. It keeps them in touch with the outside world as they hear from you each day. I like your short talks on civics, observations, and current topics."

"Before radio lessons were given, Graham was shy and would not read for anyone, but now he has overcome this, and takes a pride in trying to read better than the other children of his class, and he has improved considerably."

"Now the lessons are conducted every morning I think what a terrible blank there would be if for some reason they were omitted."

"The asking of questions has caused great interest, and I consider that you do a marvellous job in the time allotted for the lessons. Heather is progressing very well, and since having the transceiver I do not have to spend so much time with her. After a Radio Lesson has been given, she can continue unaided for some time."

"The Radio School is most helpful, and the children are now willing to start their lessons."

"David was in bed with a temperature of 101, but begged to be allowed up to answer the roll call and to listen to his lesson."

"I find with Dennis, that, as soon as the Radio Lesson is over he is quite prepared to begin his written work."

NOTE THESE DATES !

MELBOURNE RALLY: SEPT. 5th, at 7.45 p.m.

SYDNEY RALLY: SEPT. 28th, at 7.45 p.m.

Busy Days.

Sister Miller.

Our hospital at Ceduna has been very busy these last few months. Much, of course, is every-day routine work, but lately it has been varied by the admission of many native babies.

Owing to the lack of staff at the Koonibba Mission the sick natives have had to be brought here. Native children do not stand up to sickness as readily as whites and it is therefore essential to get them much earlier and commence treatment.

At one stage we had five of these babies, about seven months old. They were really beautiful and won the hearts of all the staff. It was good to see them respond to treatment and to note the joy of their parents when they came to take them home!

There have been quite a number of emergency calls from the outback and in most cases this has meant the return of a new patient. One man, out of the kindness of his heart to help an overlander, was assisting in refuelling a car when suddenly there was an explosion.

At the time it was thought no harm had been done and the overlander went on his way. But the man, feeling some soreness on his side, discovered he was badly burnt—even though his clothing was all intact.

A radio message was sent and soon doctor was on her way in the "Proctor" equipped with all the necessary things. About 5 p.m. they returned and by the time the patient was comfortably tucked into bed there was another message.

A porter in the Railways at one of the stations on the East-West line had been hurt by some trucks—could help be sent? As soon as Mr. Chadwick re-fuelled the plane Doctor was once again in the air on a 100-miles trip and this time a night landing had to be made on the return trip.

The patient needed immediate surgery so there wasn't much of the night left when he finally was put to bed and the staff decided to grab a little sleep. Both patients got on well and it was a pleasure to have them as patients and to be able to help them with some of their problems.

Last week, another call came and a little lad of five was brought in from Tarcoola. He didn't approve of hospital at all and for 48 hours never ceased to let us know that he wanted Mummy and home.

Once he was up and about it was much different, and we seemed to spend the day answering his questions. It was good hearing him sing "Jesus Loves Me" when he thought no one was listening.

Finally, the day dawned when the plane was to take him home and the little eyes were open very early in the morning and handshakes and goodbyes were said long before it was time to go.

How would these people manage if there were no Hospital—no Flying Medical Service and no Radio Base! What can you do to help the work to carry on? You can help by your prayer support, and as God leads you, by your finance, and most of all—He may need you!

Buzzing About The Bush.

Rev. T. F. Morgan.

At long last I have stopped "buzzing" for long enough to write this article for our own magazine. Whilst I was in attendance at the last Victorian Annual Rally the "O.M." suggested that I might find time to write enough to let B.C.A. supporters know that there is an Otway Mission.

I was instituted as "Priest in Charge of the Parochial District of Beech Forrest and Apollo Bay" by the Bishop of Ballarat, Dr. Johnson, on March 3rd, 1955. Besides bringing with me a van-load of furniture and other belongings, I brought a wife, named Doreen, and a son named David Ridley—who seem to be thriving on the abundant supply of fresh air here.

There were over a hundred people gathered in St. Anselm's Church, Beech Forest, for the service, at which the preacher was the Rev. E. G. Beavan, our Victorian Secretary. Those present had come from each of the nine centres in the mission, glad to be there because they had been without a Vicar for nine months. There had, however, been regular services at some centres due to the efforts of a young Lay Reader from Hordern Vale, and the Secretary of the Parish Council, who, with the assistance of the young people in the C.E.F., kept up the usual two services a month at Beech Forest. The Sunday Schools and Ladies' Guilds had also been kept functioning. All of this was most heartening, and shows the kind of stuff that these people are made of.

There is something in connection with my Institution which further illustrates the co-operation possible with bush folk. As there is no parish hall at Beech Forest the Shire hall had to be used, but it was used for the regular Picture Show on Thursdays! What was to be done? The Bishop had no other night free, SO THE FILM PROPRIETOR PUT HIS SHOW OFF.

We had the pleasure of the fellowship and the company of the Rev. J. R. Greenwood—N.S.W. Secretary of the Society. He had come to record something of the work here, so we gave him some work to do. We took two services together on the Sunday morning, two each in the afternoon, and one together in the evening. Seven for the day. We are grateful to Mr. Greenwood, also, for sending to us from the Society a beautiful Bible which was installed in the Church at Beech Forest on the 28th August, and for sending our C.E.F. branch a very lovely banner—both being gifts of B.C.A. supporters.

Now a word about the Otway Mission. This is where the "buzzing" comes in. The nine centres where services are conducted are:—Beech Forest, Tanybryn, Apollo Bay, Hordern Vale, Johanna River, Yuulong, Lavers Hill, Gellibrand and Carlisle River. A tenth centre has been begun—Kennett River. I hold a service there once a month on a Tuesday night. It involves a 65-miles round trip from Beech Forest, where we live. Each centre previously had a service once a month, with the exception of Beech Forest (two a month) and Apollo Bay (three a month) but by re-arrangement

of the roster, and with some help, I have been able to increase the number of services given at each centre, save Tanybryn and Kennett River.

One very pleasing result of this increase in services has been that every centre is now able to meet its Quota to the Parish Council from its offertories. In fact, at our Annual Meeting in August, three centres voluntarily increased their Quotas, bringing in an extra £50 per year.

I take Religious Instruction on Wednesdays at Lavers Hill Consolidated School (where there are about 200 children), Beech Forest, Gellibrand, Kawarren and Carlisle River State Schools. This involves travelling 85 miles. It is a most worthwhile feature of the work, giving good contacts with families from which the children come.

We have a Ladies' Guild at Beech Forest, Apollo Bay, and Carlisle River, and hope to start one at Lavers Hill next year. There is a Sunday School at Beech Forest, Apollo Bay, Lavers Hill, and Hordern Vale, and one will be starting soon at Carlisle River. There is a branch of C.E.F. at Beech Forest, and I have started a branch of C.E.B.S. at Apollo Bay. Each centre has a Committee, and delegates from each committee form the Parish Council, which meets twice a year at the Vicarage.

Is it worth it? Yes it is. The people are made up of hard-working farmers, timber workers, fishermen, truck drivers, and all the others who go to make up our Australian way of life.

Through the B.C.A. the work of the Church, Christ's ministry of reconciliation, peace, and hope, is meeting man's needs here. One illustration:—A few months ago I married a young couple: a farm girl and a log-truck driver. I was brought into close contact with them and told them of the One Who was a friend at all times, and Who would be with them in all the varied circumstances of life. Two months later I heard the news. A log had rolled on to this young husband, and he was rushed to the Colac Hospital with a crushed leg. Two days later I was able to see him. His foot had been amputated, and the doctors were considering what next steps they might take. I had a yarn with him, and prayer. Last week I saw him, and a little more above the ankle had been removed, and now it is only a matter of things healing up. He will be looking for a new job: Christ gives peace and hope.

Yes, it is one of the "circumstances" of life, and the Bush Church Aid Society is making possible a ministry to the people of the Otways in their circumstances. Will you pray for me as I go "buzzing about the bush"?

B.C.A. Central Auxiliary, Melbourne.

From the Annual Report of this Auxiliary we cull the following list of some of their efforts for the past year.

A Temple Day at St. Paul's Cathedral with an offertory of £11.

An Afternoon at the home of Miss Peterson of Essendon at which 65 members were present who contributed £35 to the funds of the Auxiliary.

Another Afternoon at the home of Miss Ellis of Moonee Ponds at which £20 was raised.

A combined effort on behalf of the Ridley College Health Club and B.C.A. which brought in £16/10/-.

An Afternoon at the home of the Rev. E. G. Beavan who showed some of his slides of the society's work which resulted in £9/7/3 being added to the funds.

St. Catherine's, Toorak, also staged yet another Afternoon at which the vicar of Toorak, the Rev. Tom Gee presided and Sister Kendall spoke of the work in South Australia. With the help of a generous gift from Miss Moore this effort brought in the splendid sum of £65.

Gifts have been sent by this auxiliary to the hospitals for distribution at Christmas time. A Dressing Gown was forwarded to Cook Hospital for the use of migrant patients, and a refrigerator was purchased for the use of the Rev. and Mrs. Ian Booth at Orroroo.

This is quite an imposing list of the activities for one year and we congratulate our friends on so splendid a result of their efforts and commend such zeal and industry to others of our friends.

STOP PRESS!

Canon Jones has just received a further honour by being named a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. We feel sure all friends will join with the B.C.A. Council and Staff in offering very hearty congratulations to him on this well-deserved recognition of his faithful service to the Australian Church.



THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY'S FLYING MEDICAL SERVICES

HOSPITAL CENTRES.

CEDUNA.

The Murat Bay District Hospital.

PENONG.

The Penong Memorial Hospital.

COOK.

The Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital.

TARCOOLA.

The Tarcoola Hospital.

RAWLINNA, W.A.

The Nursing Hostel.

WUDINNA.

The Central Eyre Peninsula District Hospital.

Matron: Sister F. DOWLING.

Staff Sisters: J. MILLER, G. HITCHCOCK, B. TIERNEY, A. BUTLER, M. BELL.

Sisters L. LOANE and J. ROBERTS.

Sisters M. HORSBURGH and M. ROSS.

Sisters V. HOLLE and M. TARR.

Sister E. THOMAS.

Matron: Sister R. PORTCH.

Sisters: B. BARBER, V. BREALEY, M. DEAN, J. JOHNSTON, N. VERITY, Miss C. DERBYSHIRE.

MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Dr. C. BLOWER, Dr. M. MUELLER, Dr. D. ALLSOP.

AIRCRAFT.

"Percival Proctor".
de Havilland "Dragon"
Auster.

PILOTS.

Mr. ALLAN CHADWICK.
Mr. G. JOB.
Mr. W. BEDFORD.

PHARMACIST.

Mr. D. RICHARDS.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS BASE.

Ceduna Base Operator: Mr. GEORGE CAMERON.

CROAJINGALONG NURSING SERVICE, VIC.

Sister I. GWYNNE.