

SKY PILOT NEWS

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"THE APEX CLUB COMMENCE BUILDING THE ANNEXE."

RALPH: Our baby, Ralph, is in the Children's Hospital. The last X-rays showed a cloud on the left lung, and he is being treated for tuberculosis. It is not yet certain that this is really the trouble; we are still praying that it may not be so. Even if it is, there is not the cause for alarm that would have been the case a few years ago; but it will mean a long time in hospital. All the dark children (and contacts) are tested at regular intervals, and Ralph showed no signs of the sickness three months ago.

Most of our friends will remember when Ralph first came to us, about two years ago. He was a poor, sickly child, suffering the effects of malnutrition; too weak to hold up his head, much less to sit up without support. It was feared that we would not be able to rear him; but God was good, and he improved steadily. At first, he aroused our pity as he lay like a small, wizened monkey, so dark against the white sheet of his cot. But with the love and care he received, Ralph's personality developed,

and his bright, friendly nature and happy smile won everyone's heart.

A week after he had been admitted to the hospital he was visited by the "Sky Pilot", who was on his way to a service. Ralph was asleep at first. Slowly, his eyes opened. When he realised who was standing beside his cot, his whole face lit up with a wonderful smile, tiny black arms crept round the "Sky Pilot's" neck, and he whispered: "Oh, it's my Faver!"

Not to Ralph only, but to many little dark children has come love and security; they have not merely been fed and clothed as members of an institution, they have found Father, Mother, brothers and sisters. Is the work worth the trouble and sacrifice? Surely there is no need to ask.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY: Sometimes our hearts are bigger than our pockets. There is so much we would like to do if only love could take the place of money. Unfortunately, we live in a hard, business world. Love of money, we are told, is the root of all evil; but love without money is limited in its expression. The hard facts are that the cost of keeping our large family exceeds our total income. If this is only temporary, it may be overcome by the staff not taking their wages when due, or by borrowing. But when costs have been brought to the irreducible minimum, there are only two alternatives — to cut down the number of children in our care, or to increase our income. There is an old story of a large, struggling family living in poverty. It was decided that one or more of the children would have to be sent away to a Home, or for adoption. The parents went over the children in their thoughts one by one. The baby could not be spared, of course, nor the cripple boy, nor the delicate little girl — eventually, they discovered that none could be spared. The grinding struggle against poverty was far better than parting with any loved child.

We are in much the same position. Which needy aboriginal child could be sent away from the only real home, perhaps, which it has ever known? Would you like to decide for us? Of course not! You would feel, as we do, that for the rest of your life you would be haunted by the hurt look in the eyes of those to be sent away.

Let us look at the alternative. If our income was increased, it would not be necessary to send anyone away. But how is this to be achieved? This is the day of public collections. If you

are in business, you may have found it necessary to steel your heart against many a worthy cause. Money is wanted for hospitals, crippled children, the aged, the blind, the deaf and dumb; for recreation grounds, swimming pools, an opera house, and so on — and all these in addition to Church and Missionary Societies. Because of keen competition, the raising of money, even for Church work, has attracted the professional money-raiser. How are we to compete with experts in this field? Our work is a labour of love, but we are overworked and understaffed. As far as we know, this is the only organisation near the city caring only for needy aboriginal children. If one hospital is full, a patient may possibly find room in another; we have never been refused a bed in hospital for a seriously-ill aboriginal child. But our children are not seriously ill; they are, perhaps, still suffering from the past effects of malnutrition, but their real need is for love, home, security and the companionship of those of their own colour and race. If we turn them away, where are they to go? If you are unable to help financially, perhaps you can interest someone else who can. We can only try to point out the need, and leave it to God to touch the hearts and the pockets of those who will enable this work to continue.

DUCKS: Some years ago, all our Christmas turkeys were stolen from the big shed at the back of the farm. This year we have raised ducks, rather than turkeys. Ducks make more noise when disturbed by thieves — or, for that matter, by anything else. For added security, we have penned them, temporarily, very close to the house. This has its disadvantages when the wind is blowing in the wrong direction; also, the possums have discovered the value of growing mash, and it is astonishing the noise that a few hundred ducks can make when a few possums scamper amongst them in the moonlight. The "quacking" is having an effect on us all. When one of our staff tucked in her little girl at night, childish eyes half-opened, and a sleepy voice said: "Quack, quack!"

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Mr. F. Langford-Smith, B.E., B.Sc. (brother of the "Sky Pilot"), on being awarded an Honorary Membership of the Audio Engineering Society of the United States; he was flown specially from England to America, in order to receive the honour at the Annual Awards Banquet in New York. The citation mentions: "This Honorary Membership is presented in recognition of the importance of your Radiotron Designer's Handbook to the education of a generation of audio engineers . . ."

In his address, in reply, Mr. F. Langford-Smith, in the presence of some of the leading Audio Engineers of the world, gave testimony to his faith in God. Some extracts from this address may be of interest: "The work done on the Radiotron Designer's Handbook was not the work of myself as an individual, but that of a team of good men, and I want each of them to share in this honour. . . . I am quite convinced that the whole thing was overruled by a higher power and I was merely used as an instrument in the Hand of God. . . . We are living in fascinating times. Electronics engineers are familiar with the dual concept of an electron — we treat it sometimes as a particle when it suits us to do so, and at other times as electro magnetic radiation. Both are true, but neither is the whole truth. So it seems that all truth is multi-dimensional, and an observer from one position is able to see only one dimension of the truth, and has to move to another position to see another dimension of the truth. These two views, though different, are both of the same truth, and there is no conflict between them. I regard spiritual truth as being an additional dimension of the whole truth which does not conflict with the other dimensional views of truth.

"In this 'space age', people are thinking and talking about the universe in a new and interesting way. In the next few years, we can look forward to the proof of one or other of the two major theories of the universe. One of these theories is based on the General Theory of Relativity, and an enormous amount of hard work has been put into it without giving any helpful new information, and it cannot explain the origin of cosmic rays.

"It is a well-known fact that the universe is expanding at a very rapid rate. If we think of it as a kind of bomb which was exploded at the beginning of the universe, this leads to the unsatisfactory conclusion that the density must have been infinite. The only satisfactory alternative so far put forward is the continuous creation of matter, this being known as the Steady State Theory. Although this theory was formulated several years ago, it is only very recently that R. A. Lyttleton broadcast his theory of an Electric Universe which is so delightfully simple that it really looks likely to be true. The theory is based on the assumption that the charge on a proton is not exactly equal and opposite to the charge on an electron, the difference being extraordinarily small. If this assumption can be proved, either directly or indirectly, then all that is necessary is to have the continuous creation of hydrogen atoms, and from

these the galaxies could be formed if the necessary high temperature were produced, and the origin of cosmic rays made obvious.

"Yes, we are indeed living in fascinating times."

Congratulations also to the Venerable Archdeacon Neville Langford-Smith, M.A., on his appointment as Assistant Bishop of Mombasa, to reside in Nairobi, East Africa. We trust that God will use him greatly in his work amongst the people of Africa.

Owing to the confusion and the fact that letters are sometimes misdirected, may we mention that the late Canon (sometime Archdeacon) S. E. Langford-Smith and Mrs. Langford-Smith had four sons, as follows: Mr. Fritz Langford-Smith, B.E., B.Sc., Editor of the Radiotron Designer's Handbook; Mr. Keith Langford-Smith (The "Sky Pilot"); The Ven. Archdeacon Neville Langford-Smith, M.A., Bishop elect; Dr. Trevor Langford-Smith, M.Sc., B.A., Lecturer, Sydney University.

THE VALUE OF MISSIONS: William Adams Brown, whose name is almost synonymous with Foreign Missions, used to silence all thinking objectors in his audiences with this striking apologetic:

"1. Every book in the New Testament was written by a Foreign Missionary.

"2. Every letter in the New Testament that was written to an individual was written to a convert of a Foreign Missionary.

"3. Every epistle in the New Testament that was written to a Church was written to a Foreign Missionary Church.

"4. The disciples were called Christians first in a Foreign Missionary community.

"5. Of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus, every apostle except one became a missionary. The only one among the twelve that did not, became a traitor.

"6. According to the apostles, missionary service is the highest expression of Christian life."

There are still plenty of vacancies in the mission field; have you thought that one may be waiting for you?

ROTARY CLUBS: We do appreciate the interest shown in this work by the various Rotary Clubs. The "Sky Pilot" has had many kindly invitations to speak at various Rotary Clubs. As a direct result, many individual members have visited the Mission Farm, and have helped in various ways. The mounting interest is shown by the number of bookings for the future — some of them for months ahead. The "Sky Pilot" has already addressed the following Rotary Clubs: Burwood, Bondi Junction, Arncliffe, Marrickville, Drummoyne, Katoomba. Shortly, he is to speak at Rydalmere and Bankstown; others are seeking to fit meetings into his already over-full programme.

DEPUTATION: The "Sky Pilot" has continued his deputation work, in spite of the added strain of a rapidly-expanding mission work at Marella Farm. Unfortunately, it is not possible to accept all bookings, especially those at a distance. But we would like to point out that it has never been our policy to accept only the larger services or meetings. Bookings are taken in the order in which the requests come in. Special services, anniversaries, etc., are sometimes booked up almost a year ahead. Much as we desire to visit as many centres as possible, the "Sky Pilot" has not yet solved the problem of being in two different places at the same time; for this reason, early bookings are necessary.

Up till about six years ago, the "Sky Pilot" was often taking from 10 to 15 meetings a week, including radio broadcasts. When the first dark baby (Christine) came to us, and the Home for dark children began to take shape, less time was available for outside meetings; however, the following list of meetings addressed by the "Sky Pilot" in the past five or six years will give an idea of the coverage obtained by his personal deputation work. These include Church Services, Church and Sunday School Anniversaries, as well as addresses at Men's Meetings, Fellowship Teas, Ladies' Meetings, Clubs, Societies, and various Organisations of secular, as well as missionary outlook. The figure in brackets after a name indicate the number of times he has spoken to the same group, or in the same Church, during this period:

Asquith Church of Christ, Allawah Cong. (2), Asquith Methodist (2), Auburn Baptist (3), Auburn Methodist (2), Ashbury C. of England, Auburn C. of England, Arncliffe Rotary, Bankstown C. of Christ, Blaxcell Baptist, Beecroft-Cheltenham Red Cross Y. Set, Berala C. of England (2), Baulkham Hills C. of England (4), Bexley Baptist (2), Burwood-E.

C. of England, Beverly Hills Methodist (5), Bankstown Salvation Army, Beecroft Presbyterian (4), Burwood Baptist, Beecroft C. of England (3), Bexley Baptist Men, Burwood Rotary, Burwood Cong. (2), Blacktown Baptist, Broadway Christian Employees' Fell. (2), Bankstown Aerodrome (M.A.F.), Bass Hill Baptist (2), Boronia Park Methodist, Bondi Junc. Rotary, Chipping Norton C. of England (2), Crow's Nest Methodist (2), Castle Hill C. of England (13), Carlton Baptist (2), Campsie Christian Fell. (2), Castle Hill Methodist, Chippendale City Mission, Central Concord Methodist, Campsie Baptist (4), Caringbah Parents and Citz., Cronulla Baptist, Central Baptist Missionary C'cil, Camden Christian Fell., Como Cong., Cheltenham Cong., Carlingford Salvation Army, Campbelltown Methodist (2), Combined Baptist Youth Rally, Dundas Baptist, Dulwich Hill C. of England (4), Dee Why Combined Fell., Dulwich Hill Baptist (2), Drummoyne Rotary, Earlwood C. of Christ, Earlwood Salvation Army, Epping Baptist, Enmore C. of Christ, English Speaking Union, Engadine C. of England (2), East Hills Baptist (2), Earlwood Methodist (2), Epping Methodist (2), Feminist Club (2), Fairfield Baptist, Five Dock Presbyterian, Forest Reefs Union S.S., Flemington Church of England, Girraween Methodist (3), Gympie Hotham Road Baptist, Guildford Baptist, Gladesville Brethren (4), Gladesville Methodist (3), Gladesville Church of England, Hornsby United Christian Fell (2), Holroyd Methodist (7), Homebush C. of England (2), Haberfield Methodist (4), Haberfield Baptist, Hammondville C. of England (2), Hurstville Salvation Army, Kellyville C. of England (5), Kingsgrove C. of England (2), Kingsgrove Baptist, Kogarah Bay Cong. (3), Katoomba Branch Sky Pilot Fell., Katoomba Rotary, Lidcombe Church of Christ (3), Lyceum P.S.A., Lugarno Baptist, Lidcombe Church of Christ (3), Millperra Cong. (5), Manly Soroptomist, Miranda Cong., Millthorpe C. of England, Mission to Jews, Millthorpe Baptist, Manly Cong. (8), Manly Inner Wheel, Manly C. of England, M.B.I. Old Students, Moorebank C. of England (2), Merrylands Baptist (2), Meadowbank Methodist, Marrickville Rotary, Northmead C. of England (5), Northbridge C. of England (2), Newtown Baptist, Northbridge Methodist, Narrabeen Methodist, Northmead Methodist (3), National Council of Women, North Auburn Baptist (3), Newington College, North Rocks Methodist (2), North Manly Baptist, North Auburn Methodist Men, Pendle Hill Church of Christ (3), Pendle Hill Baptist, Penrith Inner Wheel, Picnic Point Cong., Parramatta Baptist (3), Peakhurst Methodist, P.S.S.M., Parramatta C. of E. St. John's (2), Parramatta C. of E. St. Peter's, Pendle Hill C. of England (2), Parramatta Coolibah Club (2), Parramatta Soroptomist, Parramatta Apex Club, Petersham C. of E. Women's Lun., Parramatta Inner Wheel, Pennant Hills Baptist, Panania Methodist, Penrith C. of England, Pymble Baptist, Parramatta Methodist, Parramatta Dist. Baptist Y.F., Roseville East C. of England (4), Rockdale Cong., Rofern C. of England (2), Ryde C. of England, Revesby Cong., Rhodes Methodist, Russell-Lea Mission, Randwick Chamber of Commerce, Rapmund's (Mrs.) Luncheon, Regents Park Baptist, Revesby Gospel Hall, Revesby Methodist, St. Marys Methodist (2), Sans Souci Baptist (2), Sydney Women's Club, Sydney Soroptomist, Sky Pilot Fetes (9), Sutherland Baptist (2), Strathfield-Hombush Baptist (3), Sydney Inner Wheel Club, Sutherland Cong., Sutherland Interdenominational Men, Seaforth Baptist, Sunshine Hour, South Strathfield Congregational, Sefton Presbyterian, Sutherland Presbyterian (2), South Strathfield Methodist, Summer Hill C. of England, Strathfield Methodist (2), Turramurra Methodist (2), United Women's Prayer League, Villawood Presbyterian, Waitara Methodist, Wesley Youth Fell., Wentworthville Presbyterian, Wentworthville Methodist (2), Workman's Bible Class Convention, Western Dist. Combined C.E. Rally, West Ryde Baptist, Waterloo Sydney City Mission, Willoughby C. of Eng. Ladies' Missionary Mtg., Wahroonga C. of E. (St. Pauls).

BUILDING PROGRAMME: The Apex Club have completed the piers and floor of our new rooms. We are very grateful indeed for this very practical help. The Apex boys from this district have certainly done what they could for the dark children in our care, and their kindness will not be forgotten. To some people to-day promises mean little. When Apex make a promise, it is as good as done; we turn to other pressing work, and have no further worry about the job they have undertaken.