



Church Missionary Society
of Australia and Tasmania
New South Wales Branch

leaners' Union

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REPORT FOR 1916-7

C. M. S. Gleaners' Union

N.S.W. BRANCH

FOR PRAYER AND WORK

MOTTO FOR 1917

"Thy King Cometh,"-Zech. ix., 9

*"There remaineth yet very much land to be
posessed."-Johs. 13, 1.*

"Let not thine hands be slack."-Zeph. 3, 16

GLEANERS' UNION

27TH ANNUAL REPORT

1916-7.

We meet again for the fourth time under the shadow of the greatest war known to history: a war that has brought suffering and sore bereavement to many an Australian home. Almost unceasingly the hearts of Christians send up to the Throne of Grace prayer for peace and victory. The phrase is often on our lips in prayer "a rightful and abiding peace"; but that prayer is only possible of fulfilment when "the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ" and the Prince of Peace is reigning for ever and ever. Consequently, behind the great world-conflict which of necessity bulks so largely in anxious minds and stricken hearts, there ever looms that mightier conflict in which all the world-forces are ranged in unremitting and remorseless struggle with the armies of God. Indeed, viewed rightly, the present European war is but one episode in the bigger issue, if we are at all justified in our claim

that our Empire is engaged in no war of aggression but one in defence of righteousness, liberty, and truth. It would be fatal, then, for the Church in its membership, to become so absorbed in this small part of the conflict as to diminish the strength of her offensive against the armies of evil in the bigger world. And so, through the very pressure of that conflict, the message of our God to us is, "Speak to the people that they go forward." This is least of all a time for holding back and not going forward in giving and doing our utmost for the coming of that kingdom which alone will usher in "a rightful and abiding peace." Is the appeal of the Cross and the sin and sorrow of the unevangelised world less worthy of response than the call of earthly Empire? Is the soldier of the Cross less willing than other soldiers to venture his utmost for God in the way of willing suffering and doing the will of God in conflict with the world-forces of evil? Well may we pray for ourselves the prayer of the apostle for the Ephesian Christians: "That we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be strong to apprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ"; that Love which, when truly apprehended, constrains the willing response: "Thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my Lord the King shall command."

"Anywhere with Jesus," says the Christian heart. Yes, but how about the Christian will? Are we able to say, in full and glad surrender, "Lord I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest" To India? To China? To the drab and dirty places of Sydney? To the dull, uninteresting aborigine? Yes, Lord, by Thy grace, I will.

In reviewing the work of the Gleaners' Union during the past year, doubtless there will be a feeling of disappointment, that more has not been accomplished, and to the minds of some there may even

come the thought that the Gleaners' Union has had its day, and does not evidently meet the needs of the present time. May we emphatically remind those members and friends that the Gleaners' Union as an organisation is still adequate for the banding together of those who are interested in, or wish to take an interest in and work for Missions.

Perhaps where the weakness lies, if there is a weakness, is in the fact that we, as individual members, have not been seeking to carry out fully the aims of the Union which are twofold—**extensive and intensive**. Many professing Christians are utterly indifferent to the Missionary cause. Some may be found who actively oppose it. These need to be "converted to belief in it." Then there is the intensive work. Those who do already care for the evangelization of the world need to be built up in knowledge. Mere "interest" has to be quickened into enthusiasm, and enthusiasm into passion, so that they will not only be satisfied in caring themselves for the work, but will want others to care.

A Branch in any Parish should be a living power provided it is a live Branch—unfortunately, there are such things as dead Branches, and because of this the whole organisation is condemned.

Would it not be well for us on the eve of another year to search our hearts and see where we have failed, and then by God's Grace make a fresh start, seeking by prayer and work to galvanise a new power into our Branches and not look round for some new organisation which we think may prove more successful. We have always to remember that it is to the Gleaners we look for help when our Society makes any special appeal, and in like manner it should always be the Gleaners in a Parish who render that service which is so essential for the extension of the Missionary interest amongst the congregation.

Branches.—There are now 58 Branches; during the year 6 have been disbanded; we regret to say in some cases, this has simply come about because of the failure of members to attend the monthly meetings. We should like to point out here the advisability of retaining a Branch in the Parish, as a connecting link with headquarters, general Missionary meetings being arranged for quarterly, when members of the Union shall make it their special work to influence members of the Church to be present.

Four new Branches have been formed, and 148 new members enrolled; 1280 have renewed. Probably it would be a great surprise to many could they see the roll book, which registers some thousands of members who apparently think it unnecessary to renew their membership and thus lead us to conclude they have lost interest in Missions. This, of course, is not so in every case, but is due to want of thought.

Doubtless there are hundreds of members whose interest is still keen, but because they are unable to attend meetings, feel they ought to resign. This means that quite a large amount in the year which would come in as renewal fees is distinctly lost to the Society.

Whilst the Gleaners' Union is not primarily an agency for raising money, as a matter of fact a considerable sum is raised directly each year through its membership.

Again, there has gone forth from our ranks a large number of men to serve their King and Country, and this to a great extent is the cause of so few men being found at our meetings. Others who have been on service have returned, and we thank God for sparing them to do so. It is interesting to know that where possible some have taken the opportunity of seeing something of Missionary work in Egypt and Mesopotamia. We look forward at the close of the war

to having some of these men offering for Missionary service.

Roll Call.—Sixteen members have been called to rest during the year; amongst these we would specially mention Mr. John Kent, Hon. Treasurer of the Society for over 20 years, who was one of the leaders in Missionary work, and Lieut. Norman Booth, killed in action in Flanders, who for many years held the position of Hon. Secretary of a Gleaners' Union Branch. "They rest from their labours, and their works do follow them."

One of the chief features of interest during the year was the raising of a Memorial to the late Miss Mary Walsh, Gleaners and friends contributing £80 for the erection of a small ward for the sick in Mrs. Wilkinson's School for Blind Boys, China.

Medical Missions.—The institution of July as Medical Mission month has, we realise, come to stay, and the very fact that again this year the offering of medical gifts exceeded our expectations, as well as an increased offering of money, proves that this movement will always be popular. A sum of £95 was contributed, in addition to some 12 large cases of medical comforts, some of which have already been despatched to their several stations. Through the kindness of the Over-seas Central Committee and the Red Cross Society, cases have been shipped which otherwise it would have been impossible to get away. We are also indebted to several of the Shipping Companies for their generous contribution in taking them free of cost to the first port of call in China.

In connection with this effort we should like to see our Clergy introduce the subject of Medical Missions from the pulpit to their congregations on the Sunday prior to the holding of the Gift Night. In one Parish this was done most successfully this year, with the result that friends who had hitherto done nothing for Missions showed a very practical interest. One country Parish which arranged a

Medical afternoon, sent down to headquarters £23, in addition to a large supply of gifts. Up to the present, sums of £10 each have been sent to Misses Kendall, Marshall, and Hassall for the purchase of drugs. It is proposed that a further sum of £50 be devoted to the building of a Ward or Dispensary in connection with the work of our Australian Missionaries in late G.E. Africa, should it be decided to establish Medical work there.

Deputations.—We have been greatly privileged in having in our midst this year quite a number of Missionaries, including Misses Newton and Miller, whilst others of the China Inland, Egypt General, Sudan United, and Zenana Missions have visited some of our Branches, and so helped to widen the interest in various Mission fields.

Meetings.—Meetings have been fairly well maintained on the whole, though many Branches report smaller attendances. It has been encouraging to find that more branches are depending upon their own members for the conduct of the regular meetings, and it should not be forgotten that this method is of greater educational value and leads to better results, than that of dependence on Missionaries or outside speakers.

O.O.M.—Owing to the resignation of Miss Montgomery, who had been selected as our Gleaners' Own Missionary, it was not thought well to allot another for support till after the close of the year. The balance of the money in hand was used in paying the passage home of our late Own Missionary, Miss Pownall, whom we welcome here to-night. It will be remembered that Miss Pownall became an Hon. Missionary at the beginning of the year. We shall look forward to seeing her at our Branches, after she has had the necessary rest.

Owing to the fact that more of our Parishes are supporting their own Missionaries, the amount received for the G.U. Own Missionary is much smaller than it has formerly been.

Missionary Boxes.—We are deeply thankful for the increase in the number of Missionary Boxes, also for the success which has marked the quarterly opening of the same. Some Branches report a very small percentage of boxes in circulation, and we would like to suggest that during the coming year each Branch should aim at least in doubling their number. This would mean a very substantial increase in the income received from boxes, and would greatly help our Society in extending its work.

Contributions.—The contributions for the year amounted to £528 17s. 9d., which, on the whole, is most satisfactory.

At our Annual Meeting held last year in St. George's Hall, Newtown, we bade farewell to Canon Burns and Miss Hassall, and the messages given to us by them on that occasion will, no doubt, have proved an inspiration to many during the year. We specially commend them both to your earnest prayers, and to-night it is again our privilege to be bidding God-speed to out-going Missionaries, Miss K. Miller, returning to Africa, and Miss L. Claydon, proceeding for the first time to the Punjab, India. To the Gleaners at home they will look for prayer as they set out on what in these perilous times will be an anxious voyage. May they not be disappointed; let us not fail them, but follow them day by day, committing them to the loving care of our Heavenly Father.

Conclusion.—We close this Report ascribing praise to God, who has enabled us to have some share in hastening the Coming of the

Lord Jesus, by seeking to extend His Kingdom by prayer and effort.

We realise how much has been left undone, shall we not ask Him to show us each one what work He would have us do during the coming year, so that when we stand before Him we may not be ashamed, but be ready to receive His "well done."

Lord, I know a work is waiting
For each ransomed child of Thine;
Lo, I come in faith beseeching,
Show me mine.

Wheresoever Thou dost need me,
Let Thy Spirit's guidance show,
And with loving swift obedience.
I will go.



AMOUNTS RECEIVED FOR RENEWALS, FREEWILL OFFERINGS, ENTRANCE FEES, AND OUR OWN MISSIONARY FROM ALL BRANCHES.

	R. & F.W.			O.O.M.				R. & F.W.			O.O.M.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Annandale	0	14	1	0	2	0	Glenmore Rd.	1	0	6	0	5	0
Auburn	1	1	8	0	9	2	Gladesville	0	14	8	3	2	0
Arncliffe	1	1	4				Hornsby	0	4	2	0	9	0
Burwood	8	6	2	1	18	4	Hunter's Hill	9	11	10	4	0	0
Bellingen	0	3	3				Hurstville	2	4	9	2	5	4
Bexley	0	14	4	0	2	4	Home for Incurables	0	16	3	0	3	10
Bowral	2	11	8	1	0	10	Hurlstone	2	9	4	0	8	7
Beecroft	0	8	6	0	5	0	Inverell	1	17	8			
Bondi	1	1	8				Kiama	0	7	6			
Balmain	2	10	6				Kempsey	0	4	10			
Croydon	2	13	11	0	0	6	Leichhardt	2	13	2	1	17	0
Campsie	1	12	8				Milton	3	17	8	0	15	0
Coogee	0	9	4	0	8	4	Mill Hill	0	3	2	0	6	4
Chatswood	1	6	8	1	6	0	Marrickville	0	13	8			
Cook's River	0	5	2				Mortdale	0	11	1	0	5	4
Cobbity	0	9	4	0	7	10	Mosman (St. C.)	1	8	4	0	17	6
Drummoyne	1	8	6	1	11	8	Mosman (St. Luke's)	1	15	10	1	1	10
Dulwich Hill	4	6	6	1	2	0	Milson's Pt.	2	2	8	1	2	9
Deaconess House .. .	0	1	4	0	18	4	Nowra	69	12	7	30	0	4
Enfield	2	12	1	2	4	8	Newtown	0	13	1	0	10	10
Erskineville	0	6	10	0	10	8	Penrith	0	2	2	0	9	0
Enmore	1	10	0	0	13	2	Paddington	1	14	8	11	0	6
Eastwood	1	0	0				Parramatta	3	11	8	1	10	9

