



## *Thy Kingdom Come—When will this Prayer be Answered?*

CHRISTIANS generally are well acquainted with our Lord's Model Prayer, in which He taught His disciples to earnestly desire God's kingdom to come to this earth. But do we wonder how much thought is given to the words—"Thy Kingdom Come"—by multitudes of people who repeat these words over and over again throughout their lives? It is good that a great number of people do have these words in their minds, but unless there is a sincere desire to understand the real meaning our Lord intended in giving us this prayer, those using the prayer would benefit very little.

We know the Lord's Prayer is repeated very often but probably little understood. In the first place when our Lord declared—"After this manner pray ye, Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come"—it seems He desired to lift the minds of His sincere followers to the Father's presence, in the deep realisation that only the great Eternal One could supply the desire of their hearts as they communed with Him amidst all the diverse conditions of this present evil world. As though the Master would tell them, There may be times when outwardly it may seem that God's kingdom will never come, when you might be tempted to think that even the Heavenly Father has forgotten you and all mankind, by the way things are happening on the earth. You may also have thoughts presented to you that God is powerless to intervene in world affairs, by the way things are getting out of hand. But despite all appearances to the contrary, the Lord would say, Keep on praying to the Heavenly Father in sincerity of heart—"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." Thus our Saviour would impress upon His disciples, Even if the kingdom does not come in your lifetime, you will by so praying have your mind and heart brought into line with the plan of God, because that kingdom shall, in due time, bring about the deliverance of mankind from sin and death, so that God's will shall be done on earth even as it is done in heaven.

In answering the question as to when the prayer of our Lord will be answered, we have His words in Matt. 4:17, which read—"Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." This was when our Lord began His ministry. John the Baptist had already used the same words, when he was sent to call the Israelites to repentance. When Jesus said—"The kingdom of heaven is at hand"—did He really mean the kingdom was about to come, over 1900 years ago? Reading from verse 18 helps to explain His meaning—"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he said unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Undoubtedly Jesus was referring to the opportunity for those fishermen to become members of the heavenly kingdom class, and His whole ministry was devoted to this most important work of finding those who were worthy of being invited to share in the kingdom of heaven with Him. To these and other earnest followers Jesus said—"To you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven"—Matt. 13:11; but to the majority who heard Jesus preach, this privilege was not given. As those disciples prayed—"Thy kingdom come"—they did so with much more understanding as they allowed and encouraged the Lord's spirit to bring them into line with this wonderful feature of God's plan—the preparation of the kingdom of heaven class.

The Apostles carried on this great work which Christ began in their hearts as they preached and proclaimed the invitation for the heavenly kingdom. How beautifully the Apostle Paul expressed this matter in Col. 1:12, 13—"Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." What a lovely thought we have there! God has translated true followers into the kingdom of His dear Son; here and now the Lord's dear people who have con-

secrated their lives to God's service are translated in their minds and hearts into the company of their Lord and other members in Christ who are likewise energised—as prospective members of the heavenly phase of the kingdom.

This happy calling of God's people throughout the Gospel Age reminds us of the words of Peter, in 2 Pet. 1:4, where he writes—"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." What a lovely thought—lifted out of the worldly conditions, in heart and mind, an age ahead of the world at large. This happy state reminds us also of the words of Jesus—"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life (in prospect), and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life"—John 5:24. What a wonderful privilege, to be lifted out of death in Adam, into life with Christ, having "passed from death unto life", having "escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust", having been "translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son." This is the privilege of those coming into the kingdom of heaven class. The Lord has set aside the Gospel Age of about two thousand years for the finding of those who are to be associated with Christ in the heavenly kingdom, before this prayer—"Thy kingdom come"—can be fulfilled.

The Apostle Paul's words in Phil. 3:20 agree so fully with the foregoing, as we read—"For our conversation (rather, citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." What a privilege, to be living as citizens of the heavenly kingdom during our pilgrimage on earth! Our hearts, minds and ambitions are centred there during the time of our earthly sojourn, to the intent that our new minds may be fully developed for the heavenly kingdom in the first resurrection. Before the prayer—"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven"—is answered, the kingdom of heaven class, the Bride of Christ, must all be selected and prepared to reign with Christ, to assist in the kingdom work throughout the earth in the wonderful Kingdom Age that will follow this Gospel Age.

The Apostle Paul confirms this thought again when he describes the present condition of the groaning creation and the expectation that will follow, when Christ and His Church is reigning and the prayer is answered—"Thy kingdom come." From Rom. 8:22 and then verses 19-21 we find that Paul saw the same conditions existing in his day, as he knew would be with us today, when he said—"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." Unknowingly, the world

is waiting for the manifestation, the complete revealing, uncovering, of the sons of God to bless all mankind. Not only Christ the Head, but all the associate sons with Him then in the heavenly kingdom are included in this wonderful prophecy from the apostle. He continues in verse 21—"Because the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." When the whole world of mankind are enjoying the liberty of the children of God in the earthly kingdom, the Lord's prayer will be answered to the full.

Another interesting view of Christ's kingdom is revealed by the words of Jesus to the Pharisees when they demanded of Him when the kingdom of heaven would come. In Luke 17:20, 21 we read that the Pharisees asked Jesus, When will this kingdom come that you are preaching about? It seemed ridiculous to them that our Lord should preach a kingdom when He was not a great ruler, and had no army. The verses read—"When he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation (margin, with outward show): neither shall they say, Lo here!, or lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is among you"—margin translation. Here we see our Lord was referring to the time when the kingdom of God would operate in the world, and its rule and authority would be revealed to all, including the Pharisees who would be resurrected and be required to obey the laws of that kingdom if they were to receive its blessings.

A connected reference is also found in Luke 13:28, 29. This was an occasion when the Lord informed the Pharisees that unless they were obedient in the resurrection day they would be "thrust out" of the kingdom. This shows again that the Pharisees will be resurrected and have an opportunity to obey the laws of the kingdom with the Ancient Worthies administering the kingdom on earth. The verses read—"There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God." Those who derided the Lord, when they come up in the resurrection will find the ancient prophets administering the kingdom on the earth. We notice that our Lord did not say, You will see Peter and James and John and the other apostles there. No, He was describing the operation of the earthly phase of the kingdom, and mankind will be as pupils under the worthy instruction of the Ancient Worthies, who in turn will be guided by Christ and His Church from above.

As the time for the setting up of the kingdom approaches, we have Jesus' words of warning

against expecting Him to be seen in the flesh as a man, and His kingdom to be revealed in any one location, in Matt. 24 from verse 23. This is helpful to us because this prophecy of our Lord is having fulfilment in our day. "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not." There may be claims that Christ has returned in Israel, or maybe in Arabia, "in the desert", or in the secret chambers of spiritualists. But our Lord says—"Believe it not." Our Lord will never be manifest as a man again; He is the express image of the Father's person, and no Scriptures say He will be revealed again as a man on earth. In verse 27 of Matt. 24 He tells us how His kingdom will be manifested—"For as the bright shining cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the presence of the Son of man be." That is a helpful picture of the sun, rising in the east and shining even unto the west, to cover the whole world. So our Lord is warning against any expectation of being able to see Him as a man, or locate the kingdom in any one area. The kingdom will be everywhere present throughout the wide world; not one particular location will be favoured, apart from the fact that Jerusalem would seem to be the centre of the earthly kingdom. Everybody, ultimately, shall know the Lord from the least unto the greatest. This will be the time when the Ancient Worthies will be resurrected on earth, and the kingdom of heaven class with their Lord, will assist in reigning from above as the stars of heaven class, of whom Paul said—"If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise"—Gal. 3:29. In Mal. 4:2 we have described the Sun of Righteousness arising with "healing in his wings" picturing the blessings to flow out from the Kingdom of Christ, when the prayer—"Thy kingdom come"—will be fully answered.

But that time is not yet, for before the "Sun of Righteousness arises with healing in his wings" in kingdom blessings, the kingdom of heaven class must be completed, as outlined in Mal. 3:16, 17, which please read. The "making up" of the Lord's "jewels" is most important, in this harvest period of the Gospel Age, being absolutely essential before the kingdom reign begins.

Also before this reign begins, and the prayer—"Thy kingdom come"—is answered by the Lord, must come the passing of "this present evil world" comprising both the symbolic heavens and earth. This part of God's Plan is clearly set forth by the Apostle Paul in Heb. 12 from verse 18, where the apostle compares the establishment of the Law Covenant on Mt. Sinai, with the setting up of the New Covenant with Israel at the end of this Gospel Age. There must have been a tremendous upheaval of nature at the inauguration of the Law Covenant, which prefigured the passing of the present day symbolic heavens and earth, outlined by the apostle from verse 26 of Heb. 12—"Whose voice then shook

the earth (in the time of Moses): but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven (the ecclesiastical heavens). And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken (margin, may be shaken), as of things that are made (man-made), that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." In other words, the good things of earth will not be removed, but will be carried over into the earthly kingdom. "Wherefore we (Christians) receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." We see then that God will not establish His kingdom on man's institutions on earth; He will have a clean foundation upon which to establish His kingdom which will provide real salvation for humanity.

Likewise, we have in Haggai a similar prophecy to that given in Hebrews. Right throughout the Bible we have revealed the complete unity of the plan of God. It is such a beautifully co-ordinated plan from Genesis to Revelation, for the ultimate blessing of all the obedient of all the families of the earth. From Haggai 2:6, 7 we read—"For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come." At present we see all nations at sixes and sevens, so to speak. Even when they meet in the United Nations assemblies, there is no progress because the spirit of Satan hinders them, having permeated the human race to such an extent that all is undertaken through selfishness. But Haggai tells us—"the desire of all nations will come"—for that will be the time for the answering of the prayer—"Thy kingdom come."

In 2 Pet. 3 the Apostle Peter also tells us exactly what Haggai prophesied. Peter was well informed, along with the Apostle Paul, in respect of the happenings in the end of this age, nearly two thousand years from his day. He says in verse 10—"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night"—this will be to the world at large, but not God's people. "In the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise"—that is the ecclesiastical heavens. At this time there is a desire for the amalgamation of the church systems, but the union of churches means they will all go down, "pass away" together. God is calling to Himself those who desire to sincerely serve Him now—"Come out of her my people"—Rev. 18:4. The exhortation is, Don't go down with the church systems into the commotion and distress Peter describes here. "The elements shall melt with fervent heat (the various parties and sects comprising the religious heavens will disintegrate), the earth also (the human order of society) and the works that are therein shall be burned up"—destroyed in

(Continued on page 8.)

## PEOPLES PAPER

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## *The Institute's Work*

**A**NOTHER year's work for the Berean Bible Institute has been completed with the close of April, and we first of all express grateful thanks for the Lord's many blessings received in connection with the efforts to serve His cause of truth again at this time. The co-operation of many of our Australian and overseas brethren has again been most encouraging, and sincere appreciation is expressed to all who have assisted so helpfully. In the Lord's providence our work has extended to some extent throughout the year, and all opportunities for service are esteemed as so many privileges, by the Lord's grace.

As in past years the publication of our bi-monthly "Peoples Paper" continues to provide a helpful contact with many Australian and overseas brethren and friends. Appreciation of the messages in our "Peoples Paper" has again been expressed generally, and this is encouraging. The reprinting of the series of articles on "The Messages to the Churches" by the late Brother Nicholson has now been completed, and these have been especially enjoyed by many of the brethren. Extra copies of these particular "Papers" are being offered to all who can use them to advantage. To other brethren who have contributed to the columns of our "Paper" sincere thanks is expressed again at this time.

Publishing costs have remained stable throughout the year, but postage rates increased again some time ago. The subscription to "Peoples Paper" is still 85c per annum, but as the postage on one or up to three copies of our "Paper" is \$1.20 per annum throughout Australia, and \$1.50 for overseas, the General Tract Fund covers the postage expense, this Fund being supported by many of our brethren. Some subscribers who are able and who realise the high postage rates, cover the postage as well as their subscriptions to the "Paper" and this is much appreciated. The General Tract Fund also covers the deficiency in the publication of the "Peoples Paper", this expense being compensated by the supply of free copies of the "Paper" to many new friends to encourage their interest in the truths of the Bible. Supplies of our "Peoples Paper" and "Voice" tracts are also provided free to the brethren in India from time to time for use in their work in that country. The continued assistance given by some of our Melbourne friends with shorthand and typing of articles

for the "Paper", as well as proof reading and other work in the dispatch of our journal is very helpful, and no doubt is rendered as unto the Lord.

During the year five small booklets have been published and supplied free to all readers with the "Peoples Paper" and these have been especially enjoyed generally; extra copies of these booklets are being offered elsewhere in this issue of our "Paper." Advertising of certain booklets has also continued in popular weekly magazines with some encouraging response from all Australian states and New Zealand. To all these new enquirers the "P. Paper" is supplied free for some months to encourage the interest. Tracts are also available free through the General Tract Fund for wise distribution by all able to engage in this witness work.

The broadcasts through 3GL Geelong have continued for most of the year on Sunday mornings with encouraging results, but commencing with April, the management of 3GL transferred all Sunday morning religious broadcasts to Sunday evening, and our session was allotted the late time of 10.55 p.m. However, more recently, there are favourable indications that we shall receive an earlier time on Sunday evenings, when most of our wide circle of listeners should be able to hear the messages as formerly. We are thankful to the Lord for the privilege of proclaiming His message of truth over the radio on Sunday mornings since 1943, and we continue to ask His blessing on any new time granted, in the interest of His cause. The effort with the broadcasts over 6AM Northam in Western Australia for some months was not successful, so was discontinued, the few responding friends in that area being supplied with literature. All who respond to the radio witness are supplied with free copies of the "Peoples Paper" for some months, and lectures held in Melbourne are also advertised over the air from time to time, in the service of the Lord.

In the General Tract Fund and Radio Fund balance sheets the financial position of the work of the Institute is revealed. In the Lord's providence, the voluntary contributions of our brethren and friends have enabled an increase in the work to be undertaken over the year past. To all who have gladly sacrificed earthly good things to assist the efforts so well, sincere thanks is expressed, realising that all has been rendered as to the Lord, in the service of His truth in which they also rejoice. World conditions continue to deteriorate from the human standpoint, but all things coming to pass throughout the world clearly indicate the fulfilment of Bible prophecy and the nearness of the Kingdom for which the Lord asked His true people to pray. The Lord's timetable for the passing of the present world order to make way for His Kingdom must be the best, and

in the meantime we are privileged to serve His cause to the best of our ability, by His grace. The prayers of all our dear friends are requested that the Lord's blessing and guidance may be upon the efforts, that sincere faith and humility may be exercised in all our privileges of service for our Lord and His cause.

### General Tract Fund

To Credit Balance 1/5/78	\$877.37
.. Donations	5,800.78
	<b>\$6,678.15</b>
By Free Tracts and Deficiency "Peoples Paper"	\$721.48
.. Advertising "New Idea" magazine	1,064.00
.. Advertising "Woman's Day" magazine	480.00
.. Free booklets with "Peoples Paper"	1,155.60
.. General Expenses (Office, 'Phone, etc.)	733.11
.. Postage	1,121.06
.. Assistance in the work	471.00
.. Assistance to brethren	133.65
.. Service to brethren	123.00
.. Credit Balance 1/5/79	675.25
	<b>\$6,678.15</b>

### Radio Fund

To Credit Balance 1/5/78	\$535.32
.. Donations	3,704.85
	<b>\$4,240.17</b>
By Radio Station 3GL	\$1,567.80
.. Radio Station 6AM	900.00
.. Advertising "Age Green Guide"	1,079.52
.. Advertising "Listener-In"	282.40
.. Printing Dialogues, Stencils, etc.	28.00
.. Travel and Sundries	85.00
.. Bank Charges	31.95
.. Credit Balance 1/5/79	265.50
	<b>\$4,240.17</b>

## Memorial Observances

### Melbourne

THE brethren in Melbourne observed the Memorial of our Lord's death again this year, thus signifying the privilege we enjoy in being invited into God's family through consecration, after acknowledging our Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour from sin and death. The favor of being called to walk in the steps of our Master throughout the earthly sojourn is also deeply impressed by this annual observance, the spirit of which is renewed daily in the Christian way.

Previous studies in Mark 14:1-26 provided very helpful preparation of our hearts and minds as we came to the observance. The lovely incident of Mary's manifestation of her love and devotion to Jesus impressed us greatly again, as well as all the details leading up to the institution of the Memorial on the last night of our Lord's earthly life.

Suitable hymns were sung, prayers of thankfulness to God were offered for the gift of His dear Son and on behalf of all His dear people in every place. A helpful address also refreshed

our minds on each aspect of the Memorial, and the partaking of the emblems in spirit and in truth gave us encouragement as we rejoiced in our Saviour's victory over all His sufferings and death. This we realised was possible for Him by the same holy spirit from our Heavenly Father by which we are now also privileged to be kept in His love and care all along the remainder of the pilgrim way.

### Geelong

The Memorial observance was held again this year even though numbers are much depleted. The world looks on and counts it all a lost cause, even as with the Saviour—"He saved others but he cannot save himself." In knowledge of the truth we can still lift up our heads in the hope of our calling. Maybe in the situations of the hour our remembrances at this season are the more vivid. Four Scripture readings and a brief address preceded the reverential partaking of the emblems.

### Adelaide

In Adelaide, the anniversary of our Saviour's death was observed with the remembrances He provided. We are thankful for the emblems from His last Passover of which we partake as a Memorial of His great sacrifice.

During the pre-memorial season, we studied the 53rd chapter of Isaiah, feeling for our dear Redeemer, but rejoicing in God's Plan and yet another proof of it contained in the declaration of method and purpose, hundreds of years before the event. Whilst we deplore our own contribution to the sin He carried to the cross, we must be glad that He was faithful, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Reminders of the extremity of His sufferings, all the way from Jordan to Calvary, must be seen also to impress just how awful sin is. It was only sin that made His pain necessary. Despite the horror on which we ponder at Memorial time, indeed because of it, we must the more learn from God's permission of evil and our Lord's victory over it, rejoicing in the power of His resurrection and thanking God for His unspeakable Gift.

### Perth

Prior to the Memorial we had two studies in Isaiah 53, focusing our attention on our Lord Jesus who died as a lamb led to the slaughter—a willing sacrifice.

At our Service it was a time for deep reflection on the great Gift from heaven—that God would provide His Son, and that the Son would "for the joy set before him, endure the cross, and despise the shame" in giving His flesh for the life of the world.

In solemnity the story of our Lord's life and betrayal was told, recalling the Last Supper where our Lord instituted the Memorial of His death, using the bread and wine as symbols of His flesh and blood, inviting the disciples, and

in course of time all consecrated followers, to partake of the emblems. Gladly we appreciated and commemorated His death on our behalf. As we appropriate our Lord's merit we realise that He has invited us to follow Him in sacrifice and become accepted in the Beloved. How circumspect then must we be to be found worthy followers of the Lamb.

### Sydney

We are very glad to inform you that again this year in Sydney we remembered and took the Memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ, in partaking of the bread and the wine. The Service was very much blessed with John 3:16, after this we went over Exodus 12, and noticed that Israel as a type were required to keep the Passover every year, in good times and in bad times, as free people or under another government as slaves. We also went over other Old Testament Scriptures and then came to 1 Cor. 5:7, 8. And so blessed be our God that even in 1979 this remembrance is still obeyed, not with a literal lamb, but with bread and wine as was requested by Christ, for He was the all-time Lamb that got killed for the whole world. Matthew 26:17-30 was our leading Scripture as we ate the bread and drank the wine.

### Brisbane

Thanks to God that everything went according to His will that we celebrated the Memorial of our Lord's death; as in the past, also this year, a small group gathered in our home. We thank God for the privilege of observing this important Memorial, after meditating upon all that is outlined in the Scriptures. After partaking of the emblems we sang the hymn 148 B.S. Hymnal, and parted with the Lord's spirit in our hearts.

### Nambour

In compliance with our Master's wishes—"Do this in remembrance of me"—we met together again this year. Helpful studies were taken in Luke 22:7-20 and 1 Cor. 11:23-31. Our thoughts went back to that evening so long ago in the Upper Room, with our Master and His apostles partaking of the Jewish Passover for the last time. Our Lord then introduced the Memorial of His death and used the symbols of bread and wine to picture His broken body and shed blood given to redeem us and all mankind.

We felt very humble knowing how unworthy we were, realising that only through the merit of our Saviour do we have any standing at all. We remembered in prayer all those who love the Lord and are walking in the narrow way. We partook of the emblems in a solemn manner, realising what a privilege it is to sacrifice our lives for Christ's sake, and to have an opportunity in the next age to assist in bringing God's glorious plan for all the human family to fulfilment.

### Toowoomba

The Toowoomba friends appreciated the privilege to commemorate the Memorial of our Lord's death in remembrance of Him and all that He did for us. A number of Scriptures, such as Isa. 53:5; Rom: 5:1, 2, 12, 18, 19 and 1 Cor. 15:20-22 were considered and impressed the favor we enjoy in being invited into God's family, to walk in the steps of our Master. The partaking of the emblems signified our desire to be faithful to the heavenly calling.

## Convention News

THE three days of the Christian Convention, held in Adelaide over the weekend of Easter 1979, proved to be the time of blessing and refreshing for which we prayed and we are thankful. Our thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for His love and all the good things we receive at His hands is only increased by the knowledge that these joys are by no means exceptional. Experience in similar gatherings of His people has led to the belief that He delights to pour blessings from His abundant storehouse.

Essential to the success of the Convention was the goodly number of brothers and sisters from Victoria. Adelaide has come to depend on this support and appreciates the love which comes with it. One brother made the journey from Melbourne just to share the final day with us.

This is the second year in succession in which we have had the additional pleasure of three visitors from Western Australia. Attendance involved them in a return motor journey of more than 3,400 miles. One of our W.A. guests this year, last attended an Adelaide Convention 34 years ago. Naturally we rejoiced in much fellowship outside the Convention program.

Considerable spiritual profit came from twelve addresses. No doubt the greatest profit from each address went to the brother who studied the Scriptures sufficiently to extract and make presentable the worthwhile content. Each would regard this as joyful service to the Lord and our prayer is that the messages and intent and effort are all acceptable in His sight as well as beneficial to the hearers. Nevertheless, it is fitting to mention that those who profit by hearing do realise the work involved in preparation and appreciate the effort as unto the Lord.

Sessions when all present could actively participate in the Convention were interspersed through the program so that no more than two addresses came together. These consisted of two Bible studies, two occasions for messages, praise and testimony and a time for "Hymns We Love and Why." Although lighter and requiring less concentration, the hymn session was particularly uplifting as the assembly sang extracts from some of the many meaningful

hymns and considered the importance it holds for the one requesting it.

The first Bible study was on Good Friday. The passage was 1 John 4:11-19. It is well known and loved. Its beauty is equalled by its importance, both to our knowledge and to our guidance. Probably there is no fact more important to the Church or to the world than the predominant feature of God's character being love. As for guidance, our Lord gave such weight to the commandments to love that He said "on these . . . hang all the law and the prophets."

On Easter Saturday, we studied Isaiah 61:1-3. Our Lord, Himself fulfilled this prophecy as shown in Luke 4:21. We discussed other applications and other times but the direct answer is so prominent that others become insignificant. However the passage does give a broad cover of our Redeemer's role and mission and virtually opens a vehicle for discussion on most aspects of God's plan. While churches in general regard their mission to be a gospel message or Isaiah's "good tidings", the truth has much greater claim to the description "good news."

All participants contributed love and effort to the extent that a real movement of love was experienced. This even extended to visitors caring for the needs of "hosts." Although this is as unto the Lord, an appreciation in this report is appropriate. We do thank our Heavenly Father for the privilege of knowing each body member, the love and care received at their hands, the examples and lessons we receive from each other and for family benefits generally. We also give thanks for His journeying mercies in that all who travelled so far to be at the Convention returned home safely.

The assembled brethren sent a message of warm Christian love, coupled with the Scripture 1 John 4:16-19 to all who remembered the gatherings before the Throne of Grace, to all who sent messages of encouragement and to those in every place who love the Lord Jesus Christ.

As with all our Conventions, the culmination was the Love Feast including the hymn commencing—"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."

Surely the tie is the family tie or kinship coming from the common begetting again from above. The spirit of this verse was felt throughout the Convention and reminds us of 1 John 1:3, 7.

### Nambour Convention

The Nambour Convention is to be held (D.V.) on 28th and 29th July, in the Staff Room, State School, Coronation Drive, Nambour, to which interested friends are invited. Further information from—Mr. G. Tosh, M.S. 58, Paynters Creek Road, Nambour, Queensland, 4560.

## Pilgrimage Ended

THE following is to hand from Perth respecting the passing of one of our dear friends. On April 28th last our dear Sister Bateson of Perth finished the pilgrim way after having accepted the truth, along with her mother and two sisters, around the year 1922 and onwards. Becoming paralysed down one side over three years ago Sister Bateson was entirely dependent upon others attending her. She was patient through this long period of immobility. Fortunately she had a good husband, for Brother Bateson practically attended to all her needs when placed in hospital. The nurses allowed Brother Bateson to attend to her all day, and he is highly commended for his love and patience. He was able to comfort her mentally and spiritually, and literally laid down his life for her, being able to do so much more for her than an overtaxed nursing staff.

Sister Bateson was regarded by us in Perth as a very fine Bible student, especially in the understanding of "Tabernacle Shadows." She held firm to present truth respecting our Lord's presence and the nearness of the full setting up of Christ's Kingdom. She died full of faith and anticipated meeting her Lord and Saviour and seeing Him "as he is", in His Kingdom glory and power.

Our kind sympathy goes out to Brother Bateson, her son and family; her Sister in the Lord and family, and numerous relations as well as the members of the Bateson family who also rejoice in the Lord and His truth. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

## Extracts from Correspondence

Dear Friends—Thank you so much for the fine literature you have sent me. I don't have much time for writing, but I've just read "Knowing God" and I think that book is the best one I've ever laid my hands on. It is ideal to hand to unbelievers to show them all they need to know, and to believers so that they can have things straight for telling others. Will you please say a prayer for me to the effect that such as I've read will be forcibly brought home to me . . . I cannot remember if I've sent a subscription to renew the "Peoples Paper"; if not, will you please take for this from the cheque enclosed. If supplies are such that you can let me have 12 copies of "Knowing God", will you please send them to me as soon as possible, as I want to send a copy to several of my relations who live in England and elsewhere overseas.

Thank you very much in anticipation for this service. May God bless you and your ministry. What money is left over please use to carry on your good work. Yours sincerely, a brother, praise the Lord, in Christ.

Dear Frank and Ernest—I would like to express a few thoughts regarding the deleting on Sunday mornings of your fine Radio Session which was a highlight, and looked forward to with great anticipation by many people, and is now a tremendous loss.

This Session was the means of bringing me into the marvellous light of the Gospel teaching, and I deplore the fact that now, at the late hour it is broadcast, some-

one may be denied this great blessing. 3GL Geelong had the unique honour of being the only Radio Station to give time on Sunday mornings for something that could give us hope for better times to come, in a world that is in chaos, and this has always been supplied in the Frank and Ernest programs.

I hope and pray that 3GL may soon see fit to arrange an earlier time, so that you may have the opportunity of sending out the message of Divine Love to the people who wait for it. From a grateful listener.

Berean Bible Institute, Dear Brethren—Many thanks for so faithfully sending me the "Peoples Paper" which gives me great joy and help. What a great blessing is the booklet—"The Lord is My Shepherd." Could you please let me have another 3 copies as I would like to spread the comfort and love in this Psalm. Enclosed please find cheque. Your sister in the Lord.

Dear Friend—Thank you very much for the "Peoples Paper" and booklet "Knowing God" I received a few days ago . . . It was a pleasure and privilege to be able to share the Sunday Bible Studies and lectures with you all; it has helped me understand the Bible more; thank you. Find enclosed small donation towards the Lord's work. I'm sure you all had a happy time together, and were richly blessed when you attended the Convention in Adelaide over the Easter. Kind regards to you and may God richly bless your efforts for His glory.

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the strife and friction caused by increasing knowledge, combined with selfishness.

Verses 11 to 13 of 2 Pet. 3 are most important—"Seeing then that all these (earthly) things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conduct and godliness." What an exhortation this is for God's people! How shall we order our lives in view of Peter's sure prediction—"wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat"? "Nevertheless we (Christians), according to his (God's) promise, look for new heavens (Christ and His Church) and a new earth (new earthly society administered by the Ancient Worthies) wherein dwelleth righteousness."

The Psalmist was also used of God to outline world conditions as we have them today, and to indicate the glorious outcome when the Lord's prayer will be answered—"Thy kingdom come." In Psa. 46, the writer, speaking for God's people, declares—"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth (the present organization of society) be removed (disorganized and overthrown), and though the mountains (kingdoms) be carried into the midst of the sea (swept into the lawless, ungovernable masses of humanity); though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof"—verses 1-3. In verse 6 the Psalmist continues with symbolic language—"The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted." How like the Apostle Peter's description of the passing of this "present evil world." Then from verse 9—"He maketh wars to cease unto the end

of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord will speak peace to the raging masses of humanity. This was well illustrated when Jesus was on the Sea of Galilee and a storm arose while He was asleep. The disciples, experienced fishermen, were terrified, and they awake him, saying—"Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm . . . And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him"?—Mark 4:37-41.

Isaiah 25:6-9 helps us also in regard to this wonderful time when the prayer—"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven"—will be answered to the satisfaction of all mankind. The prophecy reads—"In this mountain (kingdom) shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things . . . And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." When we read and meditate upon prophecies like this, surely there can be no doubt in our minds that our loving Heavenly Father will answer to the full the prayer our dear Lord asked His true people to offer day by day, the fulfilment of which will be to God's praise and honor for all time. "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea"—Hab. 2:14.

### "Times of Refreshing and Christ's Return"

A booklet bearing the above title has been printed, and a copy is being supplied to all friends receiving this issue of "Peoples Paper." Extra copies are available supplied through the General Tract Fund to all who can use them to advantage.

### Free Booklets and "Peoples Papers"

Further supplies of the free booklets are available to all who desire to distribute these to interested friends. Please state the number that can be used to advantage of the following—"The Greatest of These is Love"; "Where are the Dead?"; "Earth's New Ruler—Humanity's Only Hope"; "The Lord is My Shepherd"; "Knowing God"; "Times of Refreshing and Christ's Return."

Also copies of the series of "Peoples Papers" with the "Messages to the Churches" are available free for appropriate distribution, where good may be done.