

Scripture Standard

Pleading for a complete return to Christianity as it was in the beginning.

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Shall He Find Faith ?

JESUS had just told how a widow by her importunity compelled a judge who 'feared not God neither regarded man' to grant her request, and applying this, He asked: 'And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?' (Luke xviii. 1-8.)

God's elect are those in Christ. Of such Peter wrote, 'Ye are a chosen generation,' 'an elect, race.' We are not chosen to believe and obey the gospel, but all who believe and obey the gospel are God's elect, chosen ones.

Paul threw out the challenge: 'Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.' If hard unjust men are compelled by importunity to grant justice, 'shall God's chosen flock despair, shall they mistrust their Shepherd's care?'

Yet though we have the strongest ground for believing that God will vindicate our cause, 'When the Son of Man cometh shall he find faith on the earth?'

About the certainty of the Lord's coming again no believer in Him and His Word can have any doubt. He said: 'I will come again, and receive you unto myself.' 'The Son of Man shall come in the glory of his Father, with his angels, and then he shall reward every man according to his works.'

Passages could be multiplied, but as Alexander Maclaren well said: 'We shall not understand Scripture unless we seek to make as prominent in our thoughts as on its pages that second coming as the complement and necessary Issue of the first. It stands stamped on every page. It colours all the New Testament views of life. It is used as a motive for every duty, and as a magnet to draw men to Jesus by salutary dread.'

And Jesus was not, as some claim, mistaken as to the time of His coming again. Strange that those who profess to believe that Jesus was 'the true and only revealer of the Father, and very God,' can yet believe that He was ignorant and capable of making mistakes!

Much has been built upon the Lord's statement: 'This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.' **Authorities assure us that that word**

'generation' means race or nation; and a similar word to that translated 'be fulfilled' in Matthew xxiv. 34 is, in Luke xxi. 28, rendered, 'begin to come to pass.' Ellicott, no mean authority (we quote from memory), says: 'The word does not necessarily mean more than the first unrolling of the scroll of coming events.' Anyway that 'generation' witnessed the beginning in the destruction of Jerusalem; and that race (nation) will witness the closing scenes. 'Behold, he cometh with clouds: and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.'

His coming will be sudden, startling; coming like a falling trap upon them that dwell on earth; but when He cometh 'shall he find faith on the earth?'

It is quite true that Jesus was no pessimist, He had a wide outlook; and even with Calvary near, He saw that cross of shame transformed into a centre of attraction. 'I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me.' So that Cross has proved the most powerful of all magnets, drawing people of every kindred, tongue, and clime unto Him. But when He spoke of the days immediately preceding His coming again, He said: 'As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man.'

To-day, as in Noah's day, people are increasingly absorbed in material interests and pursuits, and have neither thought nor time for the spiritual and eternal.

We are not pessimistic, we believe there is more power in the gospel of Christ than any have found out yet; and for nineteen centuries it has transformed myriads of lives; but the picture given by Jesus of the days before His coming is of a wicked, apostate world, in the midst of which the faith of His own people has almost failed.

We have no sympathy with those who deal in 'times and seasons which the Father hath put in his own power'; but the 'signs of the times' should arouse us to watchfulness. We need, in these days, strong faith in the Lord and His Word.

A faith that shines more bright and clear When tempests rage without

That when in danger knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt.'

The margin of the Revised Version of Luke xviii. 8, gives the faith, 'Shall he find the faith on the earth?'

We are living in days of dire apostacy, when -men are giving away with both hands what their fathers prized and sacrificed so much for. Things are said land done which our fathers would have resisted unto blood; and many silently acquiesce, and their silence is claimed as approval. 'When the Son of Man cometh shall he find the faith on the earth?' Prom heaven the Lord cries: 'Hold fast till I come.' Shall we answer: 'By Thy grace we' will'? The Lord help us so to act that we may be able to say with that noble warrior, Paul, 'I have kept the faith.'

EDITOR.

All speak the same things.

HOW delightful to see the wolf lying down with the lamb, -feeding on grass instead of mutton! Yes, but this wolf had its appetite and teeth converted. Instead of destroying, he used his greater size to defend the lamb. To-day, liberal thought says: 'Let all who profess and call themselves Christians make common cause and present a united front.' That is, let the wolves, lions, and bears, together with the Christians, unite and present to the world one party, whilst all the contrasting parties have their peculiar natures. How long Christians can continue in the midst of such wild animals without being devoured or torn to pieces remains to be seen..

Is such a union possible or desirable? It is proposed that each contracting party to the association shall recognise all other parties as the 'Cause of God.' No attempt is made to show that such an amalgamation is in accord with the 'law of Christ.' The truth that the 'Christ is head over all things to his assembly' is carefully overlooked. Where such an association is formed, will the world be so blind as not to see the great gulfs separating the different parties? Look at some of the differences:—

Priests bless pieces of bread and call, them 'Christ' and 'God,' and worship them.

Water is dropped on to a babe's forehead and he is then declared to be a child of God.

Christians worship the living God as He appointed in the New Testament. History proves that the union of godly and ungodly people produces total ungodliness. Should Christians have a warm place in their hearts for the anti-Christian christening? Christ's people

should 'come out from among them and be separate,' and 'have"no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather even reprove them.'

One of the earliest departures from Christ's way of life was 'another gospel.' Differences from Christ's way may be in the facts, commands, and promises. The first departure was in the commands and promises (see Acts and Galatians), and its teachers were declared to be 'accursed.' If Christians Join with the 'Achans' (see Joshua) and experience defeat and humiliation in the 'holy, war,' it will be a saddening experience. How many are dragged down from their high estate by the apostacy of these!

Where are the great men to-day, who like Elijah, and David's great men, before a cloud of witnesses, stood alone, with no one but God, and were successful? The Saviour's voice 'like many waters' (Revelation) should silence all opponents, for He is our God and Saviour, and to Him is the glory. 'He' that does his will, will remain for ever.' Let us all speak the facts, commands, and promises of Jesus Christ and His apostles, and declare to all sectarians that Christ demands their unconditional surrender to Him on the terms of the new covenant. W. H. CUMMINS,



Young Folk's Corner.

MONTH'S MOTTOs

'FEAR God and keep His commandments.'

FEAR GOD

THERE was a time when Roman emperors threatened with torture and death all Christians who would not give up their faith in the Saviour. One such had before him a Christian named Ghrystom. 'Remain a Christian,' said the emperor, 'and I will banish thee.' 'Thou canst not,' replied Chrystom, 'for the world is my Father's house. Thou canst not banish me.' 'But I will slay thee,' said the emperor. 'Nay, but thou canst not,' said the brave Christian 'for my life is hid with Christ in God.' 'Then I will take away thy treasures,' the emperor threatened. 'Nay, but thou canst not, for I have none that thou knowest of. My treasure is in heaven, and my heart is there.' 'But I will drive thee away from men, and thou shalt have no friend left,' said the emperor. 'Nay, but thou canst **not** do that,' answered the

noble Christian once more, 'for I have a friend in heaven from whom thou canst not separate me. I defy thee. There is nothing thou canst do to hurt me.'

Chrysostom was a truly noble man, a hero indeed, a fearless Christian; He did not fear any man, but he did fear God.

Jesus has said: 'I will tell you whom you shall fear—fear God.' Now that does not mean that we should be afraid of God for He is our loving heavenly Father. It does mean, that because we respect and love Him, we should strive never to offend His love. Then let us seek ever to do God's will, trusting Him fully, and we need not fear what any man may do to us.

ANSWERS

1. I, my, hell, prevail.
2. Lord, church, saved,
3. Christ.
4. God, purchased, blood.
5. Head, church, Saviour, body.
6. Church, himself.

MISSING WORDS

Read the chapter indicated and supply the missing words in these Scriptures:—
1. 'He that believeth and is....shall be_____' (Mark xvi.)

2. 'Go ye therefore and . . . all nations, _____them in the'....of the. Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' (Matthew xxvii.)

3. 'Except a man be born of—and of the_____he cannot enter the—of....' (John iii.)

4. John also was—in—near to Salim, because there was....water there.' (John iii.)

5. 'Many of the Corinthians hearing _____and were_____' (Acts xviii.).

Bible study and discussion meeting was held, giving every member ample opportunity for investigation. A good deal of visiting, in which we were assisted by an elder, and tract distribution, with the assistance of Bro. A. H. Odd, was done. Six decided for the Lord, and two were restored to fellowship. One of those baptised was a member of the Church of Scotland and another was a Swiss woman working in this country. The activities of the training class continued during this period, from which speakers served the district Churches, and open-air meetings were held.

During this period, I served with the Church at Pittenweem each Friday; and Thursday evenings were given to Coal town.

The Church at Rose Street supported me whole-heartedly. I do not know of any Oversight more co-operative than that of the Church there., There is a very promising field in Fife.

A few suggestions: We have greatly neglected visiting. Open-air meetings are unknown in the majority of Churches. We ought to do more in teaching children on week-nights.

At Rose Street we held a Parents' Night, some seventy to eighty fathers and mothers attended, and utilising the children, we let them see what we teach the young.

We are not praying enough. In Rose Street we began the Lord's Day with a time set apart wholly for prayer. Our endeavours were blessed as a result.

The past five months have been a period of hard labour, in which we have proved that in the Churches there is very strong sympathy with our endeavours to remain loyal to the teaching of the Lord. Victories have been granted to us, and if we remain faithful to Him we shay win greater victories in the cause of truth.

A. E. WINSTANLEY. .

Bro. Winstanley's Report

(Considerably Abridged)

To Conference ' at Fleetwood, on
September 9th, 1944.

FROM the Morley Conference, I returned to Fife, and served the Church at Rose Street, Kirkcaldy, until the second Lord's Day in August. When a Church sets itself to do the Lord's work commendable results are obtained. There was increased attendance at the Breaking of the Bread.

There is an unfortunate custom in parts of Scotland of suspending gospel meetings during the summer months. Gospel meetings have been held right through the summer, and were extremely well attended. Wednesday meetings, for boys and girls, had a good average attendance; and following that meeting a

COMING EVENTS

Slamannan District.—A Conference of Sunday School teachers, and others interested in that department, will be held (D.V.) on Saturday November 4th, in the Meeting-place, Gideon Street, Bathgate, at five o'clock. The meeting will be presided over by Sister' Christine Whyte. Bro. Andrew Gardiner will give the conference address on 'How to raise and sustain' a Sunday School,' followed by questions and discussion. All members of Churches are invited to be present.

J. NEILSON, Secretary.

WANTED

INTERLINEAR Greek and English New Testament. Price, etc., to Editor 'S.S.'

Correspondence.

Blackburn, Hamilton Street. — Dear Editor,—On September 24th, 1944, the above Church decided by a large majority to withdraw immediately from the official Co-operation, for the following reasons:—

1. The countenancing of the spurious higher critical teaching of various evangelists and the 'Christian Advocate.'
2. The tendency to modernise the Churches.
3. The commercialising of the Co-operation.
4. The federation with sectarian bodies.

H. WILSON, Secretary.

News

SLAMANNAN DISTRICT

ON Saturday, September 8th, one hundred and thirty responded to an invitation to join in a social capacity on the occasion of Bro. Crosthwaite leaving the district to take up work under the Old Path's Committee. The social was presided over by Bro. James Wardrop (Motherwell), who mentioned that since our last gathering at Blackridge, a month ago, the Church had lost one of its well-known members, and requested Bro. Crosthwaite to say a word.

Bro. Crosthwaite said that Sister Murray was a real Christian lady. She was a most liberal and generous supporter of every good cause, and her passing away left a big gap in the Blackridge Church. As a token of respect the company then rose to their feet:

Bro. Wardrop said: 'It was over twenty years since Bro. Crosthwaite came into our district to labour amongst the Churches. He was received with open arms and warm hearts. We realised that we were getting one who had been tested; one whose work had been successful. We knew that he was a gifted preacher of the gospel, and that he was able to defend the truths contained in God's Word. He has laboured for over twenty years, and we are all very much attached to him, and rejoice in the work he has done in our midst. He has always been ready to proclaim the truth as it is in Jesus, and never refused to do work for his Master that was necessary. He is going back to his native district, Tilverton, but, even when he goes to England, that does not mean separation from us altogether, because while he has been in this district he has gone to his homeland, and so while he is with the Old Path's Committee we can request his labours in our midst.'

Bro. Wardrop said he was very pleased to see Sister Crosthwaite present on this

occasion. Sister Crosthwaite had always taken a deep interest in the work her husband was doing for the Lord. He mentioned the many happy and pleasant times he had spent at the home of Bro. and Sister Crosthwaite, and hoped that they would be abundantly blessed, and spared to accomplish great things for the Lord.

Bro. John Sneddon (Motherwell) said that like many others, he thought Bro. Crosthwaite would finish his days in Slamannan District, but Bro. Crosthwaite thinks that he will serve the cause perhaps better where he is going—and that is why he is leaving us. But we will always be thinking of him as one of our own. Bro. Sneddon spoke of the unity that existed in the Churches in the district and the fellowship with one another. He exhorted the brethren to follow Bro. Crosthwaite's example, and read more of the Bible. He was very proud to be with him on every kind of occasion, and had never heard him say anything out of place in any way. He looked upon Bro. Crosthwaite as a giant in the faith.

Bro. Jess (Pennyvenie), on behalf of the young men of the district, said that it was only something like nine years since he made the acquaintance of Bro. Crosthwaite. 'Slamannan District had turned out some giants in the faith, and some would look back over these last twenty years and say a giant existed then.' As young men, they sometimes looked at every book but the Bible for guidance, but when Bro. Crosthwaite came into their midst they improved in knowledge, in the presence of one who was both teacher and friend. They were taken to Bible classes, mutual improvement classes, to the open air, and helped to speak at the Lord's Day morning meetings by one who was their brother. No matter how many meetings were pushed on Bro. Crosthwaite, he never once made a refusal, because the work was the Lord's. The young men could best reward Bro. Crosthwaite by flourishing in the work and in the cause that Bro. Crosthwaite himself holds so dear.

Bro. McDonald (Dewsbury) said that he was present in a dual capacity. First, to say a word, concerning Bro. Crosthwaite; and secondly as a representative of the Committee that were taking him away. It was in 1916 that he first saw Bro. Crosthwaite, in Motherwell. He both saw him and heard him on that occasion, but did not speak to him. However, he gave him a good deal to think about. It was in 1916 that they were together again in Yorkshire. They became firm friends, and that association has never lessened during the many years that have followed. Bro. McDonald went on to say that there were many who desired the services of Bro. Crosthwaite. Some in Yorkshire would wish him back. They recall many happy times spent with him in the

Master's service. But Bro. Crosthwaite goes back to his native district. 'That district,' he said, 'needs Bro. Crosthwaite's presence and help. It was a district that at one time was really rich, but of late years it has gone down, all through false teaching; and there are brethren who desire to make a last effort to rally the Churches back to the old standard.' The reason why this step has been taken now is that there are so many young men desirous of receiving help, that it is, utterly impossible for Bro. Crosthwaite to labour in Slamanan District and give the help they need, and it is hoped that before long there will be a band of enthusiastic young men seeking to restore the standards that have fallen before our eyes. They will also be equipped and trained to be more efficient in their own Churches. Had the Churches been educated and built upon New Testament lines, there would have been no need for an Old Path's Committee. 'Our desire,' he said, 'is to build up the Churches according to the divine pattern.'

Bro. W. Wilson (Tranent) said that it was sometime in 1935 that Bro. Crosthwaite came into their midst as an evangelist. From the very first he endeared himself to all of them. They put him down as being a stalwart in the faith. Bro. Wilson spoke of the way in which Bro. Crosthwaite knew his Bible—practically off by heart—and went on to say that we were here to-day in order to tell him how much we have appreciated his services. We recognise that we have had a man in our district hard to surpass. He has not only been a proclaimer of the gospel, he was also a defender, and so we have been at ease with Bro. Crosthwaite as our evangelist. He reminded us that Bro. Crosthwaite's thoughts will be with the Churches after he has gone from this district, and his desire will be that we shall remain true to the old paths, and walk therein. Bro. Wilson referred to the changes that take place in a lifetime, but there is One who changes not—'Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever'; and although we may be separated from our Brother Crosthwaite we realise that Jesus shall be with us wherever we are. In conclusion he wished Bro. and Sister Crosthwaite the very best of everything, and hoped that they would be long spared to carry out the great work that lies so dear to their hearts.

Bro. D. Dougall (Wallacestone), representing the mutual improvement class, held at Bathgate, said that they would all have many happy recollections of the pleasant times spent with Bro. Crosthwaite at this class. He gave a short exhortation, based on the words of Jesus: 'I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.' We should at all times seek to glorify God. It should be our life's work. Far too often we ourselves

look for the praise and glory, instead of seeking to give it to God. Our brother, speaking of the mutual improvement class, remarked that the object of the class was to equip young men for the work of the Church when the older brethren were not able to carry on, and he was very pleased to say that this object was being accomplished. Young men who never took any part in gospel work are now taking part in reading, praying, and speaking at gospel meetings. All thanks are due to Bro. Crosthwaite for the marvellous work he has done, and the encouragement he has given. And on behalf of the class our brother hoped that Bro. and Sister Crosthwaite would be long spared, and be able to say: 'I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.'

Bro. Anderson said he had been asked on behalf of the Churches of the district to make the presentation. 'We do not get very far away from two things on this occasion,' he said, 'there is the looking back over the twenty years; years of devoted labour—and then there is the looking forward to the years to come, and our desire to express our best wishes concerning that.' The district is a very scattered one. Therefore, there has been a considerable amount of labour entailed in travelling on the part of the evangelist. He remarked, that when Bro. Crosthwaite came into the district he was in the forefront of speakers then. He had power and ability, a freshness and impressiveness that carried his audience with him. Bro. Anderson said that Bro. Crosthwaite always knew what he was going to say, and said it, and therefore we feel that we have been very exceptionally blessed in having obtained the same high level over such a long period. All Bro. Crosthwaite's addresses were arranged and prepared carefully, and delivered in language that was unblemished. We wish to convey our blessings to him and present him with a tangible gift, which is not more valuable than the good wishes given with it. The gift being in the form of money, Sister Crosthwaite will come in for an equal share. 'Our desire is,' said Bro. Anderson, 'that God may abundantly bless them, and may they long remember that we are thus thankful for those twenty years of strenuous effort. We hope they may live long to enjoy God's blessings.'

Bro. Crosthwaite, in replying, said: Five months ago he stood on the same platform, and felt a real happy and proud man. We were doing something in appreciation of Bro. Wardrop's work in the district. On that occasion he felt proud of the district, and little thought that he would be the next 'victim' of their generosity. He appreciated very much the thought and kindness which prompted the presentation, but as everyone knew, he would rather that it had been

left out. Bro. Crosthwaite assured the brethren that it had been no easy-matter for him to come to the decision he had come to. Our brother gave a few personal remarks. He joined the Church in 1891, and in June of the same year gave his first address. He had delivered twelve thousand five hundred addresses, which works out at five per week over the whole period. Bro. Crosthwaite said that he would still help the Churches in the district as far as was in his power. The Churches, he pointed out, had held their own numerically, and had held to the old faith. On behalf of Sister Crosthwaite and himself he wished to say how thankful they were for all the support given during these many years. 'We are grateful to you,' he said, 'but more grateful to God.' In conclusion, Bro. Crosthwaite said that he was looking forward with great hope to the future of Slamannan District, and hoped all would be abundantly blessed.

Bro. Wardrop intimated that Bro. Frith, from Fleetwood, had come a long way to be present with us. He is known for the work he is doing for the 'Scripture Standard.'

Bro. Frith said that he was due for a week-end break after a strenuous season, and thought that he would like to be present at this gathering. He mentioned that part of his business is dispensing medicine, and generally it has to be bad and bitter to do good. So if it is a bitter pill for Slamannan District to swallow in the separation from Bro. Crosthwaite, it is going to be for the good of the wider movement. Our brother said that he came in contact with Bro. Crosthwaite in 1918, and was at that time associated with the Methodist movement. Bro. Crosthwaite on that occasion had given him a good deal to think about, and on the following day he handed in his resignation as a Methodist, and had never regretted the step. He owed a great deal to the preaching he heard from Bro. Crosthwaite. Slamannan District, he thought, had a great deal to be thankful for in having had Bro. Crosthwaite all these years, and hoped they would realise that when he goes forward he will be doing something that will go down in the history of the movement. He wished Bro. and Sister Crosthwaite many happy years to come, and years that would see fruitful service in the cause of the kingdom of God.

During the meeting pieces were rendered by the Motherwell and Blackridge choirs. Solos and recitations were also given. Bro. Wardrop expressed thanks to the Blackridge people for the splendid way they had catered under difficult circumstances. The singing of a hymn, and prayer, brought a very pleasant meeting to a close.

DUNCAN STEWART,

N.B.—See Advertisement on back page.

FOURSCORE YEARS

MANY in Britain and other lands will join us in heartfelt congratulations to Bro. James Wardrop on completing eighty years of his pilgrimage. For sixty years he has been a faithful servant and good soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ. All who know of his worth and work will join in praying that heaven's richest blessings may be his in abundant measure, and that his later years may be brightest and best of all. EDITOR.

Birmingham Summer Lane. We rejoice in being able to record another soul won for Jesus Christ. Mrs. D. B. Davis made the good confession after our Gospel meeting and on Thursday evening October 12th was baptised for the remission of her sins. The meeting for this service took place at Great Francis Street Chapel, kindly lent us for the occasion. On Lord's day morning, 16th October she was welcomed into our fellowship.

FRED C. DAY.

Blackburn, Hamilton Street—The Sunday school celebrated its forty-second anniversary on October 8th and 9th. About one hundred and fifty partook of an excellent tea, most of the provisions being given. Balance of collection at tables, five pounds) was given to Dr. Barnardo's Institutions. The social meeting was ably presided over by Bro. I. Simpkin. Bro. F. C. Day was our speaker, and spoke at four services in his own inimitable way. To the Church he gave sound Biblical teaching. He kept the scholars at the school spellbound. At the gospel meeting he spoke with great feeling on the universal love of God. One brother summed up all by saying: 'He has left a song in all our hearts.' We pray that his labours will bear much fruit. We shall long remember the week-end, and Bro. Day's services with gratitude. H. WILSON.

Coaltown, Fife.—The jubilee of the Church was celebrated on Saturday, September 23rd. On September 16th, fifty years ago, Bro. Thomas Harrow, of revered memory, and Bro. Laurie Grinstead, commenced the Church in Coaltown. With the help of speakers in Fife and outside, we have carried on the Lord's work.

Bro. James Birrell presided over the social meeting, and the speakers were Brethren R. Roberts (elder of the Church at Rose Street, Kirkcaldy), David Birrell (our first convert, now an elder of the Dunfermline Church), and Nelson Barr (evangelist with the Church at Sinclairtown).

Over one hundred were present from various Churches, including Coplaw Street, Glasgow, and the meeting was a complete success. How fine it was to contact with devoted and loyal brethren and sisters. We trust they experienced

with us a real time of 'refreshing from the presence of the Lord.'

We take courage, and move forward to another period of service, whether short or long, counting it a great joy to labour with and for Him, who 'called us out of darkness into his marvellous light,' and who said, 'Go work, to-day, 'in my vineyard.'

A. SEATH.

Capetown, Woodstock.—We are glad to report that although amid these days of distress, turmoil, and anxiety, no souls are won for the Lord in our vicinity, we do not become discouraged, but are rather rejoicing for this great and notable fact, that the gospel is still given its free course to be proclaimed. And, furthermore we are convinced that in God's own time and purpose, His word will not return unto Him void, but will accomplish that whereunto it is being distributed in lands both far and wide.

We pray earnestly that men, women and children may give heed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which has been, and always shall be the only light to brighten up their lives.

Our meetings, in general, are fairly well attended. The Bible school is also progressing, by the grace of God, and assistance of those, concerned in its welfare.

We pray and hope that God's people everywhere, who appreciate their Creator and His Word, may see their obligation and the need for its proclamation, always bearing in mind that Christ is coming, and that we are taught to hasten the day. Even if it be in united prayers, let us do it brethren.

T. HARTLE.

Croswell.—It is with gratitude to our heavenly Father that we report an addition to the 'little flock' here, by name, John Morris, who has' for some years been an able outdoor speaker, and an immersed believer. We are sure he will be of great help to us in the future, and be the means of many accepting the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

J. T. FRETWELL.

East, Klrkby, Beulah 'Road, — The Church spent a most profitable and enjoyable week-end on September 23rd and 24th. A meeting of brethren and sisters desirous of holding fast to 'the faith once for all delivered to the saints' was held on Saturday, the purpose of the meeting being to witness to the old faith, and to combat modernism in all its varied forms.

The meeting was presided over by Bro. S. Jepson, of Ilkeston, who expressed his pleasure at being at such a gathering, but regretted that it should be needful to hold such meetings. He hoped that this fellowship would grow and that more of such like gatherings would be held.

Inspiring and helpful messages were given by Bren. Carlton MeBrag; (Wigan)

and A.E. Winstanley. We were warned not to do a lot of wishful thinking, and in our hearts go back again into Egypt, but to 'dig again the wells of water,' and to engage in the great work of restoration and revival of New Testament Christianity.

Bro. Melling served the Church on Lord's Day, when the saints were built up in their most holy faith, and the gospel proclaimed. This was our brother's first visit to the Church here, but we look forward to the renewal of such happy fellowship.

W. D. JEPSON.

Hind lay.—The Church meeting in Argyle Street, Hindley, celebrated the anniversary of the opening of our present meeting-place, on Saturday and Lord's Day September 16th and 17th.

Bro. Fred Day (Birmingham) was our speaker, and the brethren thoroughly enjoyed his messages, which inspired us for further efforts for our Master. The Bible once more was exalted,' and old and new truths revealed. We had a glorious time.

The secretary reported on the work of the twelve months ending June '30th, 1944. During that time we had the joy of witnessing the baptism of three, who confessed Christ as Saviour and Lord: Dorothy Edwards, Robert Hargreaves, and Eric Edwards. He further reported an addition by transfer: Sister Simpson, from Rodney Street, Wigan. During the year we had lost two by death—Sister Bond (reported in April 'S.S.') and Bro. Hilton, who had been a very loyal member and faithful in his attendance. Mention was made of the great effort of Bro. Charles Bailey, who had served us for a period during the year, which was the means of leading two to Christ, and strengthening the brethren in the faith.

We thank God for the victories of the past, and pray that we may serve Him more loyally in the present year.

L. MORGAN.

Kentish Town, London.—Bro. A. L. Jones, Fort Worth, Texas, has been worshipping with us regularly for a period of nine months. Last Wednesday, he went across to France to his station in that country. Our good wishes and our prayers for his blessing will be following him. It is like losing a personal friend; though indeed the friendship and fellowship will continue, God willing, and we expect to keep in touch with him. He has presented us with some copies of 'Christian Hymns,' for use in our worship, and these are proving, useful, enabling us to make the American visitors feel more at home with us. We are most grateful for this very practical expression of his good will. We have appreciated his loyal attendance to the means of grace. Blest be the tie that binds.'

R. B. SCOTT.

Motherwell.—On October 12th, Bro. J. Wardrop and Mr. Wilson (atheist) di&

cussed the proposition: 'Is belief in God reasonable?' It was good to hear our veteran defender of the faith so clearly state reasons for belief in God.

His opponent was, more anxious to set forth the Darwinian evolution theory than to meet Bro. Wardrop's arguments.

There was a large company present, and we feel that most of them would see clearly which position is the most reasonable.—Editor 'S.S.'

Obituary.

Morley, Yorks.—The Church has again suffered loss in the death, on September 26th, of Sister M. H. Clough, of West Ardsley. "She was the mother of Sister F. A. Hardy, and daughter of our late Bro. Tom Gambles, of revered memory. Immersed at Birstall in 1896, she joined the Church at Morley, then meeting in Hunger Hill. Thus for some forty-eight years she has been a consistent member, constant in attendance to the divine ordinances. Of a quiet, retiring disposition, she displayed Christian virtues at their best, and was ever willing to do her bit, which often turned out to be a big bit, in the service of the Church.

Although she had not been well for some time, she was not laid up long when the end came. She will be sadly missed by us all. She has left many happy memories of a life well spent in God's service. Her remains were laid to rest on September 29th, the service being conducted by Bro. R. McDonald.

We commend the sorrowing family to the care of our heavenly Father. While we mourn the departure of our faithful ones, we thank God for thfir lives.

H. BAINES.

Hindley.—The Church mourns the loss of one of her loyal members, in the passing of Sister Gee, to a higher life, at the age of seventy-six, on October 1st. Our

sister was greatly loved by the brethren, because of her loyalty to the Word, the Lord, and the Church. A gap in our ranks, as a result of her death, will be hard to fill.

We treasure the memory of a gracious and beautiful life, and pray that we may emulate her example. She has fought a good fight, kept the faith, and we are assured of her reward. She has taken with her the marks and scars of battle, and her courage and devotion inspires us to press on.

'The writer officiated at the **J** service in the chapel, and paid tribute to her life lived for Christ, and Bro. S. Winstanley officiated at the graveside.

'Sister Gee had been president of the women's meeting from its commencement about eight years ago, and as a tribute the sisters and friends attended the services.

Our deep and sincere sympathy is extended to her sorrowing sons and daughters and friends. We commend them to our loving heavenly Father who knows and understands their grief. Praying they may receive strength and fortitude to bear this loss.

L. MORGAN.

OUR LAST FAREWELL

To Sister Gee, who departed this life
October 1st, 1944.

GOOD-NIGHT, "dear friend,
This world is cold and cheerless,
Comparing it with that fair world above,
And you have gone,
To take that last long journey,
That ends in heaven, the perfect home
of love.

Farewell, dear friend,
'Tis only 'till the morrow,
When Jesus comes, we all shall meet
once more.

And in that realm,
Where there is no more parting,
We'll see His face, and praise Him we
adore.

T. KEMP.

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WANTED

EVANGELIST for the Slamannan District Churches of Christ. Applications to be in by the end of this month. Appli-

cants to state age, and salary expected. Full particulars from District Secretary, to whom applications must be sent—Duncan Stewart, 63 Murraysgate Crescent, Whitburn, West Lothian.