

Mainly About People

Sydney

The writer of these notes will be among many who will miss Bishop Goodwin Hudson for at least one particular aspect of his ministry—the chatty, down-to-earth nature of his preaching. The bishop's rather unique, homely style must surely have found a mark in the minds and hearts of many of his unchurched TV viewers. But lest we mistake simplicity for shallowness, it must be emphasised that beneath the veneer were always the deep truths of God. But then, in its essence the Gospel is simple.

However, Bishop Hudson also knows the art of using language to the full, as witness this extract from his sermon at this year's Anzac service in St. Andrew's:

"One of the jobs we have on at the moment," said the bishop, "is to humbly stand up and say publicly, 'we hate and resent corruption in politics, dishonesty in business, faithlessness in marriage, pornography in literature and on the stage, coarseness in language, chaos in music, meanness in art, pomp and arrogance in religion!'"

Visiting Sydney currently is the newly-appointed Public Relations Officer of Perth diocese, Mr Barrie Oldfield. Mr Oldfield had publicity experience with B.M.C. in England before coming to Australia and is at present working with a firm in the field of advertising and public rela-

tions. He has come to Sydney to study the organisation of Sydney's Public Relations Department.

The Archbishop, Dr Gough, arrived back from England on Friday, May 1. On his return he gave a Press conference at Bishops Court, after which he attended the annual H.M.S. rally in the Sydney Town Hall.

Melbourne

The Rev. C. P. Young has resigned as curate of St. Stephen's, Richmond. Mr Young's resignation took effect from May 1. Another resignation announced in Melbourne is that of the Rev. B. F. Hall who has resigned from Army chaplaincy work. Mr Hall's resignation will take effect from June 1 next when he will go to Perth to take up parish work as vicar of St. Alban's, Highgate.

Mr and Mrs T. Campbell Cooke, workers at the C.M.S. mission station at Oenpelli, N.T., were expected to arrive in Melbourne on May 1 for furlough.

Miss Rosemary Griffiths has been accepted for service with the Church Missionary Society, and will leave on June 1 for Iran, where she will serve as a secretary at the Nur Ayin Organisation for the Blind, Isfahan. Miss Griffiths' out-going to

Iran is of particular interest in view of the fact that her parents served there as workers of the Church Missionary Society over 20 years ago, during which time her father, Dr Leslie Griffiths, was killed by bandits. Rosemary served as Deputation Secretary in the Melbourne office of the Church Missionary Society, and later on the office staff of the Australian Nurses' Christian Movement. Her mother, Mrs P. Griffiths, has been closely associated with the work of C.M.S. in Australia for many years.

Overseas

Bishop Arthur Lichtenberger, presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, U.S.A., has announced his intention of resigning in October because of ill-health. The 64-year-old Episcopal leader of the 3½-million member church has served in the church's highest office since 1958, and was expected to continue as presiding bishop until 1970, when he reaches the retirement age of 70. Last March, it was announced that he was suffering from the preliminary stages of Parkinson's Syndrome. Since that time he has undergone speech therapy.

"Red Runs the River"

"RED Runs the River" is an American Civil War production of Unusual Films unit of Bob Jones University.

This 90 minute, colour film is more than a tale of secession and bloodshed—it is the powerful story of a soul in rebellion against God.

Dr Bob Jones, Jr., plays the role of General Richard Stoddard Ewell, hard-fighting hero of the Confederacy, a soldier who sneers at religion until he is brought face to face with God on the battlefield.

The true-to-life drama bares the conflict between the battle-hardened, cynical Ewell and the Christian general, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. The clash of strong will and deep conviction develops against a background of musket fire and booming cannon.

According to Katherine Stenholm, director of "Unusual Films," leading experts on the Civil War were consulted on every phase of the production. Every facet of the story was examined carefully by a research team. All of the historical events, the battles—even the private lives of the principal characters—were documented carefully.

"Red Runs the River" is distributed in Australia by The Gospel Film Ministry Ltd.

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Vicar centre of controversy

THE vicar of St. Silas', North Balwyn (Victoria), has become the centre of a controversy involving members of his vestry and one of Melbourne's coadjutor bishops.

The vicar, the Rev. J. P. Stevenson, has been the centre of controversy in his parish for some weeks past. Most of the trouble came to a head on April 1 last when a three-man committee of vestrymen was formed to approve all future Press statements issued by the vicar.

The meeting which decided on such a course of action had been called by the Archbishop in response to requests by certain parishioners who were disturbed by statements made by Mr Stevenson and other activities in the parish.

Particular exception was taken to a ceremony in September, 1963, when a piece of stone from Iona was set in a new church being built. The unveiling was accompanied by much

publicity and messages of goodwill were read from such people as the President of Eire, the President of India, Cardinal Bea, the Patriarch of Moscow and a great many others.

Although agreeing to the censorship imposed on him Mr Stevenson later preached against censorship in general and wrote to the Archbishop withdrawing his agreement to the undertaking he had given. He has also informed the Vestry that he refuses to be bound further by this undertaking.

According to Melbourne Press reports Mr Stevenson said on April 30 that he had been advised by the Vicar-General, Bishop Felix Arnott, to resign. Bishop Arnott, however, was stated to have said that he had neither asked for nor advised Mr Stevenson's resignation.

Bishop Arnott said: "He was not asked to resign. He was asked to make some kind of attempt to reconcile the parts of his parish with which he has become estranged."

CMS missionaries to England?

CMS might soon extend its ministry to what was called "striking areas of mission in England, according to the CMS general secretary, Canon J. V. Taylor.

Canon Taylor, who was speaking in Toronto, Canada, said that in the new world of the common man, the distinction between home and foreign missions became less and less tenable.

"We are discussing with Churches in India and Pakistan," said the speaker, "as a start, how they and we in partnership can best bring their missionaries to work among the 100,000 Pakistani and Indian immigrants in our islands."

"We are beginning to recruit and send out our missionaries into secular jobs overseas, not as professional Church workers but as laymen under the disciplines

and disabilities of the layman's world."

Canon Taylor was speaking at a ceremony at which he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity of Wycliffe College, Toronto.

Earlier in his visit to Canada Canon Taylor delivered a broadcast sermon from St. James' Cathedral, Toronto, launching in Canada the Anglican World Mission Fund Appeal.

50 YEARS AGO

"Even practised preachers are sometimes nervous when they have distinguished persons in their congregation. Dr Boyd Carpenter, formerly Bishop of Ripon and now Canon of Westminster, on being asked if he felt nervous when preaching before Queen Victoria, replied: 'I never address the Queen at all. I know there will be present, the Queen, the Princes, the household, and the servants, down to the scullery-maid, and I preach to the scullery-maid.'"

"The CEMS campaign among the motley multitude of socialists, anarchists and curious people who throng the park near the Yarra, just behind the morgue, is a promising effort. This is one spot where a man is allowed by the authorities to preach any doctrine he likes."

"A hoary veteran named Fleming has been holding forth for years under a red flag, inscribed, Anarchy. On one occasion the police had to interfere to deliver Anarchy from Anarchy! Fleming was rushed by an indignant crowd, and nearly lost his banner. The fragment we heard was a plea for the recognition of God's providence!"

"Rev. F. Lynch, the Christian champion, was well supported by a bodyguard of CEMS men who proved at least that they possessed stout lungs. The singing was led by a cornet, which seems a far better instrument for the purpose than the usual baby organ. Many expressed their pleasure at seeing the Church of England taking up aggressive work such as this."

(From "The Church Record," May 8, 1914.)

THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH RECORD

EIGHTY-FOURTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

No. 1313—May 21, 1964

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

Printed by John Fairfax and Sons Ltd., Broadway, Sydney.

PRICE 9d.

African clergyman to Sydney parish

AN African clergyman, the Rev. Manasses Kuria, from the diocese of Nakuru, Kenya, has been appointed assistant curate in the parish of St. Clement's, Mosman. He will take up his appointment from the middle of July.

The move has come as a result of the desire on the part of the Bishop of Nakuru, the Rt. Rev. Neville Langford-Smith, for Mr Kuria to gain experience in an Australian parish.

At present Mr Kuria is visiting Papua-New Guinea as a member of a three-man delegation from the All-Africa Conference of Churches. He is the only Anglican in the group.

After 12 months in Mosman, Mr Kuria will return to Kenya to take charge of an English-speaking congregation in the diocese of Nakuru.

Prior to his ordination, Mr Kuria was a Primary school teacher for 11 years and in business for three years. He trained at St. Paul's Theological College under the Rev. E. K. Cole (now Vice-Principal of Ridley College) where he was senior student in his final year. He speaks three languages and is married with six children.

North Shore rally

ONE of the last engagements undertaken by Bishop Goodwin Hudson prior to his return to England will be to speak at the first diocesan evangelistic rally on Sydney's North Shore.

The rally will be held at St. Paul's, Chatswood, to cater for those living on the northern side of the diocese. It is expected that similar rallies will be held in other regional areas at later dates.

The meeting will commence at 7.45 p.m. on Friday, June 26, in St. Paul's parish hall, with provision for overflow congregations in the church and a further hall.

CALVIN ANNIVERSARY

IN 1535 John Calvin was forced to flee from his native France to find eventual sanctuary in Switzerland. In the years that followed his disciples were persecuted and Calvin himself was finally laid to rest in the soil of his adopted country.

Now four hundred years after his death on May 27, 1564, France is honouring the memory of the great Reformer.

French postal authorities are issuing a special stamp to mark the occasion of the anniversary and an organising committee in Paris has planned a series of meetings and an exhibition.

In Strasbourg, where Calvin once ministered to a French congregation and lectured in the theological school, the Protestant

Faculty of the University has arranged a three-day conference from May 25 to 27 at which addresses will be given on doctrinal and historical problems of Calvin research.

In Geneva, where the greater part of Calvin's ministry was exercised, the anniversary is being marked by publication of some of the Reformer's works, by exhibitions in the University Library and in the Calvin Auditorium, and by one or more public meetings.

In Ireland there will be meetings and lectures on Calvin's work and in Scotland a television program dealing with the Reformer's relevance for today. The anniversary will also be marked in England and the U.S.A., as well as here in Australia.

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NEW CMS POLICY ON CO-OPERATION

AT the Annual Meeting of the Church Missionary Society in England on May 5 the society's General Secretary, Canon John V. Taylor, referred to a proposed scheme of co-operation with other Anglican societies to eliminate "remaining vestiges of rivalry and competition" in field work.

Canon Taylor said that the CMS executive committee had given wholehearted support to the scheme.

Canon Taylor went on: "Some, we know, still believe that a constitutional unification of the Societies would achieve even greater economies and efficiency."

"I do not propose to advance arguments on the other side, though I can think of half a dozen which have nothing to do with the past traditions or the status quo."

"For the great need of our Church today is that we should take up without further controversy or recrimination a plan which already promises a new deal and a new dynamic, and make it work."

"Frankly recognised"

Referring to the Toronto Congress document, "Mutual Responsibility and Interdependence in the Body of Christ," Canon Taylor spoke of self-examination which had taken place within the ranks of the missionary societies.

"One form which this self-examination has taken," said Canon Taylor, "has been seen in a series of meetings which have been held ever since the early autumn by the General Secretaries of the recognised Missionary Societies of the Church of England."

"In our attempts to see together how best we should implement as far as the missionary organisations are concerned, the spirit of the M.R.I. document, we have learned, I believe, to

understand and trust one another more deeply, while frankly recognising our divergencies and emphasising different understandings of the nature of missionary work. This has been a process of growing together at a much deeper level than that of mere organisation."

"The Societies know full well that the scheme which they have all agreed should be proposed will demand of them far more than a modicum of consultation in matters peripheral."

"They have in fact pledged themselves to the fullest degree of co-operation in making those decisions which are central to their activities."

Referring to the Toronto document elsewhere in his address Canon Taylor said "that if it is regarded as a gimmick to squeeze more funds from reluctant congregations, or even as a completely fresh solution to our problems produced out of a transatlantic hate it will either die an early death, or lock us more securely still within the prison of our Anglican self-sufficiency."

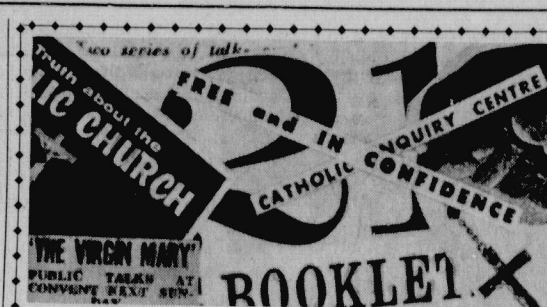
"But if, as I confidently believe is happening, it is received as a further reiteration of truths that are being borne in upon the Christian Church from many directions and, furthermore, if these truths are honestly accepted and acted upon, then M.R.I. may prove to be both creative and liberating."

Not a gimmick

The danger of exclusive confessionalism could only be avoided if along with Anglican M.R.I. went effective means of acting jointly with other denominations.

"This should mean, I believe, that the Churches in any particular region of the world should be able to call upon the partnership of Christians elsewhere either confession-wise or nation-wise, according to the nature of the need."

Canon Taylor suggested a redefinition of the purpose of C.M.S.: "To offer men and women, totally committed to evangelism in the full sense of that word, to live and work as members of the local Church overseas concerned to uphold Christ on every frontier with which that Church should be engaged; and at the same time to involve our Church in England as fully as possible in its missionary responsibility by creating in all the parishes with which we have contact an informed and committed nucleus through whom this evangelistic concern will be spread to others."



Has Protestantism lost its message?

ROMAN Catholicism is fast cutting the ground under Protestantism in the countries of West.

Figures just released show that the Church of Rome registered a gain of no fewer than 1,026,433 in its membership in the U.S.A. in just one year. In the ten years since 1954 Roman Catholics have shown an overall gain of 41.5 per cent in that country.

In 1963 Roman Catholics in Canada outnumbered the Protestants for the first time in the country's history. In the same year the New Zealand Anglican paper "Church and People" predicted that Roman Catholics would be the largest group in the country within 45 years. In the five years to 1961 Anglicans in New Zealand increased by 7.48 per cent, but Roman Catholics increased by 17.45 per cent.

"Conquered everywhere"

In once Protestant Holland there is now a Roman Catholic majority and great gains have been made by the Church of Rome in England and in Australia. In fact the religious situation in England is such that the famous words of Cardinal Manning appear to be borne out before our eyes. The Cardinal wrote, last century, "It is good to be here in England. It is yours, Right Reverend Fathers, to subdue, to bend and to break the will of an Imperial race."

"You have a good commission to fulfil and great is the prize for which you strive."

"England is the head of Protestantism, the centre of its movements, the stronghold of its powers. Weakened in England it is paralysed everywhere; conquered in England, it is conquered throughout the world."

"Once overturned here, it is but a war of detail. All the roads of the world meet in one point, and this point reached, the whole world is open to the (Roman Catholic) Church's will." (Sermons on Ecclesiastical Subjects, p. 166).

Recently there has been a

marked increase in the amount of advertising being done by Roman Catholic organisations seeking to spread their beliefs. Free postal courses are being offered, every opportunity is being taken to press home the claims of Rome.

A New Zealand Presbyterian minister who investigated the courses being offered to non-Roman Catholics in his country stated that between 5,000 and 6,000 Protestants have enrolled there and some 300 or more have become members of the Church of Rome as a result of these courses.

This observer, the Rev. Arthur Gunn, commented that "the present Roman Catholic offensive should be met by an all-out Protestant offensive. This new climate of friendship and goodwill opens wide the doors for conversation about religion with our Roman Catholic neighbours and friends."

Mr Gunn went on: "We need to remember that all the leaders of the glorious Reformation of the sixteenth century were converted Roman Catholics. We should never forget the hundreds of thousands of Roman Catholics turned Protestant during those wonderful years, and tens of thousands who died rather than give up their newfound faith."

Where is the message for these people? Where is the clear proclamation of the Gospel of God's grace from Protestant pulpits? All too many are silent when it comes to clear presentation of the New Testament's good news.

An ex-Roman Catholic priest, writing in a Scottish periodical recently, pointed out that "the one thing which has put Protestantism on the run before Roman Catholicism is the positive, aggressive conviction of the Catholic members and teachers. The only thing which can meet such conviction is equal conviction."

"Denominationalism can never touch Roman Catholicism with a 'broad-minded, stand-for-nothing' attitude. It will be a sad day for the Church when her members

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BRAESIDE Church of England Hospital STANMORE

... has closed its doors after wonderful service to the community as a Maternity Hospital, but will open soon as a Hospital for the Aged and Chronically ill.

Braeside has always been known as a homely hospital, each patient was treated as an individual case and many expressions of appreciation were received.

Over the years Braeside has become a landmark in Stanmore and will continue to be one in its capacity as a Hospital for the Aged and Chronically ill.

When finally opened, the hospital in its new role will have 58 beds and it is expected at a later date to extend to 100 beds.

Parishioners may like to assist by donations or gifts to help the hospital in furnishing the lounge for the aged. Furnishings for the chapel and gifts to assist in establishing an occupational therapy department would be gratefully received.

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