

B.S.L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence

The Brotherhood helps all in need and endeavours to arouse thought and action on social questions.

FITZROY

FEBRUARY

No. 116

The Superior writes on . . .

LOOKING BACK – PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY – THE AGED

Dear B.S.L Friends,

There is a habit which we oldsters are prone to fall into. I refer to the habit of looking back. It is a bad habit because it tends to cause us to live in the past rather than in the present, which we must do if we are to be of any use. It is bad, too, because it is boring to those who are still young. In spite of what I have said, however, I am going to look back in the first part of this letter to you.

I look back to the time when we began our work in Melbourne. It was, as many of you know, in the dark days of the depression, when thousands of men were out of work. Being a Christian organisation it seemed right that we should do something about it, so we established our hostels for unemployed men. It was then that I began to realise that such work is not only Christian but is also eminently practical. During that period we saved hundreds of men from becoming unemployable and burdens on the State for all time. The same applied to our hostel for problem boys, many of whom we saved from becoming habitual criminals. It was the same in the case of married men with families whom we cared for in those days at Carrum Downs; they too were in danger. And so it is at the present time. The youngsters of our Children's Welfare Centre are not only being taught decent behaviour, but many physical ailments are traced by our nursing staff and dealt with. To care for children is most certainly in accordance with Christian principles. It is also eminently practical.

PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

It is the same with our Social Service Bureau and our Family Service Project at Camp Pell, where families were being deprived of all chance of living decent lives. Many were hopelessly behind with their rents, and their outlook for the future was grim indeed. Thanks to the co-operation of the present Government, the majority

of those whom we have been able to help are "making good." What is being done at Camp Pell can be done in regard to the slum problem generally, and in fact all social problems — practical Christianity again!

And Old People Too.

The practicability of the Christian way is certainly being demonstrated at Carrum Downs, where the majority of the elderly folk there, while living happy and peaceful lives, are helping to solve the problem of caring for those who are no longer young. Far from being a burden on the State, they are rendering valuable service. The manner in which our "over-sixties" (and some much over) are pulling their weight convinces me that if the old age problem were to be tackled in the Christian way, which is the only practical way, the problem could be solved within ten years.

FEDERAL AID

Although I am one of those who think that the old age pension should be increased, I consider that the policy of the Federal Government in giving pound for pound to organisations which provide homes for the aged is the best thing ever done by any Government in this land for the age group to which I refer. I wonder if all realise what this could mean. It is because I do so realise it, that makes me so anxious to extend our settlement work, and to accept some of the hundreds who are anxious to join

(Continued on next page)

£8,000 IN HAND FROM APPEAL

£8,000 has been received from the Brotherhood's Silver Jubilee Building Appeal. The public appeal period allotted to the Hospitals and Charities Commission ended on 23rd January, but the Building Fund will remain open and a great deal more money will be needed before we can carry out the plans for extensions at Fitzroy.

The main fund-raising effort will be the "Mum & Dad" Quest, which will continue until July.

The appeal has been mainly directed towards the general public, as we rely on B.S.L. Friends to maintain the Brotherhood's work, but we are most grateful to the many Friends who have made extra efforts to support the Appeal.

Opening of

NEW HOSPITAL

at CARRUM DOWNS

Saturday, February 4th

at
3-15 p.m.

by

Dr. John Lindell
Chairman of the Hospital and Charities Commission

BUS TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
51 ROYAL ARCADE

our community life. There are innumerable numbers of people with sufficient money with which to build a small house for themselves. The Government would build a "Collins Court" (flats for those no longer able to care for themselves) where people able to pay for their accommodation live. (There are plenty of these who would be only too glad to avail themselves of such accommodation). As those in Collins Court ceased to need earthly accommodation those in their own houses could take their place in Collins Court, and—this is very important—those without money could then occupy the houses financed by those who had moved to Collins Court.

CHARTER FOR AGED

Will you please note these points in regard to this important matter.

1. It has been proved that in the majority of cases, if ageing people have security, companionship and an object in life, they will be able to care for themselves almost to the end, if not right to the end. It is the lack of such essential assets that fills our hospitals and homes with unhappy and useless old people.

2. If given the opportunity old people are only too glad to make themselves useful. In doing so they not only, to a large extent, retain their health and vigour, but they make a project such as I visualise economically possible.

3. Old people should be enabled to enter into the project before they are too old, because if they once get down it is very difficult for them to get up again. This applies especially to men who, unless they have something worth while to get into on retirement, go down hill rapidly.

A NEW SETTLEMENT

In regard to our hopes for another Settlement, an opportunity to prove further that the Christian way is the practical way and to help demonstrate that the problem of old age can be solved, we want at least twenty acres of land which I visualise being at the foot of the Dandenongs. I should dearly love to have a hand in the establishment of such a settlement, but if that is to be or not, it is not for me to say. What I have said in regard to what the B.S.L. is doing by way of proving the practicability of the Christian way is being done by many similar organisations and it has been done since the dawn of the Christian era. It should be clear, however, that if the practical is put before the Christian the whole scheme breaks down, and this leads to the Welfare State, in which essentials are lacking. I had intended to apply what I have said in regard to some of Australia's problems to international problems, but I have written enough. Someone, recently returned from China, said "THAT THE NATION THAT FEEDS ASIA WILL RULE THE WORLD." Does that not mean that the nation that acts in a Christian way is the nation which will enable Christ to rule the world?

Thank you good people for enabling us to give our "big family" such happiness at Christmas-time, and thank you for all you have done and are doing. Our greetings to you all, on behalf of us all.

I am,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Secretary B.S.L.

SHELTERED WORKSHOP FOR CARRUM DOWNS SETTLEMENT

Following the successful establishment of a plant and shrub industry, a modern co-operative store and other self-help ventures by the elderly residents of the Carrum Downs Settlement, it is hoped that at some time in the future a "sheltered workshop" may be developed by the Brotherhood of St. Laurence.

The purpose of such a scheme is to help those who, because of age, cannot continue in normal employment. The aim is to provide other means by which the elderly may share in some useful service to the community and feel that they still have a part to play in life with its consequent obligations and privileges. This principle is by no means new to the 160 elderly

people at Carrum Downs, many of whom already fulfil most important functions in running the community and maintaining its homes and services.

The sheltered workshop scheme visualises the provision of a suitable building and facilities where those unable to contribute labour in any other form to the commu-

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ARCHDEACON SAMBELL TO VISIT AMERICA

Archdeacon Geoffrey Sambell, Director of Social Services of the Brotherhood and Director of the Melbourne Diocesan Centre, sailed from Sydney on 27th January, for an extensive working tour of the United States.

The Department of Christian Social Relations of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. has organised an itinerary which will take the Archdeacon through 19 of the major American cities, including Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh, New York, Boston and Washington D.C. The Episcopal Church is arranging hospitality and contributing towards his expenses in the States.

Object of the Archdeacon's visit is to investigate various aspects of social service work under the auspices of the Church; to study the organisation and training of chaplains in general hospitals, mental hospitals, gaols and industry; to examine relationship between State and Church in the welfare field, and to explore the work of the Urban Industrial Department of the Episcopal Church, particularly in New York.

The knowledge Mr. Sambell will gain in the intensive four months' tour will be of great value to the Brotherhood, the Diocesan Centre and welfare organisations in Melbourne.

STAFF CHANGES AT FITZROY

Miss Nancy Bunny, who has been telephoniste, receptioniste and virtual office "manager" at Fitzroy for the past 2½ years, will shortly leave the Brotherhood to be married.

Sister Nan Hitchcock, who has been Sister in charge of the Health Clinic for the past 12 months, has also left after carrying on most valuable and strenuous work with the hordes of children who come each day to the Clinic for baths, showers and treatment. Her place will be taken by Sister Craig.

While Archdeacon Sambell is absent in America, Mr. David Scott will become Acting Director of Social Service at Fitzroy.

Mrs. Walker will join the staff of the Family Service Project at Camp Pell as a social worker in February.

SOCIAL WORKERS ARE "PROFESSIONAL FRIENDS"

People often ask "What does a social worker do?" In this article Mrs. C. Johnston, Senior Social Worker at Fitzroy, describes the work of the Brotherhood's Social Service Bureau.



The main function of the Bureau is to provide a friendly and efficient Social Casework Service, to help individuals and families in their time of adversity. The social workers are sometimes called "professional friends." They help people discuss their worries and difficulties, and through this discussion the person in trouble is often relieved of deep emotional feelings and begins to see the situation more clearly. As the discussion of his problem continues, he is often able, with the help and advice of the social worker, to take an active part in finding a solution to his problem.

People come to the Brotherhood's Social Service Bureau from all parts of Melbourne, but the majority still come from the inner suburbs. This year 2,655 people were

interviewed, and of these 579 were new cases. The social workers visited 725 people in their own homes.

A large percentage were women with young families who had been left either for a time or permanently without means of support. They may have been newly widowed, or the husband through physical or mental illness may have been unable to provide for his family. In other cases the father had deserted his wife and children and left them to fend for themselves as best they could. The breadwinner in other cases was found to be serving a prison sentence or was an habitual drunkard.

Another large group who come to the social workers include those men and women who come for ad-

vice and help with their personal problems.

The problems most commonly presented are concerned with child care, truancy, delinquency, chronic alcoholism, marital problems, employment and housing. In some cases the social workers see these people over a long period of time and help them to understand their difficulties, and make adjustments if necessary. In other cases they may refer the person to another more specialised agency or clinic.

The health of the community can be judged to some extent by the people and the problems that come to welfare agencies for assistance. For instance, in this last year employment difficulties were seen to be at a minimum, whilst housing problems assumed a more prominent place in our work.

WORKSHOP (cont.)

nity could work for a part of each or any day in congenial surroundings in the company of others. It is hoped that at Carrum Downs the work will be provided by manufacturers in the Frankston and Dandenong districts. The types of work considered most suitable for this purpose include packaging and light assembly jobs, although in all cases the operations would be adjusted as far as possible to suit the needs of each worker.

Great Britain has led the way in the setting up of purposeful and positive ventures such as the one envisaged at Carrum Downs. One of the most successful is the Finsbury Employment Scheme for the

Elderly where nearly 100 persons, the average age of whom is over 70, are engaged in such activities as assembling elements for electric irons, packaging chemists' lines and weighing and packing animal wool for surgical purposes. In addition, this group has organised crafts and arranged for the direct sale to wholesalers and retailers of sewn goods made by participants in the scheme.

FLOWER POTS, TINS AND STAMPS

We are still glad to have five inch, and larger, flower pots for our plant industry at Carrum Downs. These may be left at any of our four centres or we could

pick them up anywhere between Carrum Downs and the City. We also want tins of the condensed milk size and larger. Those who go by car to Carrum Downs might help in this direction. We cannot, however, pick them up nor do we ask that they should be left anywhere but at Carrum Downs.

Our voluntary stamp sorters want more and still more used postage stamps. They may be sent to, or left at, the City Shop. They are sorted and sold in bulk or separately. Each Wednesday the Shop is crowded with stamp collectors and the demand is far greater than the supply, so please ask your friends to set aside their used stamps of any value.

We Welcome these New B.S.L. Friends

Mr. Parker, Ivanhoe.
Mrs. Sullock, Coburg.
Miss Gibbs, Malvern
Miss Gibbs, Mitcham.
Miss Buckland, Ascot Vale.
Mrs. Davis, Glen Iris.
Miss West, Thornbury.
Mrs. Bell, Euroa.
Miss Goldman, St. Kilda.
Miss Milner, Canterbury.
Miss Griffiths, Castlemaine.
Mrs. McConville, Bentleigh.
Mrs. Anderson, Nth. Williamstown.
Mrs. Howden, West Melbourne.
Mrs. Underwood, E. Brighton.
Mrs. Shuttleworth, Coburg.
M/- Ekberg, Hawthorn.
Mrs. Ross, Lower Templestowe.
Mrs. Saunders, Nth. Melbourne.
Miss Rumsey, Malvern.
Mrs. Hopkins, Melbourne.
Mrs. Drylie, Caulfield.
Mrs. Davies, Glen Iris.
Miss McKinnon, Manangatang.
Mrs. Beudichson, Merlyston.
Mrs. Dowd, Brighton.
Mrs. Barrow, Ashburton.
Mrs. Germer, Moreland.
Mrs. Rutter, Moreland
Mrs Walden, Dandenong
Mr. Randell, Mt. Waverley.
Mrs. Dellar, Ringwood.
Mrs. Piper, McKinnon.
Mrs. McDonald, Rushall.
Mrs. Cooper, East St. Kilda.
Miss Boyd, Sth Yarra.
Miss Gooch, St. Kilda.
Mrs. Tracy, Merlyston.
Mrs. Kennedy, Nth. Balywn.
Mrs. Thurlow, Ashburton.
Mrs. Nation, Dennis.
Mrs. Taylor, Fitzroy.
Sister Campbell, W. Melbourne.
Mrs. Waugh, Preston.
Miss Pierce, St. Kilda.
Mrs. Cook, Donvale.
Miss Boyd, St. Kilda.
Mr. Baynes Box Hill.
Miss Potter, St. Kilda.

Mrs. Jones, E. Caulfield.
Mrs. Snare, E. Malvern.
Mrs. Thompson, Windsor.
Mrs. Lofthouse, Sth. Melbourne.
Miss Prince, St. Kilda.
Mrs. Aitken, Prahran.
Mrs. Davies, Toorak.
Sister Anthony, Sth. Caulfield.
Miss Kent, Brighton.
Miss Hemley, E. Melbourne.
Mr. Kerville, Essendon.
Miss Bell, E. Malvern.
Miss Dowding, E. Brighton.
Mrs. Smith, Clayton.
Mrs. Jackson, Parkville.
Mrs. Hagenow, Templestowe.
Miss Green, Northcote.
Mrs. Bennett, Nth. Balwyn.
Mrs. Cooper, Nth Ringwood.
Miss Rowe, Edithvale.
Mrs. Creith, Glenhuntly.
Mrs. Cairn, Glen Iris.
Mrs. Brown, Melbourne.
Mrs. Boyle, Nth Balwyn.
Miss Hogg, Kew, E.4.
Mr. Ansverth, Brighton.
Mr. Kennedy, Nth Balwyn.
Miss Gilder, Parkville.
Miss Grutzner, Parkville.
Miss Kent-Hughes, Parkville.

Country

Mrs. Wilcox, Morwell.
Mrs. Jones, Kalorama.
Mrs Hart, Sassafras.
Mrs. Gardiner, Drouin.
Mrs. Manson, Drouin.
Mr. Smith, Geelong

England

Mrs. Budd, Sussex.
Miss Budd, Kent.
Mrs. White, Essex.
Mrs. Pain, Cornwall.
Mrs. Philipson-Stow, Surrey.
Mrs. Cowie, Surrey.
Mrs. Bridge, Cambridge.
Mrs. Chisholm, Kent.
Miss Stevenson, Newcastle on Tyne.

SHOP AND RADIO GROUP NEWS

Over the past twelve months we have been inspired by the hard work done for our City Opportunity Shop by a number of good Friends of the B.S.L. This shop is largely stocked by these good people, and we appreciate all the work they have done. Some Friends have been working for our Shop for years. During the Christmas period we are pleased to be able to say that the majority of the hand work has been disposed of and, of course, the proceeds help to swell the funds of the B.S.L.

We are appealing for more workers for our shop for a further supply, aprons, oven-cloths, children's and babies clothes, etc., and we would be pleased to supply any worker with materials.

If you should be in the city, call in and ask for Mrs. Rogers or Miss Perry and we can have a chat about it, or if you are a Radio Friend, or want to become a Radio Friend, just drop either of us a note and tell us what you would like to make and we will be delighted.

W.R.

VISIT SETTLEMENT ON YOUR WAY TO THE BEACH

If you are heading south to the bayside beaches at week-ends, you are cordially invited to call in at the Carrum Downs Settlement on the Dandenong-Frankston Road.

We would emphasise that you see practically nothing by just driving past. The cottages, Community Centre, Collins Court and all the Settlement charms are hidden among the trees well away from the main road.

If you drive in under the sign of the main highway you will see all that is to be seen.

The Plant Shop on the main road next to the Enquiry Bureau is also well worthy of a visit.

Visitors also will be welcome at "Morven," the B.S.L. Holiday Home, Tanti Avenue, Mornington.

BUS TRIPS TO CARRUM DOWNS

Saturday, 4th February:

For opening of new Carrum Downs Hospital by Dr John Lindell, Chairman of the Hospitals & Charities Commission.

Saturday, 24th March.

Saturday, 21st April.

Tickets are available four weeks in advance from the City Office, 51 Royal Arcade. Price 6/6.

DONATION SLIP

TO THE SUPERIOR, B.S.L.,
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE. C.1.

Please find my donation for £ : :

Name

Address

.....

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."