

ST. ANDREW'S-TIDE, 1941.

Pastoral Letter from the Most Rev. the Archbishop of Sydney, to be read in the Churches of the Diocese of Sydney on Sunday, November 23rd.

Because he is rightly regarded as the first Christian Missionary, the Church observes the Festival of St. Andrew not only as the commemoration of his apostleship and martyrdom, but as a challenge to her members to follow his example of obedience to the Master's call, and a ready fulfilment of His command to preach the Gospel.

Many years ago the Bishops of the Anglican communion appointed a Day of Prayer for missions in their Cathedrals on or near St. Andrew's Day, and the movement has spread across the world without regard for national or denominational barriers

I trust you will join me in our Cathedral Church of St. Andrew on Thursday, November 27th, at as many as possible of the services mentioned on the accompanying leaflet.

Since my last letter to you on the subject, the world has been plunged deeper into the horror of war. Such demands have been made on the manpower and income of the community that few have been spared voluntary or compulsory sacrifice. In a most commendable way, Australians have heard the Empire's call, and Christian people have contributed so generously to missions, in spite of the many new demands on them, that A.B.M. and C.M.S. have reported increased revenue. For this we should offer our thanks to God, while we pray that the Church may have faith and courage to meet the increasing needs of the non-Christian world, many of which are new and have been caused by the war of nations, whose traditions have been for centuries Christian. This must be done in spite of additional taxation which is clearly inevitable if the war is to be won.

Recently, Bishop C. T. Song, of Western Szechwan, paid us a visit of goodwill, but his sojourn in Australia was shortened by the news that since his departure, first his pro-cathedral and then his home had been destroyed by Japanese bombs, while workers have been killed and injured in air-raids. Bishop Chambers, who is now with us from Central Tanganyika, tells of German Lutheran Missions whose pastors have been interned and whose thousands of African Christians have been left shepherdless. To meet the need thus presented, and to make possible other imperative developments would mean an additional expenditure of about £1800 per annum. Both C.M.S. and A.B.M. are appealing for funds to help the missions in the Netherlands East Indies, whose support from Holland has been cut off by the German invasion. Needs in Hyderabad, Dornakal, and Travencore constitute a clamant call from India. An extension of work among the Aborigines of Australia is visualised in the request of the Federal Government that the Church should assume the care of certain half-castes.

New Guinea, Melanesia and Polynesia loom large in the problem of the Pacific, and the Bishops of those Dioceses look naturally to Australia for help.

The situation I have outlined has nothing in it to cause alarm or despair. The Church of Christ has never been defeated by dangers from without, nor has she been crushed by the magnitude of her task. Her only menace is faithlessness within, and it becomes evident when her members cease to witness to the presence of her Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit. "Ye shall receive power. . . . Ye shall be witnesses unto Me." Here is the secret of energy and optimism. May we make it ours!

The desire for Divine help in the Empire's warfare has crowded our churches more than once since September, 1939. St. Andrew's-tide provides the opportunity similarly to seek the help of God in the conflict with the power of evil in the heathen world. May it meet with a sincere response.

HOWARD SYDNEY.