

# *A Message from the Archbishops and Bishops to the Clergy of Australia.*

*Brethren,*

*With the outbreak of war a serious position has arisen with regard to contributions to Missions. In England there is already a fall in receipts, and there is every prospect that English support of our Australian Missions will be seriously diminished, if not withdrawn altogether, and that England herself will require help from us in order to meet her commitments and maintain her Missions. The Secretary of the Jerusalem and the East Mission writes: "England is entirely calm, but it is evident that life in many ways cannot carry on on normal lines. Evacuation of businesses and of individuals from certain areas must affect many private incomes seriously. The difficulties of travelling, due to petrol rationing and curtailed train services, and, above all, the peculiar difficulty of movement after dark during blackout time, is making it almost impossible to hold meetings, and also affects attendances at Church services." In addition to these disabilities there are the immense demands of the war, and the income tax of 7/6 in the £.*

*It is almost inevitable, therefore, that the New Guinea Mission, the Melanesian Mission, the Diocese of Central Tanganyika, and some of the C.M.S. Missions will be deprived of large sums of money which have hitherto been contributed by England. As an indication of the serious position with which the great missionary societies are confronted, we would quote the fact that the C.M.S. has had to reduce its estimated income by £75,000. The Australian C.M.S. also owes the English C.M.S. over £6,000. The A.B.M. has its own arrears of £9,000 to pay off, and every diocese has its quota to raise for the current year. Obviously a great effort is called for, in order to maintain the work for which we as a Church are responsible. Can the Australian Church, in addition, come to the aid of the Mother Church of England, to help her in other mission fields at this time, as the Dominions have come to the help of the Motherland?*

*With the view of doubling, or at least greatly increasing our contributions to Missions this year, we make the following suggestions:*

- 1. Put the Evangelism of our own people first: world evangelism will follow. Get our own people keen on religion, and our Missions will prosper.*
- 2. Work through the laity in the parishes: train groups of C.E.M.S., M.U., or of W.A. to work for missions in every parish.*
- 3. Give diligence to follow up impressions made by deputations, exhibitions, etc.*
- 4. Appeal to new and wider circles through drawing-room meetings for women and men, and lunch-hour meetings for men.*
- 5. Make a definite appeal for at least 5/- a year from each communicant.*
- 6. It would be well if more of the clergy could find it possible to attend missionary schools. The knowledge and inspiration they would gain at such gatherings would enable them to stimulate missionary enthusiasm in their parishes.*

*These are only a few suggestions out of many that could be made. But we do appeal most earnestly in this crisis for a more scientific and a more enthusiastic attempt to make our missionary contributions more worthy of the great cause for which they are asked.*

*On behalf and at the request of the Archbishops and Bishops assembled in conference at Lawson, N.S.W.,*

*Believe me to be,*

*Sincerely yours,*

*HENRY PERTH,  
Primate.*